



God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is Sept. 13, 2026. This year we will be packing **Self Care Kits** for LSS. Our goal is to back 30 kits, which means we need 240 items donated by Sunday, Sept. 13.

Self-Care Kits are a simple yet powerful way to support direct service providers, guardians, foster care providers, older adults, adults with identified needs and individuals exiting homelessness. These individuals commonly face significant emotional and physical challenges, making self-care essential to their well-being. Filled with stress-relief items, hygiene essentials and relaxation tools, these kits provide comfort, encouragement, and a sense of dignity for caregivers and those rebuilding their lives.

Please donate any of the following items. Six to eight items will be packed together and need to fit into a 2-gallon zip lock bag. Please look for travel size items.

- Bodywash or soap
- Lotion or body butter
- Hair ties or scrunchies
- Soft washcloth or loofah
- Lip balm
- Face masks (sheet or cream-based)
- Hand sanitizer
- Travel-size tissues
- Herbal tea
- Essential oils or roll-on stress relief blends
- Candles (if scented, keep it light and natural)
- Heating or cooling eye mask
- Reusable water bottle
- Beef jerky or protein bar
- Puzzle book (sudoku, crossword, etc.)
- Stress ball or fidget toy

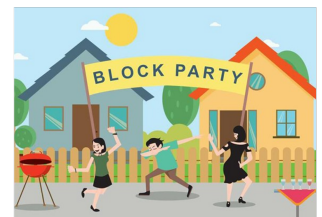
Sunday, September 13 - 11:00 a.m. **Church and Community Block Party!**



After church on Sunday, September 13, please join members, friends, and neighbors on the church lawn for food, music and games. We will have God's Work. Our Hands. projects, art activities, and good food and fun for all ages.

We will need set-up volunteers.

If you are able to help us with moving tables and chairs outside, you are welcome to come at 8:00 a.m. We also have a small tent to raise. Thanks for considering.



Reach out with your questions.

Lynn Lurvey

lllurvey@gmail.com



Blessing of Backpacks

Blessing of the backpacks will take place on Sunday, September 13. All school aged children, college students, school teachers, custodians, lunch ladies, school nurses, and school administrators are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for special blessing to start the school year.

Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday for Sunday School aged children (age 3 - 5th grade) will be September 13. We invite families to register their children for Sunday School that morning in the Narthex following worship. *(Articles continued on page 3)*

From Pastor Ian

This past year, the Social Ministry Committee has been thinking deeply about the ways we present God and holiness at GA. This is drawn in part from our Reconciling in Christ intentions, where we “commit to the work of racial equity and justice.” For many people, and especially guests entering GA, the primary way Jesus is presented is as a Northern European man with light skin and blue eyes. At the time the sanctuary stained glass was constructed and the large painting in the fireside room was painted, that was how most members would have imagined Him. As people who believe that Jesus took on flesh and became human, it is important for everyone to be able to experience Jesus as familiar.

Yet, that ability to connect with Jesus and holiness should not be limited to one group of people. We should continuously seek opportunities to broaden our understanding of how God is known. To that end, the Social Ministry Committee has selected three images (or icons) to hang behind the prayer candle station as devotional aids. The hope is that this collection will expand over time into a living space where we can encounter an ever-shifting and unbounded experience of God’s beauty, presence, and grace.

In the Lutheran tradition, icons (from the Greek *eikōn*, which simply means “image”) do not carry any divine power and are not prayed to or venerated. Rather, their value lies in their ability to focus individual thoughts and prayers.

The first three icons we are featuring are:

- Christ in Majesty (*Majestas Domini*):** *Depicts Jesus Christ as the exalted Lord of the Universe, seated upon a heavenly throne.*
- Christ in the Rubble:** Stands as a solemn lament for devastation and a powerful invocation toward compassion, justice, and peace.
- Maria Lactans:** Depicts Mary physically nursing the infant Christ.

Short two-paragraph descriptions are below each image to offer further background on their historical significance and contemporary interpretation.

I hope that this space, which has become a beloved aspect of our worship life, might become a source of spiritual and personal renewal and reflection for all who lift their intentions and prayers to God.

