

2025 Annual Congregational Meeting – A Summary

The Gustavus Adolphus congregation held our annual meeting on Sunday,

January 26, following worship. The meeting was chaired by council president Jenny Arneson. After an opening prayer led by Pastor Ian Coen-Frei, we got down to the business at hand, starting with verbal reports from both Pastor Ian and Deacon Phil Holzman who outlined highlights of the past year for them in their ministries. We then recognized members of the committees and task forces who served during 2024, asking everyone to stand and be recognized.

Next on the agenda was business related to the church council. We recognized the 2024 council as follows:

Members whose term is not yet up (year 1 of 2)

Bryant Kumlin
Lynn Lurvey (2024 Treasurer)
Lori Nordling
Kristin Tangen (2024 Secretary)

Members completing their term, but who will be nominated for another term

Jenny Arneson (2024 President)
Matthew Streed (2024 Vice-President)

Members whose term is up

Wendy Bradshaw (resigned in June 2024)
Kathy Schuette

Continuing the business of church council, we heard the report of the Nominating Committee who brought forth three candidates (in addition to the two named above to be nominated for another term):

Matt Brown
Shirley Fors
Karen Thorson Grivna

The slate of nominees was elected, bringing our church council to nine members.

The 2025 Nominating and Audit Committees were appointed along with delegates to the North Minneapolis Conference Assembly in February and the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly in May (Gary Anderson and Adrienne Bisping).

(Summary continued on page 5.)

ANNUAL MEETING

2024 Giving Statements

This past November, we tried something new and emailed people's giving statements. That seemed to work well, and moving forward, that will be our way of sharing giving updates throughout the year.

However, we recognize that especially when it comes to filing taxes, it is beneficial to have a hard copy. So, this year we are going to be printing everyone's 2024 Year-end statements and sealing them in envelopes that will be available for pickup in the Narthex through the month of February.

If anyone would like it mailed to them, you can reach out to the office by phone or email, and we will add postage and put it in the mail. Additionally, if you don't pick yours up this month, we will still hold onto them through April.

If you have any questions, or would like your 2024 statement mailed, please email at pastorian@gachurchmpls.org or call 612-789-7256.



Beloved in Christ,

What a joy it is to have shared in our recent Annual Meeting! Gathering as a congregation, we witnessed once again the incredible spirit of unity, purpose, and commitment that defines our life together. It was a time of reflection, celebration, and envisioning the future together.

During the meeting, we reviewed the ways God has been at work in our midst over the past year. From vibrant worship services to community engagement, from meaningful fellowship events to the nurturing of faith in all generations, it is clear that the Holy Spirit has been guiding and sustaining us.

We celebrated the accomplishments of our ministries and gave thanks for the dedicated leaders and volunteers who have made it all possible. Your time, energy, and prayers are the foundation of our shared mission, and I am so grateful for each and every one of you.

A highlight of the meeting was sharing the budget for this year. And while I know that budgets are not a favorite subject for everyone, they are a good indicator of where we are and where we hope to be!

Some things to highlight include:

- **A new format:** This past year we transitioned our bookkeeping software and how we organize our books so that we can more clearly understand how financial resources are being used and have more transparency in sharing reports with council.
- **No increase in giving:** Because of the important work of the stewardship committee, we anticipate an increase in overall giving in 2025. Yet, we have chosen to be conservative, hoping for an excess rather than deficit at year's end.
- **An operating reserve fund:** Creating this fund in 2024 and contributing to it these next few years will ensure that we have cushion as giving trends fluctuate through the year, reducing anxiety and contributing to an experience of abundance.
- **Benevolence:** GA has decided to continue to be generous by maintaining our benevolence to the wider church and local organizations, even when it would be easy to cut those lines from the budget.

None of this would be possible without your faithful generosity. Whether through your financial gifts, your volunteer efforts, or your prayers, you are making a difference. I am continually blown away by the embodiment of Christlike service I witness at GA. Thank you for being part of this mission to build community with God at the Center.

As we embark on another year of ministry, let us do so with hearts full of hope and hands ready to serve. May we continue to trust in God's leading and celebrate the blessings of being in community with one another.

