

### Calling All Graduates!

The Congregational Life Committee invites everyone who is completing any educational program this year to let us know so that we may celebrate your achievement in worship on Sunday, May 17!

A special reminder to our high school graduates to respond to Deacon Phil's letter by Monday, May 11.

If you or someone in your household is completing any educational milestone this year, please let Deacon Phil know so that we can include their name in the bulletin on May 17 and in the next "Gazette."

You can call or text him at 320.304.1774.

Congratulations to all our graduates!

### Sunday School News

The final day of Sunday School for the season will be Sunday, May 10, 2026. To celebrate, the entire congregation is warmly invited to attend our annual Mother's Day concert at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

During the program, our Sunday School students will share a special musical presentation, singing a number of songs in honor of their mothers and fathers. This meaningful tradition is a wonderful opportunity for our children to express love and gratitude through music.

We hope you will join us for this joyful and uplifting celebration as we recognize the importance of family and faith in our community.



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At this time we would like to thank all the dedicated Sunday School teachers and helpers who have worked with our children this year. We have a vibrant Sunday School ministry, and we're grateful to the adults who give of their time to share the love of Jesus with our youngest members. We also thank our parents for entrusting their children to us all year long.

## From Pastor Ian

Three years ago, GA stood at a significant crossroads. We were embarking on a new chapter in pastoral leadership while dreaming about how our physical space could better serve our spiritual mission. We launched the "Life Together" capital appeal with a vision to invest in our future, our facilities, and our neighbors.

It is with an overflowing heart that I share some incredible news: **We have officially concluded the "Life Together" appeal, and because of your extraordinary generosity, we didn't just meet our goal—we exceeded it.**

When we began, we received pledges totaling \$190,830. By the conclusion of the appeal, this community contributed a staggering **\$201,233**, reaching 105% of our goal. This is more than just a financial milestone; it is a testament to your commitment to the ministry we share and the "Life Together" we have built.

It is easy to forget how far we have come. For years, our online worshippers connected with us through a single camera perched on a stand by the front pew. Volunteers had to physically pivot the camera whenever the choir sang or the handbells played.

Through our AV investments, we implemented a sophisticated system with remote-controlled cameras and crystal-clear sound. This was never just about "tech"; it was about accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that whether someone was in the pews or across the country, they were truly part of our worshipping body.

We also saw a physical transformation within our walls. Fresh paint in the sanctuary and Sunday school wing did more than just brighten the rooms; it signaled a community that is alive and cared for. By completing essential electrical and structural improvements, we successfully opened the Lower Level to community partners. We are no longer just a church that meets on Sundays; we became a hub for much-needed services, providing space for organizations that do God's work in the world every day.

The journey regarding our south parking lot led us to a surprising and transformational realization. Through the process of evaluating and eventually selling that property, we pivoted toward a massive, long-term investment: the modernization of our heating system.

By moving away from older, less efficient systems, we significantly reduced our fossil fuel use. This was a profound act of creation care that ensured our building remains a warm, welcoming, and sustainable home for our congregation and the community organizations that call this place home.

Numbers and projects tell only part of the story; the true "Life Together" was found in our spirit. This appeal succeeded because we believed in the future of this congregation and recognized that our building is a vital tool for ministry.

Thank you to everyone who pledged, gave, and prayed over these three years. Because of you, we are better equipped than ever to welcome the stranger, lift our voices in song, and serve our neighbors.

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Ian

## Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly

Our synod will be meeting in assembly under the theme "Unwavering" on Friday evening and all day Saturday, May 1 and 2, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey. GA will be represented by our rostered leaders, Pastor Ian and Deacon Phil, as well as by lay delegates Bob Bach and Amanda Hakemian. Please keep our delegates as well as the entire assembly in your prayers during the assembly.



**Minneapolis Area Synod**  
of the ELCA



### Rainbow Church is Heading Out to Dinner

This month's Rainbow Church meeting will be a dinner excursion on Saturday, May 31, at 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Church is GA's group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+. Plans for the dinner venue are still in the works. Watch the Saturday email later in May or reach out to Deacon Phil for details closer to the time.

### GA Book Club Meets in June!

Join GA Book Club in the Faith Room on Monday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism* by Tim Alberta. The son of an Evangelical minister, Alberta explores the changes and challenges the American evangelical Christian movement has encountered and how powerful voices within the movement have corrupted the message of Jesus Christ. We will discuss parts 1-2 in June and the remainder of the text at our July discussion.



All are welcome!

### Financial Report

Member giving in the first quarter of 2026 amounted to about 23% of the annual budget amount. First quarter expenses were around 27% of the annual budget.

Income/Expense through March 31, 2026:

	YTD	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Member Giving	\$71,233	\$307,500	23.2%
Total Revenue	\$90,658	\$353,015	25.7%
Expense	\$97,837	\$365,483	26.8%
Net	-\$7,179	-\$12,468	



## From Deacon Phil

### *GA Choristers Schedule for May*

A reminder that the GA Choristers is our choir for children in grades 1-5. It's hard to believe, but we've come to the final month of our choir year for this academic season. The Choristers will sing in worship on Sunday, May 17, for the final time until the fall.

