

## Last Call!

### Take A Cruise With Your GA Family!

Celebrate 110 years as a faith community by cruising the Mississippi River together! Join us on Sunday, July 28, 2-4 p.m. on Harriet Island, St. Paul. **Sign-up and pay by Sunday, July 14.** Indicate the number of people planning to cruise (and the age breakdown) and send a check to church (attn. Deacon Phil) or give your check to Shirley Fors by July 14.



Sign-up sheet (and cost breakdown) posted on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs (near the elevator) in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Shirley Fors at 612-419-4726!

### The Great GA Purge! (From Your Church Council)

**What is the Great GA Purge?** A 6-week cleaning project with the goal of reducing clutter and removing unused or un-useful furniture and other items.

**Why do we need to clean now?** The Council has a goal of renting out space, replacing essential rental income provided from our last tenants, Open Doors, and bringing weekday vibrancy to the church. We also want to create a more welcoming and productive space for some specific needs including Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Education. Rooms that are filled with clutter are counter-productive to these goals.

**Have we done this before?** Yes, different groups have cleaned before. We seem to refill empty spaces with more stuff, so we are doing it again.

**Are you targeting specific spaces?** The purge will include the *entire church*.



**Why will this take 6 weeks?** We are glad you asked! We have created a multiple step process. It's our hope that everyone engages with us and in particular, those who are especially knowledgeable in how we use our space and the things in those spaces.

(Article continued on page 3. Please continue reading!)

## GA Book Club Meets in July

Join us on Monday, July 29, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss **Pew: a Novel** by Catherine Lacey. One day a mysterious person is found asleep in a Bible-Belt church. Parishioners aren't sure what to make of this person who won't answer questions or speak at all. They decide to call the person Pew and take turns caring for Pew while preparing for their upcoming Forgiveness Festival. As time goes on, their generosity turns to suspicion and anger revealing the complexities of human nature and fulling welcoming the "other." We'll meet in GA's Fireside Room. All are welcome!



## Wills & Trusts

On Monday, June 10, Patrick Arneson presented information about creating Wills and Trusts. We had around 15 people in attendance. Thank you Patrick for your invaluable knowledge on this topic. If you missed this presentation and would like to view it, you are in luck! It was recorded! Ask Deacon Phil for information on how to access the presentation online. There will be follow up work sessions in upcoming weeks during coffee hour to share your experience/questions about your Will and Trust. Dates yet to be determined. See GA's Saturday email blasts for further information.

It was four years ago this month that I began my first call to serve as solo-pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, in Isanti MN. Thinking back to that time, there were many changes happening in my life and the bigger world.



- I had just graduated (virtually) from seminary in Chicago, a rather lackluster culmination after four years of study.
- Sarah and I moved into our first house, a large parsonage owned by the church and located with only a playground between the buildings.
- In the cities where we had lived and in Isanti where we moved, as a result of the murder of George Floyd, people were beginning to do more work confronting white supremacy and racism.
- Across the country we were still figuring out what it meant to live during a global pandemic and no vaccine available (which meant a mostly virtual ordination for me in August 2020).
- And as a county, we were approaching what felt like a very consequential election in November 2020.

And four years later, there have continued to be changes in my life and the world around us. Yet, as a result of the pattern of electing the president, we are once again in the lead up to another consequential election. *And it appears that it will be the same two candidates this time around!*

Growing up, I remember hearing that the two things that one should never bring up in polite discussion are politics and religion. And yet, as Lutherans, that seems like a hard guide to heed.

First off, central to our calling is sharing the gospel, that is the good news of Jesus about the flourishing of all creation. This does not mean trying to convert everyone to share our belief. But it does entail being open about the impact God through the person of Jesus had on the world and on our lives. So in everything we do (*including every conversation*), *Jesus should be there, even if unspoken.*

Second, politics is more than simply voting for a specific candidate or party. From the Greek term “polis” for the city or place of the people, it designates the activities of deciding how to govern and order life in community. Politics in this sense is the activity through which people exercise decisions about “who gets what, when, where, and how” to fulfill the purpose that all may flourish. So based on our calling to share the gospel, we will need to be engaged in this work!

