



The Day of Pentecost ~ Sunday, May 23

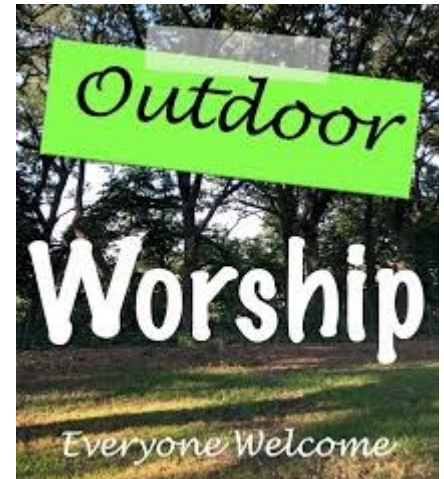
Join us for an outdoor worship service on the GA parking lot at 9:30 a.m. that day!

Bring your own lawn chair and/or blanket to sit on.

Please plan on wearing a mask.

Also, bring your own Communion.

We're going to be recruiting help for set-up and take-down. If you'd like to help, contact Deacon Phil.



Holden Evening Prayer Services (outdoors)

We will hold three outdoor evening services this summer using the much-loved *Holden Evening Prayer*. We invite you to bring a lawn chair and a mask and join us to sing and pray this liturgy on the following dates:

- Wednesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m.



Wanted: Racial Justice Reflections



How has your thinking on racial justice changed in the last year since the George Floyd event?

Send a 3-4 paragraph written reflection, a 2-3 minute video response or piece of art in response to this question via GA's Facebook page or email it to kari.m.l.navratil@gmail.com.

- Your response will be posted on the GA Facebook page and in the "Gazette."
- Please let us know right away if you plan to send your reflection for planning purposes.

Monday Night Book Club Meets May 17 via Zoom

Join us on Monday, May 17, via Zoom to discuss David Treuer's *Rez Life: an Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life*. Treuer tells personal stories from his life on the Leech Lake Reservation while exploring the complexities of navigating systems bound by treaty rights, restrictive U.S. policies, and attitudes about life in Indian Country. Our Zoom meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss the entirety of the book. See GA's Saturday email blast for Zoom ID. Questions? Email Andrea Carter at andreaLcart@gmail.com. All are welcome!



Virtual GA Choristers – Wednesday, May 19

Deacon Phil invites elementary and middle school students to join him on Zoom for one final time of singing for this school year on Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom invitation will be included in the Saturday email the week before, but the meeting ID is: 833 0003 0244 with the usual passcode of 1509. Come prepared to sing and have fun for 20 minutes or so.

Earth Day - Everyday!

Here's an idea from our friend, Lynn Lurvey. Earth Day is traditionally celebrated on April 22. This year, we can celebrate all year long!! **Here is your invitation** to find time once a month to help with trash clean-up in our neighborhoods. Trash clean-up is a vital service because the trash we pick up does not flow into rivers!

Find your calendar and create an opportunity to walk together with friends and family removing trash from our sidewalks, streets, and alleys. If your neighborhood looks pretty clear of trash, find a street near you that is a bit busier. We can all keep the spirit of Earth Day alive during these lovely spring, summer, and fall months.



Recommendations: Wear plastic or garden gloves, work with adults, bring the trash back to your own trash bin, and have fun!! Feel free to share your photos and stories with us at GA!!!

Our Lean Postage Coffers

During this time of separation, we have generated more mailings to our members than we normally do, and this has chewed into our postage budget for 2021. While the extra mailings are costly, they are also a very important way for us to stay connected to one another, especially with our children. Would you kindly consider helping us in this effort? You can:



1. Add a few extra dollars to your regular financial support of GA (being sure to include a note indicating how much of your contribution is for your pledge and how much should be applied to postage); and/or
2. Drop off a roll or two of first-class postage stamps at the church on a Wednesday when Phil and Susan are in the office.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Sunday Zoom Worship – 9:30 a.m. Every Sunday

See the Saturday email each week for Zoom invitation link, or contact Deacon Phil Holzman for call-in information. If you don't receive the Saturday email and would like to be included, contact Deacon Phil as well.





From the Re-Entry Task Force

We continue to meet monthly (the first Wednesday of the month) to monitor the COVID-19 situation and how it affects our congregation. We remain in Phase II of our Re-Entry Plan – no change from last month. You can check GA’s Facebook page each weekend for an update from the Re-Entry task force.

Recent Baptisms

We have been blessed to receive the following two children into the family of God, and our church family here at GA, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in the past several months:

- *Josephine Cora Hoskins, daughter of Kelli and Tobias Hoskins (and sister to Theodore), on January 24;*
- *Ernest Curtis Navratil, son of Nicole and Curtis Navratil, on March 7.*



Thursday Night Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to join fellow GA members for a four-week Bible study on the book of Philippians. The group will meet on Zoom on Thursdays beginning May 6 from 6:30-7:40 p.m. If you’re interested in participating, reach out to Lynn Lurvey (llurvey@gmail.com) for the Zoom link Thanks for considering joining us!

