

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 26 –

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom!

Plan to attend our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, after worship. Like our worship services, the meeting will be a hybrid meeting – you can attend in person in the sanctuary or via Zoom. See page 5 of this newsletter for a full page of news all about our annual meeting.



Reports for Annual Booklet

Deacon Phil will be compiling a booklet of reports for the annual meeting. These will be available for those who attend the annual meeting in person and can be picked up at the church after the fact by those who are unable to attend in person. We want to include reports for all committees and organizations in the congregation detailing their ministries during the past year. We ask that committee chairs and heads of organizations take a few minutes and write a report for this booklet.



The deadline for submitting reports to Deacon Phil Holzman for the annual booklet is Tuesday, January 14. If possible, please submit your report in a Microsoft Word file or a GoogleDoc. Email your report to Phil at philh@gachurchmpls.org. Thank you!

Watch "Bonhoeffer" Documentary by Martin Doblmeier January 6 at 6 p.m.

The release of "Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin." has sparked controversy, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer's legacy as pastor and martyr has been co-opted by purveyors of Christian Nationalism. If you have seen the movie, or are planning to see the movie, it can be helpful to have a clear sense of the facts about Bonhoeffer's life and resistance to National Socialism in the first part of the 20th century. Martin Doblmeier's documentary highlights firsthand accounts with Bonhoeffer scholars and friends and family of the Lutheran pastor. Join us on Monday, January 6, at 6 p.m. at GA for a viewing of this informative and inspiring film.



Congregational Life Committee News

The Congregational Life committee encompasses several areas of our church life:

- Worship & Music
- Faith Formation, including adult education, Sunday School, and Confirmation
- Hospitality

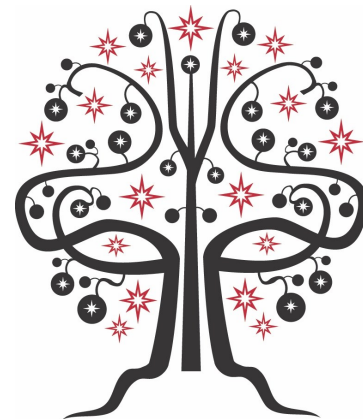
We collaborate and support many volunteers to ensure that we have a strong life together at GA. If making connections between our members, creating spaces to learn and grow, or ensuring that GA members have meaningful access to worship excites you, consider joining our committee in 2025!

We meet about 10 times a year for one hour, currently on the second Thursday of the month at 5:00 - sometimes on Zoom and sometimes in person.

Contact Jenny Arneson at arneson.jenny@gmail.com for more information.

We are excited to share our 2025 Adult Education schedule. You can find that schedule on page 7 of this newsletter. We plan to share it each month in the "Gazette" as well as occasionally in the Saturday email newsletter and hope you will join us for these offerings.

January is a time for fresh beginnings, and it also offers us an opportunity to reflect on how we live out Christ's command to love one another as He has loved us. In the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we focused on the theme of incarnation through many of the readings we encountered. And just as it is important to learn about how God shows love through the person of Jesus, we too are called to show love through our own lives.



One of the ways we embody this love is through a commitment to racial justice and reconciliation. On Jan. 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Central time, the ELCA will feature a free online educational event that centers the voices of ELCA leaders of color as part of the National Day of Racial Healing. This nationwide event has been held since 2017 as an opportunity to bring ALL people together and inspire collective action to build common ground for a more just and equitable world.

I will be helping to facilitate this event through my work in the Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice (<https://www.whitelutheransfornracialjustice.org/>). This event will begin with a time of worship and centering, followed by two sets of concurrent workshops, followed by a closing worship. A selections of the available workshops include:

- “God’s Holy Darkness: Healing Through Representation and the Impact of Children’s Literature Across Generations”
- “Bridging Cultures: Arab Immigration and Lutheran Ministry in America”
- “Posture for Actively Anti-racist Allies”
- “Asian Lutheran Experience”

This structure of worship, followed by learning, ending again with worship is intentional. As people of faith and part of a church that is known as the whitest denomination in the United States, this work must be grounded in our trust in a God who meets us, claims us, and calls us to love and justice. Occurring the day after MLK Day each year, this is a time when we can intentionally work toward becoming the beloved community that Dr. King strove to create through his life. Through this educational opportunity, we can begin the work of becoming that community to which we are called, and find energy for the road ahead.

I hope that you will be able to join in this work. You can type <https://tinyurl.com/ELCANDORH> in your browser to or simply google “ELCA NDORH” to get registered and participate. If you have any questions about this event, why the ELCA has an official association for white Lutherans, or anything else, don’t hesitate to reach out.

In Christ,
-pr. ian

Hello Gustavus Adolphus!