This coming fall is sure to bring tension, anxiety, and challenges as a result of the election. And our denomination the ELCA has some excellent resources if you want to learn more about how our faith informs our civic life and engagement. A draft Statement (to be approved at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly) can be found at the following address <https://tinyurl.com/elcacivic>

As we approach election season, may this prayer help to center and guide you:

*Gracious God, through your prophets you awaken us to your desire for justice and the common good. May justice roll like a river, and righteousness and integrity like an ever-flowing stream. Drive us out into costly service for the sake of others. Give us strong hearts and voices to satisfy your desire for justice for the most vulnerable and oppressed. Inspire us to engage in the good trouble of the gospel, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

-pr. ian

## The Great GA Purge, continued!

Here are the highlights:

1. During the month of July, council volunteers will be working with Deacon Phil and Pastor Ian to identify and label items for either disposal or donation. They will be posting select items on Facebook Marketplace with the goal of hauling out some items early.
2. During July and early August, GA volunteers are asked to look at spaces they commonly use. Put smaller items in boxes. Label for disposal or donation.
3. On Sundays during July and early August, all congregation members are invited to take labeled items for donation. You can repurpose it as you see fit. You will need to make your own hauling arrangements. Have some coffee. Browse in all the church nooks and crannies throughout the building - take what you want (as long as it's labeled)!
4. On Wednesday, August 14, 4-8 PM we ask all members to consider volunteering for the haul out day. We will be hauling out all of those things previously labeled. The Property Committee will ensure we have a dumpster. Items for donation will be brought to the parking lot or garage. We will have food.
5. On Thursday, August 22, the Social Ministry committee is hosting the community BBQ. We will make available all of the things hauled out the previous week for a garage sale of sorts. Our primary goal is to recycle, so we will likely use a donation model rather than pricing individual items.
6. Remaining items will be donated.

### What are the key dates?

- **Sundays July 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11.** Coffee hour browsing. Take what you want.
- **Wednesday, August 14, 4-8 p.m.** Hauling day. Food provided.
- **Thursday, August 22.** GA community BBQ. Final give-away day.

### GLBTQIA+ Group Forming at GA

A group of folks identifying at GLBTQIA+ met informally on June 15 and had a wonderful discussion and fellowship time together. We plan to move forward with regular meetings and want to invite all GA folks who identify at GLBTQIA+ to join us. There is no agenda. It is a safe space. We simply want to meet for fellowship and to get to know each other better. We will meet next on Saturday, July 20, at 5:00 p.m. at the church – and we'll be having pizza!



### Empty Your Couch Cushions and Put On Your Game Face!



The August 11 worship service will include a Noisy Offering! Always popular, children will be invited to collect offering in small metal pails from congregation members. While the offering can be in any form, we encourage loose change to make some noise! So, be sure to bring your baggy full of coins to church.

Following the service, the Congregational Life Committee will be hosting a game day with a pizza lunch!

### Summer Block Party on Thursday, August 22, 5-7 p.m.

As summer comes to a close, we are inviting our neighbors to join us for a party with free food and fun for all. This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors, celebrate being a part of the Northeast community, and have a great time. Invite friends, neighbors, family, and folks you run into at the grocery store.



See you there! **Want to help?**

- ⇒ Consider donating hotdogs and/or buns for the Block Party. Drop them off in the kitchen freezer and let Nick Tangen, Lynn Lurvey, or Shirley Fors know.
- ⇒ Consider volunteering to help with setting up, cleaning up, or connecting with neighbors. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Nick Tangen at [nicholastangen@gmail.com](mailto:nicholastangen@gmail.com).

