

Church news

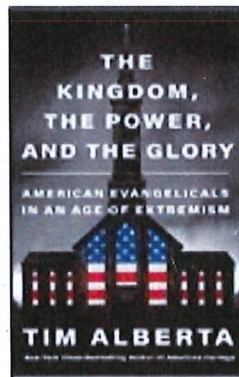
Pray!

Our mission at GA is to build community where God is at the center. Prayer is one way we can love our community by ministering the way Jesus did. GA plans to continue to offer personal prayer in the front pews Sunday mornings during the postlude, and we'd like to form a team of people who are trained to do this. If you are interested in learning to pray with people on Sunday mornings, join Peter and Julie Bodurtha on July 12 for a Prayer Class as they share a foundation and approach for personal prayer, and provide an opportunity to put it into practice with one another.

pray

GA Book Club Meets in July!

Join GA Book Club in the Faith Room on Monday, July 20, 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 finish our discussion of the entirety of the book at our July conversation.



All are welcome!

Congregational Block Party!

Come and Enjoy!

Come and help with the event!!



Our Block Party is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, from 5-7 p.m.!

We have an eager group of volunteers who will help plan the event.

Please reach out to Lynn Lurvey

lclurvey@gmail.com or Liz Ludovici

elizabethblount@gmail.com to let them know of your interest in helping with the block party – or sign-up in the Narthex at church.

Mark your calendars and come enjoy!! We want our church yard full of music and joy that evening, and you can be a part of it!

Thursday, August 13, 5-7 p.m.

Adults Under 40 Fellowship Group

We're starting a new group for GA congregants in their 20's and 30's! Our first meeting will be on Saturday, August 15, at 5:00 p.m. Meet us at Sociable Cider Werks for conversation, fellowship, and fun!



From Pastor Ian

Dear people,

It is hard to believe that three years ago this coming August, I began my call here at GA! I still remember my very first visit: gathering with the call committee around tables in the narthex and hearing Deacon Phil play the organ. In the years since, it has been a true joy to see my family so warmly embraced by this community, especially witnessing the sweet connections Leonora has made with the kids and adults who love and care for her.

To add to our family's blessings, Sarah and I are joyfully expecting to welcome Leonora's baby brother this September! As we prepare to become a family of four—and re-learn what it means to have a newborn at home—I will be taking a parental leave this fall. I am deeply grateful to the leadership at GA for providing this time of support and transition, which may very well be the first parental leave in GA history!

While the Church Council will share more specific details in the article below, we want to assure you that your spiritual home will be well cared for while I am away. Pr. Susan Engholm, a familiar and trusted face who has led worship for us before, will be with you each Sunday. Additionally, my pastoral colleagues from the North Minneapolis Conference of the Synod will be standing by to support Deacon Phil with any emergency pastoral care needs.

As we prepare for this exciting new chapter, Sarah, Leonora, and I ask for your prayers for a safe delivery and a smooth transition. Thank you for being a community that truly embodies grace, care, and family support.

In Christ,

-pr. ian



From the Stewardship Committee

Have you been putting off creating or updating your will? Whether you're starting from scratch, updating documents after a major life change, or simply unsure where to begin, we're here to help. The ELCA Foundation, in partnership with [Giving Docs](#), offers a free, easy-to-use online tool for creating essential estate planning documents, including a will. Join Pastor Ian and the Stewardship Committee on **August 9** for an overview and live demonstration of the Giving Docs platform. Then return on **August 23** with your laptop to complete your own estate planning documents with guidance and support (or just a quiet space with a dedicated time to finally take on this task).

Creating an estate plan is an important way to care for your loved ones and ensure your wishes are clearly documented. Having these documents in place can provide peace of mind, reduce future stress for your family, and help protect the legacy you hope to leave. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity and complete this important task alongside others in our church community.

From the Church Council...

...Regarding Pastor Ian's Family Leave

Gustavus Adolphus Community,

We wish Pastor Ian and Sarah (and Leonora!) well as they welcome their second child this fall. Pastor Ian will be utilizing the paid family leave established in his offer letter. As a Council, we deeply value the health and well-being of our leaders, and we are proud to foster a church community that actively supports its ministry families.

As we prepare for this transition, we want to reassure you that the life and ministries of GA will remain vibrant and fully supported. Here is what you can expect during Pastor Ian's absence:

Duration of Leave: 14 weeks.

Anticipated Timeline: Pastor Ian plans to begin his leave on September 20, 2026, with an expected return on December 28, 2026.

Flexibility: Because babies rarely follow a strict calendar, he may adjust the exact start and end dates as needed, but the total duration of the leave will remain 14 weeks.