Thank You Notes Received Recently

Dear People of God at Gustavus Adolphus,

I’m writing to thank you for your generosity in a year of COVID and fear of scarcity. Yet your congregation met its 2021 commitment to mission support. Wow! We want to assure you this has not gone unnoticed.

As a member of the Minneapolis Area Synod Council, I have seen the ways that giving from our bounty impacts people’s lives and congregational mission. Your generosity makes a difference. Thank you!

We look forward to continued partnership as we serve Christ’s church.

Diane Greve,

On behalf of the Minneapolis Area Synod

From One of our Mission Partners (more Thank You notes will be shared next month)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your financial contribution of \$500 on March 23, 2021, to Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story). Your partnership will enable Every Meal to continue to make a positive impact in the fight against child hunger.

We believe that no child should be hungry, yet over 200,000 children in the state of Minnesota live in food insecurity, including over 100,000 in the Twin Cities alone. The weekends represent a significant need in our community, as kids are at a greater risk of missing meals than during the week, when they have access to food at school.

Your financial partnership plays an integral role in closing this weekend food gap. You have changed the story of child hunger for many kids. Thank you! I truly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Rob Williams

Executive Director



Interim Ministry in a Time of Global Upheaval

As of this writing, we are headed into the 14th month of pandemic lockdown – a time in which there has been enormous suffering, both globally and locally, corporately and personally. At the very least, our lives have been inconvenienced by shutdowns, distancing, and masks. At worst, millions of lives have been lost to the coronavirus, economic security has been diminished, relationships have been strained, and mental health has been compromised.

Added to this global health crisis is the current division in our country, highlighted by the recent presidential election and the death of George Floyd, which seems to have finally caught our country's attention on the matter of racial injustice. As we grow in our awareness that there have been too many events of excessive force against communities of color, there have been calls for the reform – even the abolition – of policing in the United States. Those of us with loved ones who have been unnecessarily harmed in their interactions with law enforcement welcome changes that would bring an end to the tyranny felt by too many brown and black communities. And those of us with loved ones who serve in law enforcement struggle with condemning all police officers even as we also disagree with police violence. We cannot put all officers in the same group and condemn them *en masse* because to do so would require us to believe ugly things about our loved ones that we simply don't believe are true.

This fundamental conflict of opinion is very real, and we are naïve if we think it doesn't exist within our own congregation. I know it does because you have told me it does. And I grapple regularly with how far to wade into that conflict. On the one hand, as your interim pastor, I am charged with leading you to do the work necessary to prepare to call your new pastor – work that has been dreadfully slowed down by this pandemic. That's an argument for avoiding the land mines of these controversial issues and focusing on our transition work. On the other hand, as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, my calling requires that I preach the gospel of Jesus, which often thrusts us right into the middle of such land mines. That's an argument for jumping in with both feet.

What is my point? Simply this: there are going to be stretches in my sermons in which you will wonder if I'm capable of preaching anything other than social and racial justice. And you might think I am taking a stand one way or the other on police reform or abolition. And there will be other weeks when you will wonder if I have stuck my head in the sand because I'm preaching so much about our transition work and not so much about the events of our world.

Friends, please know that I am deeply committed to doing both things – keeping us focused on the transition work we simply need to get done in the months ahead so that you are ready to call a new pastor, AND, also being faithful to preaching the gospel of Jesus to a context swirling with injustice. The two matters are not mutually exclusive – I would argue that the stand you take now against injustice very much informs the sort of pastor you will want to call to lead you in the next phase of your missional presence in Northeast Minneapolis. Both matters are important, and they each require a certain urgency in this particular historical moment.

And – because you KNOW I find community under every rock ☺ - remember that we do not travel this journey of discernment alone. In addition to having one another, we also have a marvelous Racial Justice Committee that provides opportunities for us to reflect together and individually: books to read, speakers to

listen to, questions to reflect on, etc. I hope you will take advantage of their offerings to us.

As in all things, please do not hesitate to let me know how I can best support you in your journey of faith in this particular historical moment. I never promise to have all the answers, but I do promise to be a conversation partner who will seek Holy Spirit power and guidance as, together, we grapple with all that life puts before us.

It is my honor to serve as your interim pastor.



MANAGING THE EFFECTS OF AMBIGUOUS LOSS

Steve Arnold

During this past year of pandemic, turmoil and isolation, ambiguous loss has increased in both scope and intensity. The term “ambiguous loss” has been a rather obscure concept but is coming to the forefront in this period of rapid change and isolation.

Ambiguous loss is a term developed back in the 1970’s by University of Minnesota professor, Dr. Pauline Boss to describe a form of grief that is most times very different from the grief experienced resulting from a death. When there is a death, or very clear loss, there is usually some form of closure that allows one to eventually resolve a great deal of the pain and be restored to day to day living. However, Dr. Boss coined the term to describe a loss that is unclear and continues with out resolution or closure. She describes it as a relational rupture that can be both psychological and/or physical.

There are two types of ambiguous loss. One occurs when the loss occurs when someone says good-by and the other occurs when the loss takes place when someone has not said good-by.