# From Deacon Phil



## Choirs on Hiatus

Our choirs are on a well-deserved hiatus for the summer months. Thanks to Shirley Fors for hosting a get-together at her home on June 29, giving members of our four choirs the opportunity to share a meal and fellowship together. Watch for exact start-up dates for rehearsals in the September "Gazette." A reminder to GA Choir and Gustavus Bells members that those groups will be participating in the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary service on September 22, so we will be starting rehearsals right away in September!

## GA "Pick-Up Orchestra" – August 25



Here's an invitation to dust off your musical instrument and join a pick-up orchestra to play a piece for worship on Sunday, August 25. All band and orchestra instruments welcome! I will have music available starting Sunday, July 21, for those who want to participate. You can pick up the music at church – or if you let me know of your interest, I can email it to you. I'll ask that you practice your part on your own at home prior to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. That morning we'll meet bright and early at 8:30 a.m. to practice; then we'll play our piece at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. I know there are plenty of instrumentalists out there in our congregation. I hope many of you can join us on August 25.

## Summer Special Music

While our choirs are on hiatus for the summer, this is a perfect opportunity for our GA musicians to share their talents individually and in small groups in worship. Get in touch with me if you're interested in providing some music.

Blessings! *Deacon Phil*

## Community Meals 2024-2025!

### Action Plan!

Thank you for the wonderful response to the congregational survey. **Our community meals will resume in September!** Meal preparation signup sheets will appear in the narthex and in the bulletins. For now, people who are interested in helping can arrive any time after 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 7. More information will be available soon.

– Lynn Lurvey

### Meals will be served from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Saturday, September 7
- Saturday, October 5
- Saturday, November 2
- Saturday, December 7
- Saturday, January 4
- Saturday, February 1
- Saturday, March 1
- Saturday, April 5
- Saturday, May 3
- Saturday, June 7
- ...and following.



# Community Meal



## From Our Congregational Life Committee!

### **Summer Family Events**

We had a great time tracing, cutting and coloring at our summer event in June! We had a strong turnout and our members receiving visitations will certainly appreciate the unique artwork that we created to share with them.

Join us after worship on **August 11** for our next event - **game day!** Bring your favorite game - indoor or outdoor. With nice weather we can enjoy some lawn games, and for those who prefer board games, we will play downstairs! We will have pizza so you can play through lunch. Games are fun for all ages, so be sure to join us. Come play at GA!

### **Adult Education**

Adult education opportunities continue this summer.



#### **July 21, 10:45 in the Faith Room**

*Affordable Housing: How it works, what is needed, and why it is hard to get done, a Luther Seminary case study.*

Luther Seminary made the news when it announced that it would not move forward with converting an unused dorm into a shelter for the unhoused, highlighting a common tension in neighborhoods when affordable housing or housing for the vulnerable is proposed. How do communities respond differently? What can we do to support our neighbors and change the housing trajectory? Learn about this issue with Sarah Larson and Bryant Kumlin. Sarah's 25 years of experience includes working directly with communities welcoming (and not welcoming) affordable housing, testifying at the Legislature, and shepherding the completion of thousands of affordable housing units. Bryant, a student at Luther Seminary, brings knowledge about the Luther Seminary community and circumstances around the decision made.

#### **July 28, 10:45 in the Faith Room**

*What Does it Mean to be Lutheran?*

Using Daniel Erlander's *Baptized We Live* we will explore what it means to be Lutheran and what it is this tradition has to offer. Books are available from Pastor Ian.

#### **August 18, 10:45 in the Faith Room**

*Armchair Travel: Churches in Poland*

See the world from the GA Faith room! Connor Arneson has spent the year in Poland and he's going to share his travels with us. From the glorious Cathedrals to wooden churches, journey from medieval to contemporary times in this hour focused on churches in Poland.