Sunday Worship: We are happy to announce that Pastor Susan Engholm will be our presiding pastor for Sunday worship during this time. She is a familiar face at GA, having served as a guest preacher numerous times over the past couple of years.

Pastoral Care, Visitations & Funerals: Deacon Phil will serve as the primary point of contact for pastoral care, visitations, or funeral arrangements. Individual arrangements will be made with members currently on a visitation schedule, and Deacon Phil will coordinate directly with Minneapolis synod pastors to ensure full pastoral coverage and support for our families when needs arise.

Confirmation: Thanks to our established partnership with Grace Lutheran, Pastor Andrew is ready to step in and lead the program. Before the leave begins, Pastors Ian and Andrew will host a joint orientation for our students and families. We are also looking for a GA volunteer to serve as a supportive small-group leader or helper during classes—please let the Council know if you can assist!

Annual Fall Stewardship Appeal: To ensure members' pledges are acknowledged and kept strictly confidential, Deacon Phil is stepping in to fill the critical committee gap left by Pastor Ian. With Sarah Coen-Frei also stepping away, the remaining Stewardship Committee members are currently realigning their roles. If you feel called to support this ministry, please reach out to the Church Council—we would love your help!

Property Management: Pastor Ian has frequently shared his talents for minor building repairs and generously assisted Deacon Phil by coordinating with contractors. As our Property Committee volunteers and Deacon Phil manage these responsibilities during this time, you may notice some temporary delays or increases in routine maintenance expenses. Thank you for your patience and grace as we work together to keep our facility running smoothly.

(Continued on next page!)

On top of his ongoing music and administrative roles, Deacon Phil is stepping in to fill multiple gaps during the leave. **Let's all extend our thanks to Phil and support him wherever we can!** Meanwhile, to help Phil manage the increased workload, we will make a few adjustments to his schedule and commitments as follows:

- ♪ Merging October and November into one "Gazette" issue.
- ♪ Delaying the start of the Children's Choristers until January.
- ♪ Reducing committee engagement with Congregational Life and Property.
- ♪ Authorizing payment for Christmas tree delivery service.

Financial Stewardship: Because this paid family leave was established in Pastor Ian's original call agreement, his pastoral compensation is already fully budgeted. To cover the additional cost of Sunday worship and pastoral care while he is away, the Finance Committee recommended a budget amendment, which the Church Council approved on June 18, 2026. This amendment increases budget line 5060 (Guest Pastors) from \$1,350 to \$5,350, funded by a \$4,000 transfer from the Operating Reserve to General Checking.

We want to make sure everyone in our church community feels supported during this transition. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Council members or the Mutual Ministry Committee with your questions or concerns. We all look forward to welcoming back the Coen-Frei family upon their return!

Yours in Christ,
GA Council:
Jenny Arneson
Bob Bach
Matt Brown
Shirley Fors
Karen Thorson Grivna
Liz Ludovici
Lori Nordling
Matt Streed

From the Church Records

♥ *On Friday, May 29, we held a memorial service for longtime GA member Shirley Erickson who passed away on May 8. We extend Christian sympathy to Cindy Erickson and the rest of Shirley's family and friends. Blessed be her memory.*

♥ *On Saturday, May 30, we celebrated the marriage of Haley Jo Mesick and Robert Donald Jindra at GA Church. Congratulations to Haley and Bob as they begin this new chapter in their life together.*

♥ *On Sunday, May 31, we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Sienna Marie Augustson (born August 31, 2024), child of Somer & Paul Augustson and sibling to Brynn, Pierce, and Soren. Blessings to the entire Augustson family.*



From Deacon Phil

Thanks to our Summer Orchestra Players

Our congregation enjoyed a piece of music by our summer orchestra in worship on Sunday, June 21. We've had a lot of requests for a return engagement. Thanks to these very talented musicians who practiced a piece of music ahead of time and came prepared to play that morning.

THIS
DEACON
LOVES YOU



Flute – Shirley Fors

Violin – Patrick Plonski

Trumpet – Patrick Arneson

Trombone – Peter Bodurtha

Clarinet – Sarah Larson & Liz Ludovici

Saxophone – Alyssa Meuwissen

Baritone Horn – Gwen Bodurtha

Piano – Yours Truly

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. See you in church!

MORE... Church
news

Coffee Hour and Flower News (from Mary Larson)

Despite vacations, trips and weekends at the cabin, there are still people in church on summer Sundays. And coffee hour is appreciated. The challenge, of course, is to find folks willing to serve. Check the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board and find a Sunday you can serve. Thank You!

P.S. Fun Fact: Back in the day when we had 1,000 members, it was still hard to find hosts for coffee hour. Council even considered cancelling it all together.