Thank you for your participation in this year's Annual Meeting and for all you do to make our church a thriving, welcoming place of faith. I am excited for the journey ahead and hope forward to witnessing how God will work through us in the year to come.

With all gratitude,

-pr. Ian

Hello Gustavus Adolphus!

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

February 1: Kristen Peterson will take the lead.

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

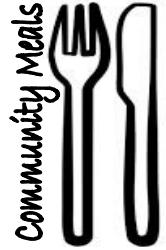
March 1: Lynn will lead and make beef stew and ham soup using the grant money meats as the base for those soups.

- ♥ 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
llurvey@gmail.com



Rainbow Church Meets February 8

Rainbow Church – our group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+ – will be meeting on Saturday, February 8, 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.

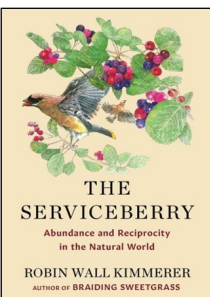
February Adult Ed. – Sunday, February 16, After Worship

The Harms of Social Isolation Among Older Adults and Ways to Combat It

It is well-documented that social isolation – a persistent national crisis – has severe health ramifications among older adults. Isolation and/or lack of social connection impacts mental, cognitive, and physical health, overall well-being, and longevity. Persistent isolation, lack of companionship, and infrequent social contact are strongly linked to poorer health among older adults. Ageism also has a powerful impact on social isolation. The good news is that social connection – friendship, companionship, and even cordial interactions between strangers provide a powerful antidote against the ravages of isolation. Come investigate the problem and stay for the solutions we can each implement daily. Presented by Friends & Co, an organization with over 50 years of service dedicated to ending isolation among older adults one person at a time.



Meaningful connections for older adults.



GA Book Club Meets in February

Join us on Monday, February 24, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. In this quick read, Kimmerer examines what the native Serviceberry bush can teach humans about how we relate to each other and the Earth. We will meet at GA in the Fireside Room. Please join us!

From Deacon Phil

Annual Meeting Thanks

Let me add my thanks to everyone for a very positive and uplifting annual meeting. A lot of work goes into preparing for the meeting on the part of your staff and leadership. Thanks to everyone for your preparation. And thanks to all the members of the congregation who attended, both in the sanctuary and on Zoom, and to those who provided childcare to our young members so their parents could attend the meeting. May God continue to bless our congregation as we move into 2025 with our varied ministries.

**THIS
DEACON
LOVES YOU**

Easter Vigil Pick-Up Choir – An Initial Invitation

We will once again have an Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. Last year, for our first Easter Vigil, we had a pick-up choir made up of members of the GA Choir and others in the congregation. I would like to do that again this year. If you're a singer of any age – from elementary school through adults – think about joining us in the choir for the Easter Vigil. We'll have one rehearsal...on Saturday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m. Obviously, I'll be reminding folks about this many times in the coming weeks, but consider this your first invitation to be part of the choir for Easter Vigil.

Deacon Phil

Announcing!

No Man's String Band Concert at GA

Saturday, March 22

7:00 p.m.

GA members Nic & Melissa Hentges are members of the band!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this fun concert!!



Annual Meeting Summary, continued

We discussed more business, including policies that were updated or enacted this past year. Matt Streed gave a presentation on the progress in the Capital Appeal projects – including completed work, work in progress, and work budgeted for the future. Included in this report was approval of an expenditure of up to \$17,000 to replace the basement narthex furnace and air conditioning which has failed. It was interesting to note that this is original equipment installed when the narthex addition was built in 1992.

We then moved on to the 2025 budget, presented by treasurer Lynn Lurvey. After a slide presentation by Lynn, the congregation unanimously approved the budget as set forth by the Finance Committee and Church Council for the coming year.

Deacon Phil then offered the closing prayer and Jenny Arneson declared the meeting adjourned.

If anyone would like a copy of the Booklet of Reports that was shared at the meeting, there are copies available in the literature rack by the elevator in the narthex at church. If you would like to have an electronic copy emailed to you, please contact Deacon Phil.

Thank you to everyone attended, and to those who worked to make our congregational meeting a successful, positive experience.



