

Ministry Circles – the Circle of Love

Sometimes, even without meaning to, without a negative incident, we start to think about “church” (small c, congregational life) as a transaction. You know – give the church money (donations), and in return the church gives (fill in the blank) ... Sunday School, sermons, fellowship, a building to meet in, pastoral care, the list goes on.

Perhaps this is your definition of church, and you are a bit confused as to why I am bringing it up for comment. Well, first of all if the idea of church is a transaction, GA would be a failure. Most of the time our incoming monies do not equal or exceed all the things people want from the church: we run a deficit. That’s a difficult place to be, and puts quite a bit of pressure on leadership to find ways to keep GA healthy for the future.

But more importantly, churches are not places of transaction, not when we operate in the way God intends. God’s love is not something that has a price tag attached to it.

God’s love is reflected in GA fellowship: the activities we share, spending time to get to know each other. Refreshments after worship, community meals, shared suppers at Advent and Lent: all fellowship. GA has a long history of fellowship at the church, and does a good job of welcoming newcomers.

Our next step, which has already started with Phil Holzman and the Ministry Circle Team, is to create additional fellowship around the acts of helping each other at tasks that need to be done at GA for the sake of all of us.



It’s natural, at any gathering, to “hang out” with familiar faces: friends and family. Natural, but not always the most healthy for a church, which needs to look at how visitors and newcomers experience these gatherings.

We have so many things which are essential to get done, and so many more that would be wonderful if we COULD get them done! And the answer is not to get more staff. That just adds to the bottom line of financials and takes away an opportunity for our people to get involved in the day-to-day workings.

We are asking all of you, the members of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church NE Minneapolis, to take on the responsibilities to take care of each other. Jesus, on the evening of his last meal, eating with his disciples, told them, *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this, everyone will know at you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”*.

Phil’s team has already assigned the church membership into different circles, and each member of GA should already be assigned to a circle (sheets are posted in the narthex of all the Circles). Circle leaders will be contacting you for the two months per year that your circle is “on duty.” The leaders have a list of jobs and activities that we ask each one of you to choose from, and you will perform that activity for a month at a time, twice a year. No more time on a committee for 5 years without release! This makes it easy to try things, to commit to something short-term, no matter what your schedule might be.

The jobs are a variety of activities: usher, greeter, Scripture reader, all things you are familiar with. But we realize not everyone wants or is able to do these types of things. So we are adding some different tasks as well: Gazette article writer, Confirmation partner, GA photojournalist. And for those who are home-bound, or wish to assist in a more introverted way (God gives gifts in many ways), we have the task of prayer partner as well. We will be adding more jobs as we go, and welcome any suggestions you may have.

Ministry Circles are an organized way of taking care of each other, using lists and technology to help us do God’s work of ministry. This is new to GA, so expect some hiccups and unexpected issues – we’ll adjust and move forward. That’s what we do, for we are people of God!

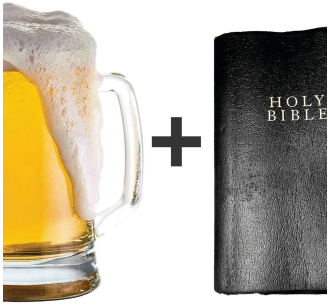
Thank you in advance for your support and enthusiasm.

– Blessings, Pastor Jo

Bible and Brews

When: Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m.

*Where: Sean and Jenny's,
1392 Buchanan Place NE,
Columbia Heights*



Join us on Tuesday, Sept. 11, as we discuss Scripture, current events, the Church, and of course. . . beer.

Bring your favorite libation to share with the group. (If you'd like to help our hosts by bringing a snack as well, please do!) This month we'll once again meet at the home of Jenny and Sean Tessmer. Hope to see you!

Group Meeting Schedule

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) – Meetings resume in October!

Quilters – Quilting session on Thursday, Sept. 6, at 9:30 a.m.