We will need support in the coming winter months to keep our Community Meal vibrant and joyful! Please consider participating!

January 4: Pizza Party sponsored by Thrivent!

- ♥ January is being led by Nick and Kristin Tangen.
- ♥ We need side dishes and desserts.
- ♥ We also need volunteers for serving, set-up and clean-up.

February 1: We need a leader. Lynn is likely out of town.

- ♥ We have the idea for a pot-luck so we need a leader, several hot-dishes, salads and desserts.
- ♥ We also need volunteers for serving, set-up and clean-up.

March 1: Lynn will lead and make beef stew and ham soup using the grant money meats as the base for those soups.

- ♥ We need side dishes and desserts.
- ♥ We also need volunteers for serving, set-up and clean-up.

Thank you for considering this ministry! Meals are served at 5:30 p.m.

Please email Lynn Lurvey if you are willing to help or add your name to the sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Lynn Lurvey

lclurvey@gmail.com



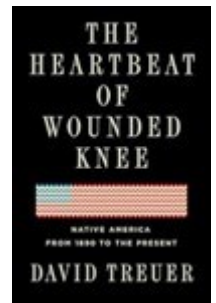
Rainbow Church Meets January 11

Rainbow Church – that’s the name of our group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+ that has been meeting at GA for the past several months. We’ll be meeting on Saturday, January 11, at 5:30 p.m. for fellowship and discussion. Often there’s even snacks! Come and join us. There’s no agenda...just a safe space to hang out and enjoy some fellowship.

Questions? Reach out to Pastor Ian or Deacon Phil.

GA Book Club Meets in January

Join us on Monday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* by David Treuer. In this non-fiction book, the author counters assumptions from Dee Brown’s *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Treuer argues that American Indian history did not end with the massacre at Wounded Knee and that Native people have resiliently responded to land seizures, boarding schools, and further pressures from the U.S. government. Our discussion will take place at GA in the Fireside Room. All are welcome!



From Deacon Phil

Choir Schedule for January

January will look a little different from most months. Here is the schedule of rehearsals for the choirs that I direct. Don't fret – I'll be in touch with members of each individual group about schedules.

- ♪ **GA Choristers** – Practice January 8, 15, 22; sing in worship January 26.
- ♪ **Gustavus Bells** – Practices resume January 15. We will not play in January.
- ♪ **GA Choir** – We will sing in worship on January 5 (meet at 9:00 a.m.). Then practices will resume on January 15. We will not sing in worship again until February 3.

**THIS
DEACON
LOVES YOU**

January's a Great Time to Join a Choir!

Whether you're in elementary school, middle school, or you're an adult, we've got a choir for you! This is a great time of year to join a choir. The Christmas holidays are behind us and we're starting to rehearse new music. Contact me (or Joel Lurvey if you're interested in the Contemporary Group) to find out more details.

Thank You, Worship Assistants

Jenny Parker wrote a note thanking those folks who decorated the church for Christmas. I want to add my thanks to those who helped as worship assistants for our services – those many folks who helped in front of the congregation and behind the scenes to make our worship services go smoothly. Thanks to our assistant ministers, lectors, acolytes, communion preparers, sacristans, ushers, Zoom hosts, audio/visual technicians, and everyone who pitched in to help when asked.

Christmas Eve was a wonderful, beautiful service at GA. It's been a long time since we had over 180 people present for a worship service. It was wonderful to have members, friends, family, and guests all worshipping together on that holy night. Thank you, everyone. And blessings as we begin 2025.

Deacon Phil

Bible Village and Celebration of Epiphany

Join the Sunday School department as we conclude our celebration of the Christmas season with the annual Bible Village spectacular on Sunday, January 5, 2025, from 10:45-12 noon. Immediately after the worship service, we will head outdoors to chalk the door as a blessing for the New Year. After chalking the door, all members are invited to tour the different stations of the Bible Village:

- Stand around the bonfire, as we burn the two Christmas trees.
- Taste different Mediterranean-type foods in the Fellowship Hall.
- Visit the Temple in the Chapel.
- Pet sheep, goats, and bunnies outside on the front lawn.
- Learn from the artisans of GA in the upstairs Sunday School area.
- Make a craft in the upstairs Sunday School rooms.



We hope everyone will come and enjoy this multi-generational event at GA. Don't forget to dress warmly since several activities will be outside. Monetary donations are still being accepted to help offset the cost of the event.

From the Church Council

Save the date for **Sunday, January 26**. Following worship will be our annual congregational meeting. We need your input as we set our vision for 2025.

Who:

- Every member of GA. This includes teens who have been confirmed.

How:

- In-person.
- Over Zoom (link and other details will be shared later).