Also: I do my best to look after our flower planters, but sometimes summer can be brutal. If you see our plants drooping and you are able, please give them a drink. Hose and watering can are beside the Education Wing doors. Thank you, Mary .

Rainbow Church Meets July 25

Rainbow Church, GA's group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+, will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, July 25, at 2:00 p.m. Join us for lively discussion and potentially a game and some snax, too. If you have questions about Rainbow Church, reach out to Deacon Phil.

July & August Calendars are not included in this issue. For up-to-date calendars, check our website!

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.
- Nancy Johnson – Prayers for Nancy who continues to recover from surgery. It was good to see Nancy & Marv in worship on Sunday, June 28.
- Darlene McQuarrie – Prayers for Darlene who is recovering from a recent medical setback.
- 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.
- Meredith – Prayers for Cindy Bach’s niece who recently gave birth via c-section. Prayers for her recovery and any postpartum issues she may encounter.
- Glen Yunker – Prayers for Glen who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- 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 or Pastor Ian or Deacon Phil.

Financial Update

As of June 26, member giving amounted to just over \$130,000, or about 42% of the annual budget amount. During the same period, general fund expenses were over \$186,000, or around 51% of the annual budget. The most significant expense in the first half of 2026 was a payment for the church’s new boiler, the source of which was proceeds from last year’s parking lot sale.

Income/Expense through June 26, 2026:

	YTD	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Member Giving	\$130,294	\$307,500	42.4%
Other Revenue	\$27,842	\$45,515	61.2%
Expense	\$186,732	\$365,483	51.1%
Net	-\$28,596	-\$12,468	

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.

Church Council Meeting Summary – June 18, 2026

The Gustavus Adolphus Church Council held its June meeting on June 18. 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 provided us with an update on the boiler replacement project. The new boilers are in place (see photo below), and work is underway on the associated plumbing and supporting components! We are still on track for completion well ahead of the fall heating season.

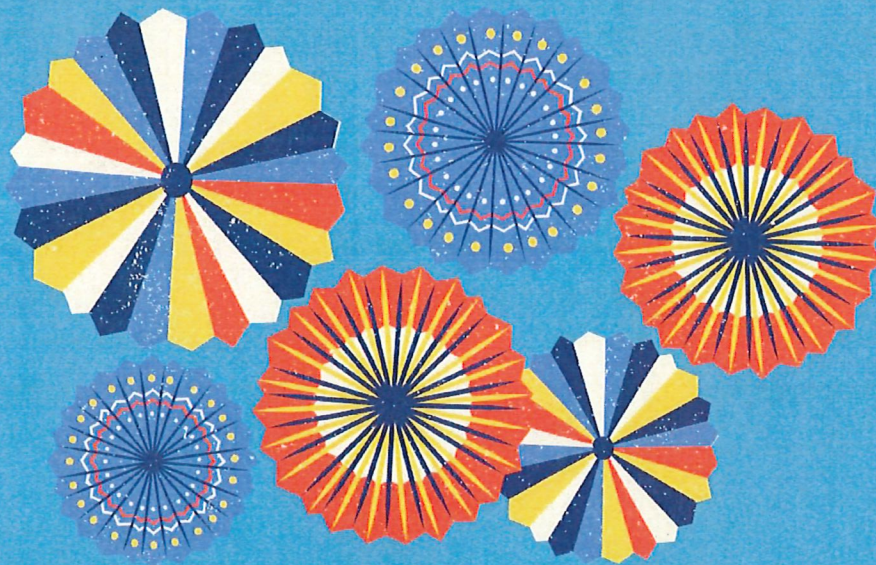


Building tenants: We approved a rental agreement with a short-term tenant who will utilize a space in the education wing.

2026 goals: In March, the council identified the following areas of focus in 2026: Comprehensive Branding; Digital Transformation; and Operational Continuity. Julie Bodurtha and Julia Ludovici presented comprehensive initial proposals to fulfill our 2026 objectives around Comprehensive Branding and Digital Transformation, respectively. A team comprised of Liz Ludovici (team lead), Bob Bach, Deacon Phil Holzman, and Julia Ludovici will lead implementation, with targeted completion by end of the year. Thank you, Julie and Julia! Regarding Operational Continuity, the council is developing a plan for pastoral leadership and support during Pastor Ian's parental leave later this year

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

SUMMER CRAFT SUNDAY



DIY CRAFT | SIMPLE ART
CREATIVE SESSION

MULTI-GENERATIONAL

AUGUST 16
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
PIZZA SERVED

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418



Recognize these folks? They were at Family Camp at Luther Park the last weekend of June!

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