**THIS  
DEACON  
LOVES YOU**

To prepare for that singing date, we will practice two times: on Wednesdays, May 6 & 13, at 6:00 p.m. There may even be some treats at our practice on the 13th!

### *Thanks, Choir Members, for a Great Year!*

Where has the time gone? It's May already, and that means that our choirs will soon be going on their summer hiatus. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has participated in our choirs in this "public" forum. It's been a great year. I think all our groups have enriched the worship life of our congregation on a weekly basis, and these volunteer musicians deserve our thanks. Have a wonderful summer off, and we'll get back together again in the fall.

If any of you wish to provide special music as a solo or small ensemble in worship over the summer, let me know and we'll schedule it.

### *Dust Off Your Instruments...It's Time for an Orchestra Sunday*

Attention, GA instrumentalists! If you're available on Sunday, June 21, plan to participate in worship by playing a piece of special music as part of a pick-up orchestra that day. I'll have music available starting on Sunday, May 17, for folks to begin practicing in advance of the June date. Just come see me to pick up some music and let me know you'd like to participate. It will be fun...I guarantee it!

### *Two Pictures from Easter*

Here are two semi-formal pictures taken on Easter morning – of the GA Choir and the Gustavus Bells. I'll try to have a picture of the GA Choristers in next month's *Gazette* (if I can get them to stand still long enough!).



## Church Council Meeting Summary – April 16, 2026

The Gustavus Adolphus Church Council held its April meeting on April 16. 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:** Pastor Ian and Deacon Phil reported that a 50% downpayment for the new boiler system has been made to the contractor. We expect work to start sometime in spring 2026, with completion well ahead of the fall heating season.

**Property:** We approved a contract with an outdoor maintenance company for landscaping work to be performed in summer 2026.

**Building tenants:** We approved a proposed rental agreement, drafted by Pastor Ian and Deacon Phil, to add a second office to an existing tenant’s leased space.

**2026 goals:** In March, the council identified the following areas of focus in 2026: Comprehensive Branding; Digital Transformation; and Operational Continuity. In the April meeting, we explored Digital Transformation more fully, and identified a primary goal of completely revamping the Gustavus Adolphus website. We chartered a team to work on this project, with target completion before fall 2026. Team members are Liz Ludovici (team lead), Julia Ludovici, Deacon Phil, and Bob Bach.

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



### Church Council Executive Committee Contact Information

President: Jenny Arneson ..... arneson.jenny@gmail.com  
Vice-President: Bob Bach..... bobbach100@gmail.com  
Secretary: Shirley Fors ..... shirlfors44@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Matt Brown ..... mcb612@gmail.com

## Prayer List

*As the body of Christ and a family of believers, let us pray for each other.*

- ♥ *Paul & Sharon Banitt – Carlotta Rosebrock requests prayers for her parents, as her father has ongoing health issues, and her mother is his caregiver in their home.*
- ♥ *Rodney Christopherson.*
- ♥ *Jim Clawson – Prayers for Barb O’Connor’s brother as he has begun treatment.*
- ♥ *Pam Evangelist – Pam would like prayers for her as she is living with Parkinsons.*
- ♥ *Sharon Hatella – Prayers for Sharon who is suffering from back issues and pain.*
- ♥ *Jim Munson – Prayers for Taryn Streed’s father (and their family) as he is in a nursing home as the family makes plans for a long-term care solution.*
- ♥ *Lesa Rowen, Melissa Hentges’ mother, who has an ongoing health situation.*
- ♥ *Doug – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Jack – Prayers for Jack, a returning cancer patient, that cancer treatments will bring recovery.*
- ♥ *Jim – Prayers for Carol LaBelle’s nephew who is dealing with serious vision issues.*
- ♥ *Glen Yunker – Prayers for Glen who is in a lot of pain as he waits for hip replacement surgery in early May.*
- ♥ *The Weidmann Family – Prayers for the Weidmann family as they are navigating career shifts.*

To have someone’s name included on the prayer list, contact our volunteer prayer coordinator, Jean Jenson, at [mplsjean@yahoo.com](mailto:mplsjean@yahoo.com) or Pastor Ian or Deacon Phil.



## Get to Know Our New Members!

As we noted in last month's newsletter, we welcomed a group of new members into our congregation at the Easter Vigil. This month we want to help everyone get to know them a little better by sharing paragraphs of introduction that they wrote about themselves.



*New Members Are Joining*

**Deacon David Glover** grew up in Elk River, MN, and after careers in retail sales and working as a chemist in both the environmental and pharmaceutical industries, he entered seminary and was ordained a deacon in 2003 after receiving a call to serve at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago with a focus on religion and science. He is currently residing in Northeast while he is discerning his next Calling.