Bible Village

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made the Bible Village-Epiphany Celebration so much fun this year: Patrick Arneson, Gary Arvidson, Cindy Bach, Pastor Ian Coen-Frei, Mary Ann Eide, Deacon Phil Holzman, Gayle Huble, Dee Kjera, Sarah Olson, Jenny Parker, Dane Peterson, Kristen Peterson, Amy Prawalsky, Carlotta Rosebrock, Amy Schuette, Nick Tangen and Kristin Tangen. We look forward to the celebration next year.

Sunday School News for February

On Sunday, February 2, 2025, the Sunday School Students will be hosting Coffee Hour. We hope each family is able to bring one dozen goodies (cookies, cupcakes, bars, etc.) for the day. If we have an abundance of homemade goodies, we will sell items in a bake sale with the proceeds going to the Sunday School program. Thanks in advance for helping. All students should report to the kitchen when they arrive at church for Sunday School.

Sunday, February 9, 2025, will be our annual Love party to celebrate Valentine's Day. All students will meet in the upstairs Sunday School area for the festivities. On Sunday, February 16, 2025, there will be no classes due to Presidents' Day weekend.



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 receiving continued immunotherapy for melanoma.*
- ♥ *LeeAnn – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Aimee and her son Ethan (friends of Nicole Navratil and her sister, Katrina) who have each recently had difficult cancer diagnoses.*

We extend prayers of Christian sympathy to:

- ♥ *Ray Rakoski following the death of his spouse, Marla;*
- ♥ *Shirley Fors, Nicole & Curt Navratil, Kari & Justin Navratil and their families following the death of Theola Fors. A memorial service for Theola will be held on Saturday, February 22, 11:00 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brownton, Minnesota.*

To have someone’s name included on the prayer list, contact our volunteer prayer coordinator, Jean Jensen, at mplsjean@yahoo.com or Pastor Ian, or Deacon Phil.

Year-End Treasurer’s Report

- We welcome in the New Year with prayers for our congregation and the community that surrounds us.
- We are thankful for the good gifts and talents of our congregation.
- Thank you for your continued support of this congregation that strives to catch up to the Holy Spirit that leads and guides us!

Lynn Lurvey
Treasurer

	December 2024 YTD Actual	December 2024 YTD Budget		December 2023 YTD Actual		December 2024 vs 2023 YTD Actual
Income	\$338,185.92	\$349,524.84		\$367,337.90		-\$29,151.98
Expense	\$347,748.27	\$349,524.84		\$367,619.10		-\$19,870.83
Inc - Exp	-\$9,562.35	\$0.00		-\$281.20		-\$9,281.15

Thinking About Summer!

I invite you and your family to think about joining other GA families at camp this summer.

Check your calendar and ask a church friend if they're available - it's sure to be a great time! Historically, GA has partnered with Luther Park in Danbury, WI. Check their website for more details and to register: www.lutherparkdanbury.com; register by **February 29** and save **\$50!**

Sincerely, Sarah Olson (Aaron, Anders, Elsa, Stanley)

Family Camp, offered on weekends: June 27-29.....July 11-13.....July 25-27.....August 1-3

Half & Full Week Camp offerings for kids Grades 1-12:

June 22-27

- Half Week Camp, Grades 1-4 (6/22-25)
- Full Week Camp, Grades 3-6
- All-skills Horse Camp, Grades 4-12
- Full Week Treehouse Camp, Grades 7-12

July 13-18

- Half Week Camp, Grades 1-4 (7/13-16)
- Full Week Camp, Grades 3-6
- All-skills Horse Camp, Grades 4-12
- Full Week Canoe Camp, Grades 7-12

July 20-25

- Half Week Camp, Grades 1-4 (7/20-23)
- Full Week Camp, Grades 3-6
- All-skills Horse Camp, Grades 4-12
- Full Week Treehouse Camp, Grades 7-12



GA also has a history of offering scholarships to members who attend Luther Park. Please let Deacon Phil know if you plan to attend camp and we will talk about scholarships!

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

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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!

2025 Gustavus Adolphus Church Council:

(Officers will be elected at the council's meeting on
February 20.)

Jenny Arneson

Matt Brown

Shirley Fors

Karen Thorson Grivna

Bryant Kumlin

Lynn Lurvey

Lori Nordling

Matt Streed

Kristin Tangen

