

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – April 2

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Concludes with Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday – April 3

Tenebrae (Service of Shadows) at 7:00 p.m.

The Passion of our Lord from the Gospel of John read as hymns are sung and the sanctuary is gradually darkened.

Holy Saturday/Resurrection of Our Lord – April 4

Great Vigil of Easter at 7:00 p.m.

Including the Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation of Lylah Nordling and Jenna Schuette and Reception of New Members. Followed by a Festive Reception.

Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord – April 5

Festival Worship at 9:30 a.m.

A festive worship service including music with organ, brass quartet, handbells, and choir.

We invite you to worship with us at any or all of our Holy Week worship opportunities. All of the services will be streamed on Zoom. Links to Zoom were provided in the Saturday email newsletter on March 28. If you need any of those links sent to you, please contact Deacon Phil Holzman.



Holy Week

Welcome, New Members!

We will welcome the following new members to our congregation at the Easter Vigil on April 4:

- David Glover (Associate Member)
- Heatherann Jackson & Patrick Plonski (and son, Freddie)
- Julia Ludovici
- Haley Mesick & Bob Jindra
- Karen & Dana Peterson
- Jenny Spryshak

We hope to include paragraphs of introduction in a future issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, please take the opportunity to get to know these folks when you see them on Sunday mornings and welcome them to our church!



Housekeeping Details

1. Missing our Saturday Email Newsletter? Each Saturday at noon, this email is sent out with lots of announcements about upcoming events in our church. If you're not receiving it and would like to be included, contact Deacon Phil Holzman.

2. A Note About Special Offering Envelopes... For those of you who use our offering envelopes and give offerings in special envelopes for Ash Wednesday, Lent, etc., here's a reminder that they will just be reflected on your giving statement as "General Fund" giving. Questions? Contact Pr. Ian or Deacon Phil.

The Night of All Nights: Our Third Annual Easter Vigil

If you ask any of the early Christians what the most important night of the year was, they wouldn't have said Christmas. They would have pointed to the Easter Vigil.

This April, we continue our own growing tradition at Gustavus Adolphus with our third annual Vigil. While "Vigil" might sound long or mysterious, it is actually the most vibrant, sensory-rich service of the year. It is a night of transition—where we move from the somber shadows of the tomb into the blazing light of the Resurrection.

Five Stories, One Promise

While some ancient traditions include twelve readings, we will focus our journey on five essential stories of God's deliverance. These won't be your standard readings! Each will feature unique, engaging storytelling elements designed to pull you into the narrative of our faith. From the creation of the world to the parting of the Red Sea, you will experience these stories in a way that feels fresh, alive, and deeply personal.

A Growing Family

The highlight of our evening will be the moment the "new life" of Easter becomes visible in our own pews. We are honored to:

- Confirm two of our youth, who have spent years preparing to publicly profess their faith.
- Formally welcome ten new members into our congregational family.

Seeing these individuals stand before the new Paschal candle(s) will be a powerful reminder that the Holy Spirit is moving right here in our midst.

The Feast After the Fast

Yes, the Vigil is a journey—running approximately two hours—but the finish line is a celebration! Immediately following the service, we will transition from the sanctuary to the narthex for a festive reception.

Expect a spread of delicious food and drink as we break our Lenten fast together. It is a time for "Alleluia" to be spoken, toasted, and shared. There is no better way to enter Easter morning than with a full heart and a joyful table.

Join us on Saturday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. Come for the fire, stay for the stories, and feast with your family in Christ.

Boiler Update: Investing in Our Future

Out with the old, in with the efficient! At our annual meeting in January, the congregation voted to allocate up to \$285,000 to completely overhaul the heating system that has served us since 1954. While this was a decision made after much prayer and deliberation, it represents our largest investment in our building since the narthex addition in 1992.

Since January, the Property Committee and Council have worked diligently to finalize the details. After a thorough review of the project scope, the Council officially voted on March 19 to move forward.

Why This Matters

This project is about more than just staying warm; it's about being better stewards of our resources. Here is what this overhaul provides:

- **Reliability through Redundancy:** We are replacing our single, aging steam boiler (operating at roughly 60% efficiency) with two super-high-efficiency boilers (97.7%). If one unit needs maintenance, the other can keep the entire building safe and comfortable.
- **True Temperature Control:** Currently, half of our building—including the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall—lacks temperature controls. In other areas, old air-pressure thermostats leak and cause rooms to overheat. We are installing modern digital controls throughout the entire building to end the days of "running wild" temperatures.
- **Significant Savings:** By switching from steam to hot water and gaining precise control over every room, we anticipate a major reduction in energy costs, allowing us to direct more resources toward our actual ministry.