Deborah Circle – The circle will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 1:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast – Monthly breakfasts resume on Saturday, Sept. 8, at 8:30 a.m. All men invited!

School Supply Collection Wrapping Up

Friday, Sept. 7, is the last day to donate school supplies for **God's Work. Our Hands.** Sunday. Bring your supplies to church Sunday, Sept. 2, or drop them off at the office during the following week. Donations of the following supplies are still much appreciated:

- ✕ Notebooks and Folders
- ✕ Composition Journals
- ✕ Loose-leaf paper
- ✕ Binders
- ✕ Pens and #2 Pencils
- ✕ Erasers
- ✕ Highlighters
- ✕ Drawing pads
- ✕ Calculators
- ✕ Backpacks (to pack supplies in)



God's work.
Our hands.

Sunday, September 9.
All ages invited to help pack backpacks
after worship for students in foster care!

Sunday School, Frolic, and Confirmation Classes Begin September 16!

- ♥ Confirmation Class, for students in 6th-8th grade, begins at 8:30 a.m.
- ♥ Frolic, for our youngest children ages 0-36 month and their caregivers, is held from 10:45-11:30 a.m.
- ♥ Sunday school, for age 3 through grade 5, is also held from 10:45-11:30 a.m.

All Sunday school families are invited to attend a Sunday school Open House on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 10:45-11:15 a.m. Students can meet their teacher and make their name tag. We are always looking for teachers and assistant teachers to help during the year. If interested, contact Jenny Parker (Jennifer.parker@district196.org or 612-789-2968).

Sept. Serving Schedule	Assisting Minister	Lector	Sacristan	Transportation
September 2	Hannah Rosebrock	Hannah Rosebrock		James Hamilton
September 9	Carlotta Rosebrock	Kim Huseonica		Joel Lurvey
September 16	Andrea Carter	Lynn Lurvey	Brandon Bisping	Pat Lynch
September 23	Joel Lurvey	Lynette Paulson	Brock Bisping	James Hamilton
September 30	Calvin Huseonica	Brock or Aaron Bisping	Joan Mitchell	Brian Hendrickson

Sept. Ushers:
Ministry Circle 5
(Gayle and Ed Huble, coordinators)

Our Congregation's

Vision Statement

(The congregation adopted this vision statement on January 24, 2016.)

God in Christ loves us; therefore, through the Holy Spirit we will:

Do justice

- We **hope** for our community and all of God's creation
- We feed the poor and comfort the afflicted
- We welcome and **respect** our neighbor and the stranger

Love kindness

- We **love** and care for our congregation and our community
- We practice **forgiveness** locally and globally
- We strive for **compassion** and **acceptance**

Walk humbly with our God

- We find **joy** in creation
- We desire to grow in **spirituality**
- We delight in liturgical worship and creative expression

We are all children of God. Jesus calls us by name. With the Holy Spirit, we seek to live out God's grace.

Our Congregation's Core Values

(These values were adopted by the congregation in 2010, just before our current mission statement was written.)

Love

Joy

Hope

Compassion

Spirituality

Forgiveness

Acceptance

Respect

Eighth Annual Summer Musical Now a Memory

Our cast of 18 children gave two performances of *Elijah! God's Faithful Prophet* to audiences of over 100 people each night. We want to thank the kids in the cast plus all the people who helped behind the scenes to make this production a success. Our summer musicals are an outreach to the neighborhood, to friends of GA members, and to our friends at Mt. Carmel Church. They are a great way for the children involved to learn a Bible story, to learn a bit about "show business" and teamwork, and to make some new friends. Thanks to everyone who attended one of our shows and who contributed financially toward the continuation of this ministry. We'll be back next year!