New:

- A supervised space for our children so parents are free to participate.
- Thanks to our finance team, we will be presenting a budget in a new, user-friendly way.

Why:

- Budget decisions reflect our values. *We need everyone's input to ensure we are investing in the things that matter most to us.*
- Throughout the year, the Council has shared how our budget has changed. Our revenue and expenses have shifted in recent years. Though there are viable options, thoughtful discussion and input will ensure we move forward with consensus.
- By the annual meeting we expect some action on our parking lot project. We want everyone to have the latest information and a clear understanding of upcoming decisions.
- Volunteers will step forward to fill leadership roles in 2025. Your presence affirms and supports their role.

How you can help us prepare:

- We are seeking volunteers and in particular, those not involved in the meeting.
- Our younger teens and not-yet-members will be helping Patrick Arneson.
- We are seeking donated snacks for our kid space.
- Nominations will be sought for several roles during the meeting. Consider volunteering:
 - Synod assembly representatives
 - Finance audit committee
 - Nomination committee
- Contact Deacon Phil or Jenny Arneson at arneson.jenny@gmail.com for more information or if you can help!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Hat/Mitten collection a big success. We collected 59 hats, 43 scarves/gaiters and 13 pairs of gloves. These were sent off to Pillsbury, Waite Park, Marcy, Las Estrellas (formally Sheridan) and Northeast Middle School. The staffs and especially the students appreciated the extra warmth.

Many thanks to the volunteers to who spent the month of December decorating the church for Advent and Christmas: Adrienne Bisping, Mary Ann Eide, Shirley Fors, Dan Hager, Phil Holzman, Dee Kjera, Oscar Larson, Sarah Larson, Elsa Olson, Sarah Olson, Jenny Parker, Dane Peterson, Erik Peterson, Nick Tangen, and Eric Weidmann. From trees to candelabras, the church looked beautiful.

Annual Hymn Sing

Come join the congregation on Sunday, January 12, 2025, for the annual Hymn Sing Sunday. Come with your list of favorite hymns. We will start at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



2025 Calendars and Devotionals Available

Our friends at Washburn McReavy have provided us with calendars again for 2025. You may feel free to take one for your use at home next time you are at church. They are located on a table in the Narthex.

"Christ In Our Home" devotional booklets for the first quarter of 2025 are also available for pick-up in the Narthex.

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.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *Jon Huntsinger – Prayer for Melissa Hentges' father who is recovering from an accident.*
- ♥ *Nancy Rathbun – Experiencing some ongoing 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 who is recovering from brain surgery.*
- ♥ *LeeAnn – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*

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.

Treasurer's Report

Hello Church!

Thank you for this wonderful season of worship and celebration, giving and receiving! We are a vibrant community. We are so richly blessed.

May God's good blessings and encouragement continue to guide you in the year ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

	November 2024 YTD Actual	November 2024 YTD Budget	November	2023 YTD Actual	November	2024 vs 2023 YTD Actual
Income	\$302,332.72	\$320,397.77		\$330,906.97		-\$28,574.25
Expense	\$309,685.61	\$320,397.77		\$330,081.62		-\$20,396.01
Inc - Exp	-\$7,352.89	\$0.00		\$825.35		-\$8,178.24

Note: The new Treasurer will be Matt Brown! My sincere thanks to Matt for being willing to step into this role for our congregation.

Lynn Lurvey
Treasurer

2025 Adult Education Schedule		
Meet in the Faith Room 15 minutes after worship		
Date	Topic	Facilitator
Sunday, January 19	Book Discussion: "Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander, Chapter 3	Bryant Kumlin
Sunday, February 16	Guest: Friends and Co.	Social Ministry
Sunday, March 16	Book Discussion: "Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander, Chapter 4	Bryant Kumlin
Sunday, April 27	Mission Partner Guest: Northeast Middle School	Social Ministry
Sunday, May 18	Worship Whys	Pastor Ian & Deacon Phil
Sunday, June 22	Mission Partner Guest: Meals on Wheels	Social Ministry
Sunday, August 17	Mission Partner: Mdewakaton Dakota	Social Ministry
Sunday, September 21	Information for New Members	Pastor Ian
Sunday, October 19	Art and Spirituality	Cindy Bach & Social Ministry
Sunday, November 16	We invite YOU to share information, talent or knowledge during this time. For example, lead a book discussion, facilitate a discussion about a topic that interests you, share pictures or information about a place outside of GA, or teach others a new skill. Contact Deacon Phil if you are available.	

A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 612

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

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

Evenings as noted in weekly bulletin and online calendar.

Website: 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
For Pastoral Care: 612-888-3701

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

Zachary Copa, Finance Manager

Joel Lurvey, Contemporary Choir Director
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 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 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