What to Expect

Work is slated to begin as soon as the current heating season ends (likely early to mid-May). The project should take approximately three months to complete. Because most of the work happens in the boiler room and the tunnels beneath the lower level, the most visible change you'll notice will be the sleek new thermostats appearing on the walls!

If you have any questions about this ambitious project, please feel free to reach out to me in person or via email. We are excited to see how this modern infrastructure supports our ministry in Northeast for years to come.

Peace,

Pr. Ian



From Deacon Phil

GA Choristers Schedule for April

A reminder that the GA Choristers is our choir for children in grades 1-5. Even though it's getting late in the year, new singers are always welcome to join us. This month we will sing on our normal third Sunday. Here is our schedule (hopefully we won't get snowed-out this month!):

- ♫ Wednesdays, April 1, April 8, and April 15 – Rehearsals at 6:00 p.m.
- ♫ Sunday, April 19 – Sing in Worship



Thanks, "Holden Evening Prayer" Leaders

Thank you to everyone who led our *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy on Wednesday nights during Lent. I am always in awe of how many musically gifted people we have in this congregation. Leading this liturgy during Lent gives several of them the chance to share their gifts in this special way. Thanks to the following people who led the liturgy on the following dates:

- ♫ February 25 – Carlotta Rosebrock & Jenny Spryshak
- ♫ March 4 – Our GA Choristers (Clark B., Edith H., Clara O., Stanley O., Wilson O., Ada P., Jacob P., Nova P., and Sam P.)
- ♫ March 11 – Peter Bodurtha & Aaron Miller
- ♫ March 18 – Nicole Navratil
- ♫ March 25 – Joel Lurvey (who also accompanied on guitar several other weeks) along with Edith Hentges and Melissa Hentges

I'd also like to mention Shirley Fors who played the flute part a couple of times this Lent as well. Thanks again to all who helped lead this much-loved liturgy this year.

Get Ready for Some Extra Singing on Easter Morning

Those Easter hymns...they make you want to sing with full voice, don't they! Accompanied by our mighty Möller/Rodgers organ and the brass quartet and led by our GA Choir, it's great to join our voices in praise on Easter morning. This Easter, however, there will be some extra singing – a congregational postlude with choir, organ, and brass quartet. Bring your best voice ready to join in at the conclusion of worship on Easter morning. That's all I'm saying about that for now...**Blessings on your Holy Week and Easter!**

Adult Education Opportunity on April 26

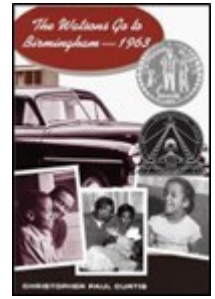
The Power of Connection: Understanding Relationship Dynamics

It can be difficult to identify when a relationship has become unhealthy because feelings of faithfulness and care are so deeply embedded in our connections. In this education session, we will explore the dynamics of unhealthy relationships, such as control, anger, power, entitlement, and revenge, and the profound impact they have on our perspective.

By contrasting these with the healthy dynamics of consent, equality, respect, trust, and safety, we will explore how these relational patterns shape our lives and our well-being. Relationship dynamics, whether unhealthy or healthy, can be experienced across all areas of life: emotionally, verbally, physically, sexually, financially, spatially, and spiritually. We will reflect on these patterns to help discern the difference between a connection that constricts and one that allows for mutual growth.

GA Book Group Meets April 20

Join GA's Book Group on Monday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis. Young Kenny is the middle child of three growing up in Flint, Michigan during the 1960s. Life can be so unfair! He learns, however, a valuable lesson about fairness and justice the summer his family journeys to Jim Crow Birmingham, Alabama. This novel's audience is for middle grade readers, but everyone can enjoy the humor and wisdom of Curtis' writing. We will meet in a new location - the Faith Room. All are welcome!



Rainbow Church Will Meet April 25



Rainbow Church – our group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+ – will meet on Saturday, April 25, at 2:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting. There is no agenda other than fellowship. There is always lively conversation among those present. Sometimes there are snacks; sometimes games, too. We invite others to join us! If you have questions, reach out to Deacon Phil.

Thank You!

Aki Berndt, of Aki's BreadHaus & WunderBar, has been so gracious in donating bread for our Lenten Soup Suppers. One way we can show our appreciation is to visit his great establishment at 1712 Marshall Street NE. You might consider holding your next meeting there! - Lynn Lurvey



Church Council Meeting Summary – March 19, 2026

The Gustavus Adolphus Church Council held its March meeting on March 19. Highlights of the meeting are below. As always, you can find complete meeting minutes linked in each Saturday's email newsletter under the heading "Council Materials."