Kim Huseonica & Phil Holzman



Thanks to Summer Musicians

We had the opportunity to hear from many of our talented musicians this summer as they provided special music for our worship services while our choirs took a break. Thank you...to the following people:

- ♪ Adrienne and Aaron Bisping
- ♪ Shirley Fors & Nicole Navratil
- ♪ Shirley Fors & Carlotta Rosebrock
- ♪ Bergen Hall
- ♪ Oliver Hall
- ♪ Melissa & Nic Hentges
- ♪ Joel Lurvey (+ Lynn Lurvey and Becky & Joel Sunde)
- ♪ String Quartet including GA member Matt Brown on cello
- ♪ Cassandra & Eric Weidmann – who will sing on Sept. 9

From the Church Records

We welcomed three children into the family of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism since our last newsletter was published. Welcome to the following:

- ◆ *Gabriel James Hentges, son of Melissa and Nic Hentges and brother to Edith;*
- ◆ *Jacob Thomas Peterson, son of Kristen and Dane Peterson and brother to Sam;*
- ◆ *Frederick Fors Navratil, son of Kari and Justin Navratil and brother to Daniel.*

We pray God's richest blessings on these children, their families, and their baptismal sponsors.

As mentioned in the previous issue of our newsletter, we held a memorial service for Evie Ramin on Saturday, August 11. Evie died July 1.

Blessing & Godspeed to Matthew Rosebrock

At the conclusion of the liturgy on Aug. 26, the congregation offered a word of blessing to Matthew Rosebrock who will be studying abroad in Japan for the coming year. Matthew is a lifelong member of GA Church, having been baptized and confirmed here. He is a student at Moorhead State University and will be studying at Kanda University of International Studies in Chiba, Japan (about 40 minutes east of Tokyo). Matthew flew out of MSP on Aug. 28 and will return in August 2019. If you'd like to keep in touch with him, you can write to him at rosebrocma@mnstate.edu. (Notice there's no "k" in his e-mail address!)

A Word of Thanks

Dear GA,

The week of Aug. 6 marked the end of my offering of teaching yoga at GA (and nearby Audubon Park). Thank you to my students over the past two years! Also, cheers to the people of GA for your support.

Namaste,
Nicole Navratil

thank
you!

September Community Meal News

Hello Congregation,

You may already be aware that our congregation provides a free community meal on the fourth Saturday of each month. Our guests really enjoy their time with each other and have loved the food we prepare. Our volunteers have really loved working together and visiting with our neighbors. We typically serve more than 50 people each month! **In September, we would like to offer a "LUTHERAN BASEMENT POTLUCK DINNER."** And you are invited to bring a dish to share.

You can sign-up in the narthex or e-mail Lynn Lurvey to let her know what you plan to bring. It will be helpful to know how many hot dishes and salads we can count on! (lclurvey@gmail.com) You are welcome to come and join us for the meal, or you can drop off your dish anytime after 3:00 p.m. on **Saturday, Sept. 22**. (Note: this is the 4th Saturday of the month, **not** the last!) Again, thank you for considering this way to serve our community. Let me know if you have questions.

– Lynn Lurvey



Concert on Community Meal Night

No Man's String Band

We at GA Church are pleased to bring the No Man's String Band for a concert open to the church and the community on **Saturday, Sept. 22, at 7:00 p.m.**

The concert is free, but we will take a free-will offering to give to the band. GA members Nic and Melissa Hentges are part of this group of musicians. "All is Fair in Love and Bluegrass," says the No Man's String Band with the release of their most recent album. Formed in 2011, they are pleased to bring you the bluegrass tradition and its future. Members of the No Man's String Band are Justin Rosckes on guitar, Melissa Hentges on accordion, Nic Hentges on mandolin, Lindsey Bordner on fiddle, and Pat Loftus on bass.

Join One of Our Choirs This Fall!

One of the best ways to get involved in the life of the church and to get to know people is to join one of our church choirs. At GA we are fortunate that we have four choirs which offer a variety of ways to participate in our worship and music ministry depending on your age, interest, or time availability.