-pr. ian

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rally Sunday (continued)

Sunday School classes will officially start on Sunday, September 20. More detailed information will be emailed to Sunday School families early in September.

Sunday School Teacher Installation

Sunday School teacher installation will occur on Sunday, September 20, during worship. If you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher or helper this year, please contact Jenny Parker at Jennifer.parker@district196.org or at [612-695-1538](tel:612-695-1538).



Men's Breakfast Resumes September 12

Men of all ages at GA are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast on the second Saturday of the month beginning Saturday, September 12. We meet at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and discussion. Come join us!

Rainbow Church Meets September 19

Rainbow Church, GA Church's group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+, will meet on Saturday, September 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the church. Join us for (always) lively discussion and potentially a game and some snacks, too. If you have questions about the group, please reach out Deacon Phil.



New Coffee Fellowship Sign-Up Sheet Posted

Mary Larson wants us to know that she has posted a new sign-up sheet for the month of September and the first week of October. If you'd like to host coffee fellowship after worship, please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board by the ushers' closet/stairs in the Narthex at church. Thanks for considering!

Curious About Quilts?

A few members of our GA family have expressed an interest in learning how to make a quilt. So, the Quilters are inviting anyone who wants to know our secrets and tips to meet with us on Saturday, October 10. We'll be in the Fellowship Hall from 1 to 4 p.m. No pre-registration necessary. We will provide sewing machines and all tools needed to start you on your quilting journey. We'll even provide the fabric! No age limit, but legs should be able to reach the machine pedal.



Questions? Ask Bonnie Mattson, Pam Streed, or Mary Larson

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

From Deacon Phil

I'm writing this on August 31. In some respects, it seems like summer has flown by (like it always does in Minnesota). In other respects, it seems like an eternity since I've seen our choir members in rehearsal. Northeast Chorale rehearsals begin tomorrow night for the fall season. Church choir rehearsals will begin in a few short weeks. My choir schedule is prepared through Christmas. I *think* that means I'm ready. I know I'm ready to make music with my musical GA friends again.

THIS
DEACON
LOVES YOU

Joel Lurvey extends an invitation to folks to join the Contemporary Group and, likewise, I invite new singers to be part of the GA Choir. (I'm always looking for substitute ringers in the Gustavus Bells as well.) In case you missed seeing the schedule in last Saturday's email blast, here's the schedule of our choir start-ups:

* **Contemporary Group** - directed by Joel Lurvey

First Rehearsal - Wednesday, September 9, at 5:45 p.m.

* **Gustavus Bells** - directed by Deacon Phil

First Rehearsal - Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. Weekly rehearsals held at this time.

* **GA Choir** - directed by Deacon Phil

First Rehearsal - Wednesday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. Weekly rehearsals held at this time.

(As noted earlier this summer, the GA Choristers will be on hiatus until January due to Deacon Phil taking on extra duties during Pastor Ian's leave this fall.)

For those folks who might want to be involved in our worship ministry but are not called to be part of a choir, there are many ways to help out! Consider the following ways you could help lead worship. You could:

- ♪ Be an Assisting Minister
- ♪ Be a Lector (read Sunday scriptures)
- ♪ Be an Usher or Greeter
- ♪ Present a Children's Message
- ♪ Prepare Communion before worship on a Sunday morning
- ♪ Help with the technical side of worship by learning to run the audio/visual equipment or being a Zoom meeting host

We have a committed group of people who help make our worship services run smoothly each week. We can always use more help. If one of these ways to serve speaks to you, talk to me and we'll get you the necessary training and support to facilitate you serving in the role of your choosing.



Church Council Meeting Summary – August 20, 2026

The Gustavus Adolphus Church Council held its August meeting on August 20. 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."

Landscaping: We reviewed history and current status of our 2026 contract with our landscape maintenance company. Council and Property Committee have agreed on a plan for working with the company for fall projects.

Operational continuity: We reviewed our operational continuity plan which will ensure pastoral support for our congregation during Pastor Ian's upcoming leave. His leave is anticipated to begin on Sept. 14.

Protection Policy: We reviewed specifics of our Protection Policy, which includes requirements for background checks of all volunteers working with children. The Congregational Life Committee will be strengthening language in the policy to improve clarity and ensure consistent application.

