

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



March 5

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey

through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. We invite you to join us at GA Church as we mark the day.

**Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.  
Worship at 7:00 p.m. –  
Including Holy Communion and the  
Imposition of Ashes**

You can join us in worship in person or via Zoom. A Zoom link will be shared in the Saturday email on March 1 (or you can contact Deacon Phil to have it emailed to you). We look forward to starting the season of Lent with you on Ash Wednesday.

**Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Lent –  
March 12 through April 9**

You are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for Evening Prayer each of the Wednesdays in Lent (after Ash Wednesday). We will use *Holden Evening Prayer* as our liturgy each week. As in the past several years, these services will be hybrid – you can attend in-person or online. One Zoom link will be created for all the Wednesday services and will be shared in each Saturday's email newsletter.



Each week's Evening Prayer service will be preceded by a Soup Supper. Everyone is invited to join for a simple meal and fellowship before attending our Lent worship.

**Serve a Soup Supper**

As noted in the previous column, we will have soup suppers on Wednesdays during Lent preceding our Lenten services. Soup will be served at 6:00 p.m. and Lent services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone from GA Church and the community is welcome to come and enjoy a warm bowl of soup and warm fellowship. We are also looking for folks to sign-up to serve soup on those Wednesdays. If you are interested in making soup and helping serve, there are two ways you (or your group) can sign-up:

1. On the sheet in the Narthex at church; or
2. Use the link in the Saturday email newsletter.

Note that as of this writing, the first three suppers are already spoken-for by groups, but later dates may still be available.

Soup suppers begin on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and continue every Wednesday through April 9. Thank you for your consideration.



*Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

Throughout the season of Lent, this is a prayer that many congregations will lift up immediately following communion. It reiterates the three traditional foci of Lent: almsgiving, praying and fasting. And while fasting often gets the most attention (“What are you giving up for lent???”), this year I have a resource that can help to prioritize the other two.

But first, some background:

At the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA approved a Social Statement condemning White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric. The last point of that resolution was “We call all congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in communal study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.”

To support that work in congregations, the ELCA office of Racial Justice Ministries released a Lenten Devotional for 2025 entitled *Dismantle: An Anti-White Supremacy Lenten Devotional. From the introduction,*

On the following pages you will find thought-provoking, inviting, challenging and, most important, authentic reflections from 11 ELCA leaders...[who were each] invited to reflect on the lectionary text for their assigned Sunday or holy day and to recommend a resource — for example, a book, poem, song or movie — that they believe will help readers to utilize an anti-white supremacy lens in reading, understanding and/or relating to the biblical text. Each contributor also included a prayer (or invitation) after their reflection.

As a church committed to the work of racial equity and justice, this aligns with our desire to be an evermore welcoming community. While there are countless devotionals that have been prepared for lent over the years, I hope that the reflections, resources, and the prayers in this resource can be an opportunity through which each of us leans into Lent anew this year.

To access this devotional, you are invited to follow the URL below or google “ELCA dismantle devotional” and it should be the top result.

Lenten blessings,  
-pr. ian

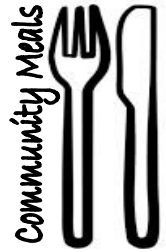
<https://tinyurl.com/dismantle2025>

## March Community Meal—Saturday, March 1

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

**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](mailto:lclurvey@gmail.com)

## Rainbow Church Meets March 8



Rainbow Church – our group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+ – will be meeting on Saturday, March 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 Deacon Phil.