**Heatherann Jackson & Patrick Plonski (and Freddie)** – The Jackson Plonskis live in Audubon Park. Patrick is a programmer at Motional, and Heatherann recently graduated with a MS in Software Engineering from St. Thomas. Their son, Freddie, is two years old. Freddie loves music and spending as much time outside as possible. Patrick plays violin with a community orchestra. Heatherann enjoys baking and all kinds of textile crafts.

**Julia Ludovici**, originally from Rhode Island, moved to Minneapolis in 2022 from Lansing, Michigan, after completing her Master's in rhetoric and writing at Michigan State University. She has a background in digital communications but currently works as a substitute teacher and English Language Arts tutor while taking classes toward her teaching license. Julia loves reading and writing, mindful movement, contemplative prayer, taking walks along the Mississippi with her wife, Liz, and snuggling with her beloved tabby cat, Cappi. In her free time, you might find Julia cooking, baking, crocheting, or working on a series of fantasy novels inspired by her favorite stories and teaching from the Bible.

**Haley Mesick & Bob Jindra** - Haley and Bob started attending at GA last fall after moving to NE. Haley grew up in St Paul and works as a pharmacist. Bob grew up in St Anthony and works from home as an accountant. Ralph, their pit bull/hound/mystery mutt, loves leading them on long walks around St Anthony Main and Boom Island. Haley and Bob will be getting married next month at GA! As they settle into married life and continue to explore the neighborhood, they'd love to hear your NE restaurant recommendations.

**Karen and Pastor Dana Peterson** settled in New Brighton in November 2024 after many years in Colorado. Dan is an Interim Pastor in the Minneapolis Area Synod, currently serving at Our Father's Lutheran Church in Rockford, MN. Karen works in medical records for Northwest Respiratory Services in Eagan. Dana and Karen each have four children from previous marriages and a total of ten grandkids, seven on Dana's side and three on Karen's. Two of those grands, Sam and Jacob, are well-known at Gustavus Adolphus!

**Jenny Spryshak** is originally from Shattuc, IL, which is a little town about an hour east of Saint Louis, MO. She attended college at Valparaiso University. After graduation, she moved to Minneapolis to participate in one year of voluntary service with Lutheran Volunteer Corps. She first came to GA by participating in the Northeast Chorale, and has since become active by joining both the handbell choir and the church choir.



COMING SOON

# SUMMER

Join us this summer for post-worship fun for all ages

Activities & Crafts  
Socializing & Service

June 14

August 16



# Northeast Chorale Spring Concerts

Broadway and Pops Extravaganza!

Phil Holzman, Artistic Director // Andrew Peterson, Accompanist

**Saturday, May 30 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 31 @ 4:00 p.m.**

*Free admission (\$10 suggested donation)*

*Concerts all ages will enjoy!*

**Gustavus Adolphus  
Lutheran Church**  
1509 27th Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
[www.northeastchorale.org](http://www.northeastchorale.org)



## Adult Education Corner

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

# EDUCATION @ GA

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**SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP**

**2026**

Join Pastor Ian and Deacon Phil on Sunday, May 17, after worship in the sanctuary and learn why we do some of the things we do in worship.

Bring your questions as well.

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**MAY  
17**



**WORSHIP WHYS W/ PASTOR  
IAN & DEACON PHIL**

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**JUNE  
14**



**BUILDING TOUR W/ PROPERTY  
COMMITTEE**

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**SEPT  
20**



**LUTHERAN 101 W/ PASTOR IAN**

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**OCT  
TBD**



**GIVING W/ STEWARDSHIP  
COMMITTEE**

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**NOV  
TBD**



**OUR MISSION PARTNERS W/ SOCIAL  
MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

# Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis...May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School					Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly (Fri. Evening/All Day Sat.)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - SS "Concert"	1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells	9:30am - Quilters	8:30am - Men's Breakfast		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - SS "Concert"	5pm - Social Ministry Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm. 6pm - Property Comm.	1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - GA Choristers	5pm - Cong. Life Comm.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Adult Ed.	1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour	6pm - Church Council			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pentecost 9:30am - Worship	Memorial Day Offices Closed	10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery	4:30pm - Wedding 7:30pm - NE Chorale Concert	Wdg. Rehearsal		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am - Worship 4pm - NE Chorale Concert 6:30pm - Rainbow Church						

# Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1509 27th Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

## You Are Welcome Here!

*Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church proclaims that the Gospel is God’s gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We rejoice in the manner in which diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged the life and ministry we share in Christ. We know that the world is often an unloving place and that the experience of alienation is all too common. We give thanks for the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus, thus we commit to the work of racial equity and justice. We welcome people of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, faith backgrounds and socioeconomic status. We strive to be an evermore welcoming community. Following the example of Christ, we extend a most heartfelt welcome to all.*

## 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](http://www.gachurchmpls.org)

### Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

#### Church Staff ...

**Pastor Ian Coen-Frei**, Minister of Word & Sacrament  
[pastorian@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:pastorian@gachurchmpls.org)  
For Pastoral Care: 612-888-3701

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

**Joel Lurvey**, Contemporary Choir Director  
[joel.lurvey@gmail.com](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