Memorial requests: We approved funding for icons to be added to the prayer station.

Capital appeal: We agreed to close the checking account dedicated to the Life Together capital appeal and transfer remaining funds to our existing money market account, renaming it as the Capital Money Market account.

Social ministry benevolence: We approved allocation of benevolence funds to the Little Kitchen food shelf and the Lutheran World Relief Girls in School program.

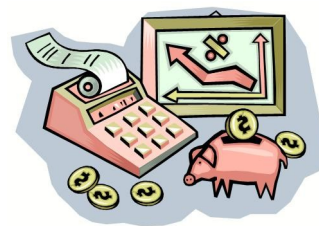
As always, we reviewed monthly reports from staff and standing committees.

Financial Update

As of August 28, member giving amounted to just under \$170,000, or about 55% of the annual budget amount. This year's giving slightly lags last year's year-to-date figure. Leasing and building use revenue has exceeded the budgeted amount, supplementing member contributions. General fund expenses were just under \$240,000, or around 65% of the annual budget. The church's boiler replacement project, which is progressing nicely, represented the largest expense in recent months. However, designated funds have been used for this project, rather than the general fund.

Income/Expense through August 28, 2026

	YTD	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Member Giving	\$169,237	\$307,500	55.0%
Other Revenue	\$38,851	\$45,515	85.4%
Expense	\$239,565	\$369,483	64.8%
Net	-\$31,477	-\$16,468	



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 is receiving treatment.*
- ♥ *Sandy Eide – Prayers for Sandy, daughter of Mary Ann & Jeff Eide, who has some ongoing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Sharon Hatella – Prayers for Sharon who is suffering from back issues and pain.*
- ♥ *Debbie Holm – Prayers for Debbie, who will be having upcoming surgery.*
- ♥ *Todd Kiddo – Prayers for healing after a bad medical diagnosis.*
- ♥ *Cindy Koolmo – Prayers for Carol LaBelle's daughter who is dealing with a serious health situation.*
- ♥ *Pat Lynch – Prayers for Pat who is dealing with a broken bone in her foot that is proving slow to heal.*
- ♥ *Darlene McQuarrie – Prayers for Darlene who is recovering from some medical setbacks.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *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.*

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.

From the Parish Records

Two celebrations to note!

- ♥ *On Sunday, August 2, we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Clara Jo Koletar (born January 27, 2026), child of Laura & Josh Koletar. Clara's sponsors were Elizabeth & Julia Ludovici.*
- ♥ *On Saturday, August 29, we celebrated the marriage of Gysel Zangano Alvillar and Brandon Edward Arneson at GA Church. Congratulations to Gysel and Brandon as they begin this new chapter in their life together!*



Looking Ahead to October 4 – Pet Blessing/Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4 each year and honors one of the most beloved saints in Christian tradition. Francis, who lived in the 12th and 13th centuries, is remembered for his deep humility, radical embrace of poverty, and profound love for creation.



This year on Sunday, October 4, we will be celebrating the Feast of St. Francis during worship, which will include a time of blessing for pets! During this part of the service, people and their pets will be invited forward to receive a blessing as the congregation sings St. Francis' beloved hymn *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* For those who have pets who have died, they would also be invited forward with a picture of their pet to give thanks for the life shared together. Make your plans now. More reminders will be shared in upcoming emails and next month's newsletter.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis...September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour	6pm - Property Comm.		4:30pm - Wdg. Rehearsal
9:30am - Worship 4pm - Wedding	7 Labor Day	1pm - Grief Group 5:30pm - Social Ministry Comm.	10am - Coffee Hour 5:45pm - Contemporary Group	10	11	12
						8:30am - Men's Breakfast
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
GWOH Sunday 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Block Party	5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm.	6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	7pm - Church Council		2pm - Rainbow Church
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School		1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir			
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School		6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir			

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418



Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies for this summer's drive for Lutheran Social Service/Children's Home Society.

Here's a picture of the box we filled with supplies that were shared with kids experiencing foster care in Minnesota.

Our next collection project is for "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday" on Sept. 13. See page 1 for all the details on what we need for that collection drive for LSS. Thank you!

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

Bldg. Hours: Mon. thru Thurs. 9:10 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