The Senior Choir is for high school students and adults. This group rehearses Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and sings for worship two Sundays a month plus church holidays such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas Eve. The group sings music in unison and two, three, and four-part harmony and sings a variety of musical styles. Phil Holzman directs this choir. ***The first rehearsal this fall is Wednesday, Sept. 19.***

The Contemporary Choir is also for high school students and adults. They rehearse three Wednesdays a month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and lead worship on the 3rd Sunday of the month using more contemporary music from our hymnal and other sources. Singers **and** instrumentalists are welcome to join this group, directed by Joel Lurvey. ***Their first rehearsal this fall is Wednesday, Sept. 5.***



The Gustavus Bells, again for high school students through adults, meets each Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to rehearse. The group plays in worship one Sunday per month (usually the 2nd Sunday) plus Christmas Eve and Easter. **We have one opening for a ringer this fall due to a graduation of one of our ringers this spring.** If you read music and would like to ring bells, please contact Phil Holzman, the group's director, at church prior to the first rehearsal. We can also always use substitute ringers to call on in the absence of our regular ringers. ***The first bell rehearsal this fall is Wednesday, Sept. 26.***

The GA Choristers is our choir for elementary and middle school singers. This choir meets on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 p.m. in smaller "sessions" throughout the school year and sings approximately every month to six weeks in worship plus on Christmas Eve. In addition to learning anthems to sing in worship, the choristers learn basics about singing in a choir and learn things about Lutheran liturgy and Lutheran worship, so they understand our Sunday services a bit more fully. They also play our tone chimes on occasion. The first session of Choristers will begin Sept. 26 and run through the month of October. They will sing for worship twice during these weeks. Another session will be held leading up to Christmas Eve. Phil Holzman is the director of the Choristers. ***The first Choristers rehearsal is Wednesday, Sept. 26.***



Everyone who attends rehearsals of their respective groups will be given a complete schedule of their group's worship participate for September through January at the first rehearsal of the fall so that they know what is expected of them for this period. Both Joel and Phil sincerely hope to see some new folks in our groups and look forward to seeing all our veteran singers and ringers back at rehearsals this month!

World Religions Study Update



Last Spring we held an after-worship discussion group entitled "Christianity and World Religions." Great dialogue, lots of interest! The group decided to start it up again this fall, which delights me. I was using as a basic resource a book by Adam Hamilton, "Christianity and World Religions." Hamilton has completely updated this book (needed), and the new version will be released late September 2018. I have pre-ordered the book, and should receive it soon after the release date.

I propose re-starting our discussion group on **Christianity & World Religions** on Sunday, October 7, after worship, at 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

— Pastor Jo

Summer 2018 General Fund Financial Report

June Financials

	June 2018	June 2018 YTD	June 2017 YTD
Income	\$34,488.78	\$154,685.16	\$150,452.30
Expenses	<u>25,010.46</u>	<u>174,382.09</u>	<u>160,074.79</u>
Income-Exp.	\$ 9,478.32	<\$ 19,696.93>	<\$ 9,622.49>

July Financials

	July 2018	July 2018 YTD	July 2017 YTD
Income	\$26,622.46	\$181,307.62	\$171,831.12
Expenses	<u>23,765.58</u>	<u>196,820.87</u>	<u>186,950.82</u>
Income-Exp.	\$ 2,856.88	<\$ 15,513.25>	<\$ 15,119.70>

A lot of good news this summer! June and July giving exceeded spending two months in a row! A gift of \$7,800 to the General Fund, giving for the Brrr Fund, as well as an overall increase in giving and a decrease in spending helped us reduce our YTD deficit (compared to May) by \$13,662.00.

Many thanks to the congregation for responding to our Brrr Fund appeal and for generously remembering GA during the summer months!

Next Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m.

Andrea Carter,
Treasurer

"All Are Welcome" Capital Appeal Update

As of Sunday, August 19, we have received \$238,506.60. We are thankful for these gifts. Our pledged goal amount is \$254,352.00 for the three year period that ends in the spring of 2019. We are almost there. Thanks be to God!

Won't Be in Worship on a Particular Sunday? You Can Still Make Sure GA Receives Your Offering!

