

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion – April 13
9:30 a.m. – Worship

Maundy Thursday – April 17
7:00 p.m. – Worship

Good Friday – April 18
7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae/Service of Shadows

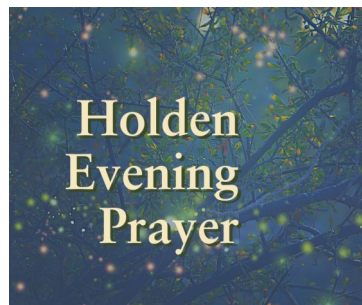
Holy Saturday/Resurrection of Our Lord – April 19
7:30 p.m. – Vigil of Easter
Followed by a Joyful Reception

Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord – April 20
9:30 a.m. – Festival Worship

All services will be available to attend via Zoom.
Links and information will be shared in our Saturday email on April 12
(or email Deacon Phil for specifics).

Evening Prayer on Remaining Wednesdays in Lent – April 2 and April 9

You are invited to join us on the final two Wednesday evenings in Lent at 7:00 p.m. for Evening Prayer. We use *Holden Evening Prayer* as our liturgy. These services are hybrid – you can attend in-person or online. A Zoom link is shared in each Saturday's email newsletter.



Each of these Evening Prayer services will be preceded by a Soup Supper. Everyone is invited to join for a simple meal and fellowship before attending Lent worship.

Sing In the Easter Vigil Choir

Here's your chance to sing in a one-time choir for a very festive occasion. Sing in the Easter Vigil Choir! This group will lead the music at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. All voices welcome – all ages from elementary school through adults. We'll have one practice – on Saturday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the balcony choir loft. Think about joining us. Reach out to Deacon Phil if you have any questions. Hope to see you!



Easter Memorial Garden

Envelopes are included in this mailing for you to contribute toward the purchase of Easter lilies for the Easter Memorial Garden. You may contribute any amount and note your dedication on the envelope. Then simply place the envelope in the offering plate. There will be some extra envelopes in the Narthex at church if you forget to bring yours along on Sunday! The deadline for making contributions is Sunday, April 13.



The Easter Vigil: A Night of Sacred Joy

The night is drawing near, and once again, we have the privilege of participating in the ancient tradition of the Easter Vigil at GA. This service is rich with powerful symbols:

- **New fire** breaking into the darkness
- **Handheld candles** illuminating the great stories of faith
- **Water and the Word** of baptism
- **The first resurrection meal**



It is also a night filled with profound words:

- **The great saving stories** of the Hebrew Scriptures
- **The First Easter Gospel**

Last year, my Gazette articles from January through March were a (not-so-subtle) attempt to build interest in this service—one that had never been held at GA before. And what a joy it was to see so many of you take part!

For those who couldn't join us last year, here are four reasons you won't want to miss it this time:

1. **An Intergenerational Experience** – This service brings people of all ages together to help share the stories of faith. The readings are not simply spoken; they come to life through action, song, and even sound effects—courtesy of our confirmation students!
2. **A Celebration of Baptism and Confirmation** – The vigil centers on the promises of baptism. This year, we will welcome new believers through the sacrament of baptism and support two confirmation students as they affirm their faith. What a meaningful opportunity to gather as a community!
3. **A Joyful Reception** – Following the service, we will celebrate with a festive reception, rejoicing in Jesus' resurrection and welcoming the newly baptized and confirmed. I've heard the food and beverages will be worth staying for!
4. **Both Familiar and New** – This service follows the familiar rhythm of Sunday worship, yet each element is amplified with special attention and care, befitting the celebration of Christ's resurrection. While Sunday morning brings a festive Easter celebration, the vigil carries that same joy with the sacredness of evening worship.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Easter as we celebrate the resurrection at the Easter Vigil.

Lenten blessings,
Pr. Ian

Community Meals

If you are interested in helping support the Community Meal project, join us on the first Saturday of each month.

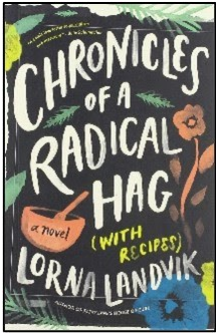
- ♥ April 5, May 3, June 7...
- ♥ Set-up at 3:30 p.m.
- ♥ Meal at 5:30 p.m.



We welcome you to come and help us with any aspect of the work.
We welcome you to come and enjoy a meal and the good company of the community.

All are welcome!

Questions: See me.
Lynn Lurvey



GA Book Club Meets in April

Join us on Monday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Lorna Landvik's novel *Chronicles of a Radical Hag (with Recipes)*. In this light and humorous novel, publisher Susan McGrath is tasked with the job of reviving articles for the *Granite Creek Gazette* written by former columnist Haze Evans. As the publisher explores and revives the writings of the former "radical hag" columnist, she finds a closeness to Haze's life. We will meet at GA in the Fireside Room. Please join us!

Rainbow Church Meets April 12

Rainbow Church – our group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+ – will be meeting on Saturday, April 12, 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
education**

Adult Ed. In April

Join our social ministry committee for an opportunity to hear from Northeast Middle School on April 27 after worship. GA has been a long term ministry partner of NE Middle School, and we want to learn more about their place in our community and ways we can help.