*Do you have a topic that you can share with others at GA? Contact Bryant Kumlin at [Kumli004@umn.edu](mailto:Kumli004@umn.edu).*

## 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*
- ♥ *Pam Evangelist – Pam would like prayers for her as she is living with Parkinsons.*
- ♥ *Chris Fredrickson – Prayers for this friend of Cassandra and Eric Weidmann who was seriously injured in a car accident recently.*
- ♥ *Sharon Hatella – Prayers for Sharon who is suffering from back issues and pain.*
- ♥ *David Hendrickson – Prayers for David who has recently experienced a health setback.*
- ♥ *Ben Hentges – Prayers for Nic Hentges’ brother who is currently battling some health issues.*
- ♥ *Karen and Mark Hidding – Mark is currently dealing with a serious illness.*
- ♥ *Linda Lindahl – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Darlene McQuarrie – Upcoming surgery and recovery.*
- ♥ *Robbie Murphy – Pat Lynch would like prayers for her sister who is experiencing several health challenges.*
- ♥ *Nancy Rathbun – Experiencing some recent health concerns.*
- ♥ *Lesa Rowen, Melissa Hentges’ mother, who has an ongoing health situation.*
- ♥ *Bill Turnquist – Prayers for Bill who has ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Doug – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Bonnie – Jennifer Creadick would like prayers for her daughter who is on a recovery journey.*
- ♥ *Barry – Prayers for Barry as he is facing upcoming brain surgery.*
  
- ♥ *We extend Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Helen Bruhjell who passed away on June 4 at age 103. A private burial was held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.*



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.

## Jean Rosebrock Memorial Service

The family of Jean Rosebrock invites members of GA to a memorial service for Jean on Friday, July 19, at 10:00 a.m. here at the church.



## Recent Memorial Gifts Received

- ♥ In memory of James Hamilton’s daughter Sarah by William and Gayle Turnquist.
- ♥ In memory of Marlene Moore by Carol Labelle.  
*Carol asked that we share a bit about Marlene in our newsletter and why she chose to make a memorial gift to GA in Marlene’s memory. Marlene was born in Northeast Minneapolis and began her faith journey here at GA Church. She was confirmed with Carol at GA in 1957. She passed away on May 24, 2024, and her funeral was held at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis on June 18. Marlene lived a life of service to others, as a nurse, a small business owner, a staff member with the Hennepin County Attorney’s office, and finally as a case aid for Hennepin County Human Services. She was a mother and a grandmother and had a strong passion for social and human rights which she passed on to her children. Thank you, Carol, for your gift to our memorial fund in memory of your friend and Confirmation classmate.*

*Confirmation Sunday Photo  
June 2, 2024*



*Two Photos from our Service Activities  
June 23, 2024*





# Graduation Recognition Sunday June 9, 2024

Congratulations to our high school graduate,  
*Amelia Larson*,  
who is graduating as Valedictorian  
of her class at Edison High School!

We want to mention and honor the following  
GA young people who are graduating or  
completing milestones in their educational  
journeys this spring...

- **Brandon Arneson** is graduating from the Univ. of Denver with a Master's Degree in Social Work.
- **Marshall O'Meara** is graduating from the Univ. of MN Morris with a degree in Business and Management: Financial and Organizational Management, Economics, with Distinction.
- **Edward Larson, Caleb Miller, Asher Streed, and Jonah Streed** all recently participated in a completion ceremony from Northeast Middle School.
- **Faith Bolas** is graduating from Nativity preschool.
- **Della Nielsen** is graduating from preschool.

*We celebrate with all these young people  
in our congregation!*

*Please let Deacon Phil know if we missed anyone so  
we can include them in future announcements.*



## Treasurer’s Report/May Financials

### Psalm 100

#### *A Psalm of thanksgiving.*

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.  
 Worship the LORD with gladness;  
 come into his presence with singing.  
 Know that the LORD is God.  
 It is he that made us, and we are his;  
 we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
 and his courts with praise.  
 Give thanks to him, bless his name.  
 For the LORD is good;  
 his steadfast love endures forever,  
 and his faithfulness to all generations.”

### Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of our church.