You can mail a check to the church office. Or, if you're more "tech savvy," you can...

Text to Donate (New!) - Make a donation

to our Number: 612-235-4476

GA's New "Text to Give" number

*(Simply text an amount (no dollar sign needed) to the number above
and follow the prompts to complete your donation!)*

Give+ App (New!) - Search "Give Plus Church" in your
phone App store, download,
and find Gustavus Adolphus (by zip code 55418)

“God’s Blessings” Speakers

Here at GA, we like to try new things! We like to try new things that remind us about God!

So, on various Sundays, while the offering is being collected, you will hear the voice of one of your fellow GA members, speaking from the congregation pews and telling a story about being blessed by God. You can be that person!

We are looking for people to tell a small story (really, just a couple of minutes or so).

Witness to the goodness of God is always more believable and powerful when it comes from people we know and trust. We need to tell each other our stories of God! This is not as complicated as it sounds....

It can be a simple matter of just answering a question or making comment. Feel free to use one of these prompts as a topic.

- * *How has God surprised you?*
- * *When did you know God was something you could count on?*
- * *An unexpected blessing*
- * *A stranger gave you hope*

and more that we know you will be able to tell us about....

Please let Pastor Jo or Phil Holzman know if this is a gift you can do for us all. Thanks in advance for the stories we will hear, sharing God’s love among us, in worship.

NE CHORALE

GA and Community Singers Invited to Join the Northeast Chorale

The Northeast Chorale is ready to start its fourth season of “cultivating community through music.” Our own Phil Holzman serves as artistic director and he invites members of GA Church and the community to join the choir, which last spring numbered 40 singers. This fall’s concert theme is “A New Day” and will include both sacred and secular music. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m. and will continue

each Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. right here in the sanctuary of GA Church.

Because of the level of music being learned, there is an expectation of regular attendance at rehearsals throughout the season.

Our fall concert will take place on Saturday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. There is a participation fee of \$25.00 per adult (\$10.00 per high school or college student) to help offset music and other costs. Chorale members are also invited to participate with the GA Choir in “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” on Sunday, December 16. If you have questions about the Chorale, you can contact Phil Holzman directly or attend the first rehearsal on Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m.



Give to Lutheran Disaster Response

Whether it’s for relief for victims of the ongoing wildfires in the western United States and Canada or earthquake relief, hurricane relief, or another disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response is there to help! Every dollar we give to Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA, goes 100% to help those affected by disaster. You can give by making a check payable to GA Church and noting “disaster response” in the memo line.

Keep the Church Office Informed

When you or a family member is hospitalized or enters a long-term care facility, please call the church office (612-789-7256). If no one is there to take your call, please leave a voicemail. Remember that privacy laws prevent the church from knowing when you are hospitalized and, therefore, Pastor Jo is unable to make a visit.

Also...If you have disconnected your landline phone and now have only a cell phone, please let us know your number. We have lost a great many phone numbers recently. Thank you!

A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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God's Mission for GA Church...
...to build community where God is at the center.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

Website: www.gachurchmpls.org

E-mail: info@gachurchmpls.org

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff ...

The Rev. Jo Bauman Johnson, Pastor (Ext. 10)

pastorjo@gachurchmpls.org

Cell phone: 952-285-6945

Phil Holzman, Deacon/Minister of Word and Service (Ext. 11)

(Worship & Music, Parish Administration)

philh@gachurchmpls.org

Dan Hager, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)

danh@gachurchmpls.org

Joel Lurvey, Contemporary Choir Director

joel.lurvey@gmail.com



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

All 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. Because Christ reconciles us, we welcome people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, and socio-economic backgrounds. We strive to be an evermore welcoming community. Following the example of Christ, we extend a most heartfelt welcome to all. Gustavus Adolphus is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



Gustavus Adolphus Church Council

Sean Tessmer, President

Sarah Larson, Vice-President

Gary Anderson, Secretary

Andrea Carter, Treasurer

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