## Adult Ed. For March

Join us on Sunday, March 16, as we conclude our study of Daniel Erlander's booklet "Baptized, We Live" with the final chapter: "Way of Following." We will meet in the faith room after the service that morning. It is a small book! Just a few pages to cover, and if you haven't read it, you won't be missing anything needed for a rich discussion.

adult  
education

## Church Council Officers Elected

At its meeting on February 20, the church council accomplished many things including setting some goals for the year and electing officers for 2025. Congratulations to the following person who will serve as our Executive Committee for 2025:

President .....Kristin Tangen ([ksnobek@gmail.com](mailto:ksnobek@gmail.com))  
Vice-President..Jenny Arneson ([arneson.jenny@gmail.com](mailto:arneson.jenny@gmail.com))  
Secretary.....Bryant Kumlin ([br.kumlin@gmail.com](mailto:br.kumlin@gmail.com))  
Treasurer.....Matt Brown ([mcb612@gmail.com](mailto:mcb612@gmail.com))



Please keep these officers, and all our church council members, listed on the back page of this newsletter, in your prayers throughout the year as they provide important leadership for our congregation.

## Sunday Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed



Lots of us enjoy the coffee fellowship hour after worship on Sundays. There's a new sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board near the steps/usher's closet in the Narthex at church and it's got lots of empty dates, folks! We need sponsors to sign-up to host coffee hour on Sunday mornings in March and April. Thank you for considering.

## From Deacon Phil

### GA Choristers Schedule for March

The GA Choristers is our choir for children in grades 1-5. Currently we have five strong singers in the choir. It would be great to have a few more singers join them. The Choristers' schedule for March is as follows:

- ♪ Rehearsals on Wednesdays, March 5 & 12, from 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- ♪ Sing in worship on Sunday, March 16

**THIS  
DEACON  
LOVES YOU**

### Join the GA Choir for Lent

Many times we think of giving something up for Lent. I'd like to invite the middle school and adult singers in our congregation to think about taking on something "spiritual" for Lent...joining the GA Choir for the season. It would involve coming to Wednesday rehearsals after Evening Prayer services (from 7:30-8:30 p.m.) and singing on scheduled Sunday services and on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Think about it ... and if you're interested, come to our first rehearsal in Lent on March 12 (no rehearsal on Ash Wednesday).

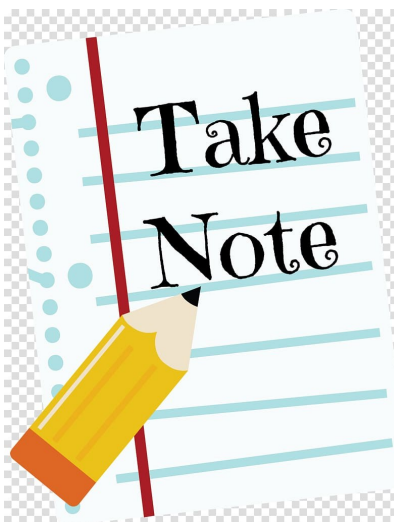
### Easter Vigil Pick-Up Choir – A Second Invitation

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. We've chosen the music – some from last year, some new music.

### Northeast Chorale Spring Season Begins March 11

The Northeast Chorale rehearses at GA on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The spring season – this year a "look-back" at our 10 years of Broadway and Pops music – begins on Tuesday, March 11. You can find all the details at our website: [northeastchorale.org](http://northeastchorale.org). Or reach out to me and I'd love to talk to you!

*Deacon Phil*



### Private Space Signs

You may have noticed around church that on some of the office doors, we now have signs indicating that they are "private space." The addition of these signs comes after a discussion at the February church council meeting. In light of new immigration policy that has opened churches to immigration raids through designating non-public space, we can have clarity as church leaders what access immigration officials have and do not have access to. This is in full alignment with a recent statement shared by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, when she wrote "As a sanctuary denomination, the ELCA proclaims walking with immigrants as a matter of faithfulness. The ELCA does not call for activity contrary to the law but for congregations, leaders and individuals to explore resources [in] their own contexts. Most of all, I encourage all to discern together how to live our faith, excluding none from God's overflowing love. God calls us to welcome the stranger and love the sojourner as we love ourselves."

I hope that as a congregation, we might continue to live out this call from God within and outside the walls of GA.