Lynn Lurvey, treasurer

	May	May		May		May
	2024 YTD	2024 YTD		2023 YTD		2024 vs 2023
	Actual	Budget		Actual		YTD Actual
Income	\$128,870.42	\$145,635.35		\$148,056.05		-\$19,185.63
Expense	\$143,989.00	\$145,635.35		\$144,004.44		-\$15.44
Inc - Exp	<b>-\$15,118.58</b>	\$0.00		<b>\$4,051.61</b>		-\$19,170.19



### National Night Out – A Request from Social Ministry Committee

Our social committee would again like to connect with our neighbors by providing a food platter for the National Night Out block parties. We have two block parties in the area. We are looking for volunteers to provide a food item to share. Last year we provided a platter of banana bread, for example. Perhaps some of our members would like to assist with this request. We would need the food donation to be delivered by August 5, Monday, for distribution on August 6, Tuesday. Cindy Bach is coordinating this. Send her a note or text at 763-360-4502. Thank you!

### St. Crispin Day Shoe and Sock Collection on Sunday, October 27

St. Crispin was the patron saint of cobblers, curriers, tanners, and leather workers who was martyred on October 25, 285 or 286. The Better Together Committee is planning a shoe and sock drive to benefit the “Free Store” at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. Of particular need are shoes in larger sizes for all genders. You’ll hear more about this as we get closer to October, but start thinking about how you can help by donating shoes and socks this fall.

# Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1 1pm - Grief Group	2	3 10am - Coffee Hour	4 Independence Day Offices Closed	5	6
7 9:30am - Worship	8 1pm - NO Grief Group 6pm - Property Comm.	9	10 10am - Coffee Hour	11	12	13
14 9:30am - Worship	15 1pm - Grief Group	16	17 10am - Coffee Hour	18	19 10am - Rosebrock Mem. Service	20 5pm - GLBTQIA+ Group
21 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Adult Ed.	22 1pm - Grief Group	23 8pm - Stewardship Comm.	24 10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery	25 6:30pm - Better Together	26	27
28 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Adult Ed. 2pm - Boat Cruise	29 1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - Book Group	30	31 10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery	1	2	3

**GA Executive Committee Contact Information:**  
 Jenny Arneson, president ..... arneson.jenny@gmail.com  
 Matthew Streed, vice-president ..... matthewstreed@gmail.com  
 Kristin Tangen, secretary ..... ksnobeck@gmail.com  
 Lynn Lurvey, treasurer ..... lclurvey@gmail.com

## Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... August 2024

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>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.</p>						
9:30am - Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Property Comm.			10am - Coffee Hour	5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm.		
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Game Day!	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	1pm - Grief Group			10am - Coffee Hour 4pm - Great Purge Day!	6pm - Church Council		
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Adult Ed.	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	1pm - Grief Group			10am - Coffee Hour	5pm - Block Party		
8:30am - Orchestra Practice 9:30am - Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1pm - Grief Group		8pm - Stewardship Comm.	10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery			



A publication of

# Gustavus Adolphus

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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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## Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

Fax Number: 612-789-1334

Bldg. Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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 (Ext. 10)

[pastorian@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:pastorian@gachurchmpls.org)

For Pastoral Care: 612-888-3701

**Deacon Phil Holzman**, Minister of Word & Service (Ext. 11)

(Worship & Music, Parish Administration)

[philh@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:philh@gachurchmpls.org)

Cell Phone: 320-304-1774 (for calls/texts)

**Zachary Copa**, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)

[zachc@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:zachc@gachurchmpls.org)

**Joel Lurvey**, Contemporary Choir Director

[joel.lurvey@gmail.com](mailto:joel.lurvey@gmail.com)

**Analisa Hillman**, Church Custodian



**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 our church's Finance Manager, Zach  
Copa, if you are interested in learning how to  
contribute stock donations.

4) Point your smartphone at the QR code above!

### Gustavus Adolphus Church Council:

Jenny Arneson, President

Matthew Streed, Vice-President

Kristin Tangen, Secretary

Lynn Lurvey, Treasurer



At-Large Members:

Bryant Kumlin

Lori Nordling

Kathy Schuette