Boiler replacement: We reviewed the final boiler replacement contract from our contractor (BSI Mechanical, Inc.). The council approved providing authority to GA staff to move forward on the project including payments to the contractor as approved in our congregational meeting. Expect work to start sometime in spring 2026, with completion well ahead of the fall heating season.

Building tenants: We reviewed progress on a payment schedule with one of our tenants. We also reviewed a proposal from another tenant to add a second office to their leased space.

Social Ministry: We approved donation of \$1,000 from the Benevolence account to Reconciling Works.

2026 goals: We created a first draft of 2026 goals for the Church Council. These are in addition to the ongoing responsibilities of the council. The primary areas of focus will be: Comprehensive Branding Initiative; Digital Transformation; and Operational Continuity. These will be developed further in upcoming council meetings, and progress will be communicated.

As always, we reviewed monthly reports from staff and standing committees.

Prayer List

Space is tight in this month's newsletter. Remember that you can always find the updated Prayer List in each Sunday's bulletin and the Saturday email each week. Look for the return of the Prayer List is next month's edition of "The Gazette" as well. Thanks for your understanding!

Adult Education Corner

Congregational Life is excited to announce this latest update to our 2026 Adult Education learning opportunities.

EDUCATION @ GA

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2026

Our April adult education session will be led by Dawn Strommen, MA, LP, who will lead us through a session on “The Power of Connection: Understanding Relationship Dynamics.” You’re invited to join us after worship on April 26 (location to be announced).

For a more detailed description of Dawn’s presentation, please see the article on page 4 of this newsletter.

APRIL 26	➤	THE POWER OF CONNECTION: UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS - W/DAWN STROMMEN, MA, LP
MAY 17	➤	WORSHIP WHYS W/ PASTOR IAN & DEACON PHIL
JUNE 14	➤	BUILDING TOUR W/ PROPERTY COMMITTEE
SEPT 20	➤	LUTHERAN 101 W/ PASTOR IAN
OCT TBD	➤	GIVING W/ STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
NOV TBD	➤	OUR MISSION PARTNERS W/ SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis...April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	30	31	1	2	3	4
<p>Easter Day 9:30am - Festival Worship</p>	<p>Easter Monday Offices Closed</p>	<p>1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<p>10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir</p>	<p>Maturity Thursday 7pm - Worship</p>	<p>Good Friday 7pm - Worship</p>	<p>Holy Saturday 7pm - Easter Vigil</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Easter Day 9:30am - Festival Worship</p>	<p>Easter Monday Offices Closed</p>	<p>1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<p>10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir</p>	<p>5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Property Comm.</p>	<p>8:30am - Men's Breakfast</p>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School</p>	<p>5pm - Social Ministry Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm.</p>	<p>1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<p>10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir</p>	<p>6pm - Church Council</p>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School</p>	<p>6:30pm - Book Group</p>	<p>1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<p>10am - Coffee Hour 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir</p>			<p>2pm - Rainbow Church</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<p>9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School</p>		<p>1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<p>10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir</p>			

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Sunday School Easter Party



March 29, 2026

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
Church Phone: 612-789-7256

Bldg. Hours: Mon. thru Thurs. – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Evenings as noted in weekly online calendar.
Website: www.gachurchmpls.org

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff ...

Pastor Ian Coen-Frei, Minister of Word & Sacrament
pastorian@gachurchmpls.org
For Pastoral Care: 612-888-3701

Deacon Phil Holzman, Minister of Word & Service
(Worship & Music, Parish Administration)
philh@gachurchmpls.org
Cell Phone: 320-304-1774 (for calls/texts)

Joel Lurvey, Contemporary Choir Director
joel.lurvey@gmail.com



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Ways You Can Support GA Church (besides bringing your offerings on Sunday morning to worship):

1) Mail your offering to GA:
1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418



2) Our church offers online
giving and text-to-give.

They're easy to use and
secure! You can give a gift of support online
at www.gachurchmpls.org/donate or give via
text message by texting the amount you would
like to give to (612) 887-1797.

3) Email Deacon Phil or Pastor Ian for
instructions on how to make a stock gift.

4) Point your smartphone at the QR code above!

2026 Gustavus Adolphus Church Council

Jenny Arneson, President
Bob Bach, Vice-President
Matt Brown, Treasurer
Shirley Fors, Secretary
At-Large Members

Karen Thorson Grivna
Elizabeth Ludovici
Lori Nordling
Matt Streed