-pr. ian



## A Change to our Bulletins

Over the past couple of years, since returning to in-person worship, you may have noticed something exciting—our sanctuary is filling with more and more people on Sunday mornings! As a sign of hospitality, we have made every effort to include the full service—hymns, liturgy, and readings—in the bulletin to make worship as accessible as possible.

However, with the increasing number of bulletins printed each week, as well as their length, we have begun exceeding the limits of our copier lease. While the lease was appropriately sized for our needs when it was signed in 2021, our growing congregation now requires more printing than it can accommodate.

In an effort to be good stewards of our financial resources, starting this Sunday (tomorrow), our bulletin will include the Liturgy but will no longer print hymns that are available in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (the cranberry hymnal) or the scripture readings, which can be found in the red Bibles.

We are grateful that GA already has the hymnals needed for this transition, and over the next few weeks, we'll provide a refresher during announcements on how to navigate them and find hymns.

If you have any questions about this change or suggestions on how we can continue making worship accessible and welcoming, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Ian or Deacon Phil.

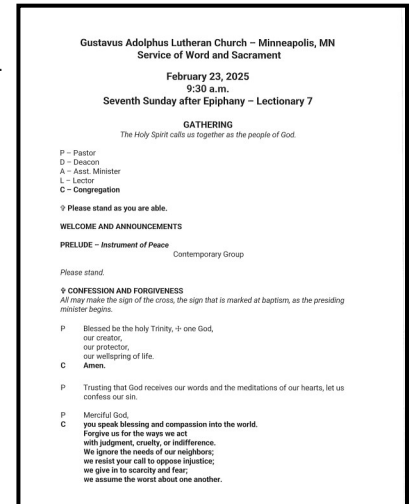
## Prayer List

*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.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *Julia Ludovici – Elizabeth Blount requests prayers for her fiancée who has been dealing with chronic pain that has kept her out of work for several months.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *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 Christian sympathy to the family and friends of longtime GA member Carol Lind who passed away on February 16.*

To have someone's name included on the prayer list, contact our volunteer prayer coordinator, Jean Jenson, at [mpslsjean@yahoo.com](mailto:mpslsjean@yahoo.com) or Pastor Ian, or Deacon Phil.





# NO MAN'S STRING BAND

## ★ Album Release Concert ★

March 22nd  
7 PM

Suggested donation  
\$25 families  
\$10 individuals

Gustavus Adolphus  
Lutheran Church  
1509 NE 27th Ave  
Minneapolis, MN

[www.NoMansStringBand.com](http://www.NoMansStringBand.com)



## Monthly Financial Report

May Jesus continue to bless and keep us as we build community where God is at the center here in Northeast Minneapolis. We celebrate our life together.

Matt Brown will serve as next treasurer for our congregation, and we are thankful for his expertise and leadership! The people serving with Matt on the finance team are Andera Carter, Gary Anderson, Dan Hager, Zach Copa, Deacon Phil Holzman, and Pastor Ian Coen-Frei.

Thanks to everyone!

Lynn Lurvey

	January 2025 YTD Actual	January 2025 YTD Budget		January 2024 YTD Actual		January 2025 vs 2024 YTD Actual
Income	\$ 31,373.14	\$28,500.41		\$18,902.18		\$12,470.96
Expense	\$32,406.31	\$29,706.63		\$32,035.88		\$370.43
Inc - Exp	<b>-\$1,033.17</b>	<b>-\$1,206.22</b>		<b>-\$13,133.70</b>		\$12,100.53

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  
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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SPRING FORWARD  
Turn your clocks ahead

Daylight Saving  
Time starts  
Sunday, March 9,  
at 2:00 a.m.

## 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](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  
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 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 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:

Kristin Tangen, President  
Jenny Arneson, Vice-President  
Bryant Kumlin, Secretary  
Matt Brown, Treasurer  
Shirley Fors  
Karen Thorson Grivna  
Lori Nordling  
Matt Streed