Sunday Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed

Lots of us enjoy the coffee fellowship hour after worship on Sundays. There's a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board near the steps/usher's closet in the Narthex at church and it's still got some empty dates. Thank you for your consideration.



Note: The above-mentioned bulletin board recently fell from the wall and broke. :(If anyone feels motivated to repair and re-hang it, that would be much appreciated!

From Deacon Phil

GA Choristers Schedule for April

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

- ♪ Rehearsals on Wednesdays, April 2 & 9, from 5:45-6:15 p.m.
- ♪ Lead "Holden Evening Prayer" at Evening Prayer on Wednesday, April 9
- ♪ Sing in worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13

**THIS
DEACON
LOVES YOU**

Easter Vigil Pick-Up Choir – See the Invitation on the Front Page

See the invitation on the front page of this mailing (and in our Saturday email newsletters) about joining the Easter Vigil Choir. Again, this will be a fun, one-time experience of singing in a choir with no strings attached. :)

No Man's String Band Concert on March 22 Was Great!

Thanks to Melissa and Nic Hentges for sharing their band and their band's talents with an enthusiastic audience here at GA on the evening of March 22. It was a great night filled with music. We do love our music (of all kinds) here at GA Church. Here's a picture of the band in performance that night...



Blessings as we continue through these final weeks of the Lenten season and as we the sacred time of Holy Week and Easter. I look forward especially to the Holy Week and Easter services with their rich variety of worship experiences. I urge you to take a look at the schedule of services on the front page and hopefully take time from your schedule to worship with us. See you in church!

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 ongoing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Ben Hentges – Prayers for Nic Hentges’ brother who is currently battling some health issues.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *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:

- ♥ *Charles “Larry” Rathbun and the rest of the family and friends of Nancy Rathbun who passed away on March 1. Her funeral was held at GA Church on March 7.*
- ♥ *The family and friends of Joyce Moen, a former choir director here at GA, whose memorial service was held at the church on March 28.*
- ♥ *The family and friends of Carol Hayes who passed away March 8.*



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.

You Are Welcome Here!

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.

Church Council Executive Committee Contact Information

President: Kristin Tangen ksnobeck@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jenny Arneson arneson.jenny@gmail.com
Secretary: Bryant Kumlin br.kumlin@gmail.com
Treasurer: Matt Brown mcb612@gmail.com



What Caregivers Should Know About Children's Mental Health **Sunday, May 4, 10:45**

Led by our own GA members and mental health professionals, Josh and Laura Koletar and Jenny Tessmer. All three members are credentialed as Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers and have direct experience in the mental health field and working with children. Join us for this important discussion.

New! This session *will* be recorded so you can benefit from the information even if you can't attend.

The Congregational Life committee is pleased to offer this bonus adult education opportunity. Make sure you follow the other spring opportunities, including a visit with Northeast Middle School on April 27, and "Worship Whys" on May 18 with Pastor Ian and Deacon Phil.

Church Council Report (from Kristin Tangen, Council President)

This is my first Gazette article as Council President and I'm excited for what 2025 has in store!

Here are a few recent events worth celebrating:

- * In the height of COVID, the federal government offered tax credits to help organizations retain employees. We were able to qualify for about \$40K in the past. There were two quarters in 2021 that we did not qualify for. Our amazing partner who filed for us the first time, reached back out to let us know that there have been some changes and we now qualify to submit two quarters in 2021. Let's hope that we're able to get some additional financial support! If successful, our Finance committee stands ready to make thoughtful choices about how to use these one-time funds to best support a strong financial future.
- * We got our new furnace in the lower level narthex installed! We were able to secure over \$4K in rebates/grants!
- * There is great progress being made on assessing the South parking lot. We've had a few more tests done and we're getting close to understanding the full scope of what needs to be done and what could be done. We'll give more updates when we have them.
- * All committees have set goals for 2025 (boom!) and council is excited to help support them all. Don't fret! If you want to join any of our committees still, you can! Check out the calendar in the Gazette to see who meets when. You're always welcome to just pop into any meetings or feel free to connect with any council member to get more details.

Thank you as always for your generous support of this amazing community!

From,
Your favorite church council ;)

Monthly Financial Report

Year-to-date member giving fell just short of projections through February. Investment income is currently short of projections, leading to the YTD income being less than the budgeted income. Expenses are higher than budgeted, primarily because utility costs are disproportionately incurred in the winter. The congregation replaced the furnace in the narthex area. Because capital funds were used, this major expense is not reflected in the budget. The congregation appreciates everyone's generous support so far this year.

Income/Expense through February 28, 2025

	February 2025	YTD	YTD Budget
Member Giving	\$22,037	\$51,232	\$53,762
Other Income	\$1,104	\$3,308	\$8,238
Expense	\$31,038	\$64,398	\$59,215
Net	-\$7,897	-\$9,858	\$2,786

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. thru 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



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:

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