For example, experiencing the empty nest for the first time brings on ambiguous loss as one attempts to understand what it means to be a parent after the children leave home. However, if one has a child that is reported missing in action, or a child who has run away, or a child who has been kidnapped, ambiguous loss is intensified because of the inability to bring closure to the situation. As long as there is no solid closure, there is no healing.

Grief from ambiguous loss is a grief that just goes on because there has been, nor can be, any form of closure to the situation. When a family member with dementia no longer recognizes loved ones, the reality of ambiguous loss comes to the forefront. The person is still there, but not really.

There is really never complete healing when there is no closure. In the recovery from ambiguous loss one looks, rather, at managing the loss through the development of resilience. Resilience contributes to the ability to manage the loss. One learns how to live life, adapting to the new reality, and developing the ability to move forward in a new way.

In the new reality of Covid-19 in which we are living, [grief](#) has become a daily experience. The grief being experienced is not like we would regularly experience through a death, rather, it is an ambiguous grief. Psychologist Susan Wood writes, “But for most, it isn’t the grieving of the death of a loved one, but a global, pervasive sense of loss that is tied to changes in daily routines, missing out on planned celebrations, and being physically separated from friends and family.” ([Woods, Sarah, LMFT. “Covid-19 and Ambiguous Loss, May 8, 2020, Psychology Today.](#)

The pandemic, in and of itself, is filled with ambiguity and is taking its toll on the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of people in our culture. Good self-care becomes vitally important.

- Stay physically active.
- Talk to a trusted friend.
- Join in prayer with an individual or group.
- Eat healthy foods.
- Get plenty of sleep.

There do come times when a person needs more in the way of support.

- Connect with a counselor.
- Use Minnesota free mental health resources specifically designed for issues surrounding the pandemic and resulting isolation: <https://mentalhealthmn.org/support/social-isolation/>

Facing the ambiguous grief, or any grief, is a difficult work. We are in this together so let us listen and support those around us.

All Are Welcome...Our Mission Statement

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 socioeconomic backgrounds. We strive to be an evermore welcoming community. Following the example of Christ, we extend a most heartfelt welcome to all.

Furlough Fund Money Available

GA's Furlough Fund is still available to provide monetary assistance to help members/associate members who are in financial need due to circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic (you do not necessarily need to be furloughed). Members/associate members can apply for a grant of \$250.00. This gift does not need to be paid back. If you or a member/associate member are in need of this, please contact the church office. Your request is confidential.

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information...

Matthew Streed, President matthewstreed@gmail.com
Derrick Watson, Vice-President dwmn2012@gmail.com
Dee Kjera, Secretary deekjera@gmail.com
Michelle Rinken, Treasurer michellekathleen@msn.com

Monthly Financial Report

	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar
	2021 YTD	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	2021 vs 2020
	Actual	Budget	Actual	YTD Actual
Income	\$78,797	\$82,297	\$83,344	(\$4,547)
Expense	\$83,846	\$81,270	\$92,206	(\$8,360)
Inc - Exp	(\$5,049)	\$1,027	(\$8,862)	\$3,813

While expenses continue to exceed giving, we closed the gap considerably in March which is wonderful news!

- Our YTD-Year to Date deficit is now (\$5,049) as compared to (\$12,484) last month
- March income exceed expenses by \$7,434 which was wonderful news!
- YTD-Year to Date Income is down (\$4,547) vs. 2020 while Expenses are down (\$8,360)

Our PPP Loan Forgiveness Application was submitted to TCF on 3/15.

- Special thanks to Andrea Carter, Zach Copa, and Dan Hager for their work on this!
- The review process may take up to 5 months, so it's quite possible we won't have a further status update until later this summer.

We ask that you continue to consider how you might further support the ministry here at GA. We would love to see this increase in giving continue in the coming months! This momentum would serve us well as we look to call either a full-time or part-time pastor later this year. Thanks for your continued support. ☺

Michelle Rinken, Treasurer

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

Sunday Zoom Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff ...

The Rev. Susan Masters, Interim Pastor (Ext. 10)
 pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org
 Cell phone (for pastoral emergencies): 612-327-7454

Deacon Phil Holzman, Minister of Word & Service (Ext. 11)
 (Worship & Music, Parish Administration)
 philh@gachurchmpls.org
 Cell phone (for texts/calls): 320-304-1774

Zachary Copa, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)
 zachc@gachurchmpls.org

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

Linda Lindahl, Church Custodian



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

Ways You Can Give to GA During This Time When We Are Apart



- 1) Mail your offering to GA:
 1509 27th Avenue NE
 Minneapolis, MN 55418
- 2) Give electronically at our website,
www.gachurchmpls.org. Just click on the "Donate" button on any page.
- 3) Sign up to give electronically through our "Simply Giving" program. Email GA's Finance Manager, Zach Copa, for details. Zach can also help you if you are interested in learning how to contribute stock donations.

Gustavus Adolphus Church Council

Matthew Streed, President
 Derrick Watson, Vice-President
 Dee Kjera, Secretary
 Michelle Rinken, Treasurer
 At-Large Members:
 Wendy Bradshaw Jenny Parker
 James Hamilton Beverly Prawalsky
 Curt Navratil