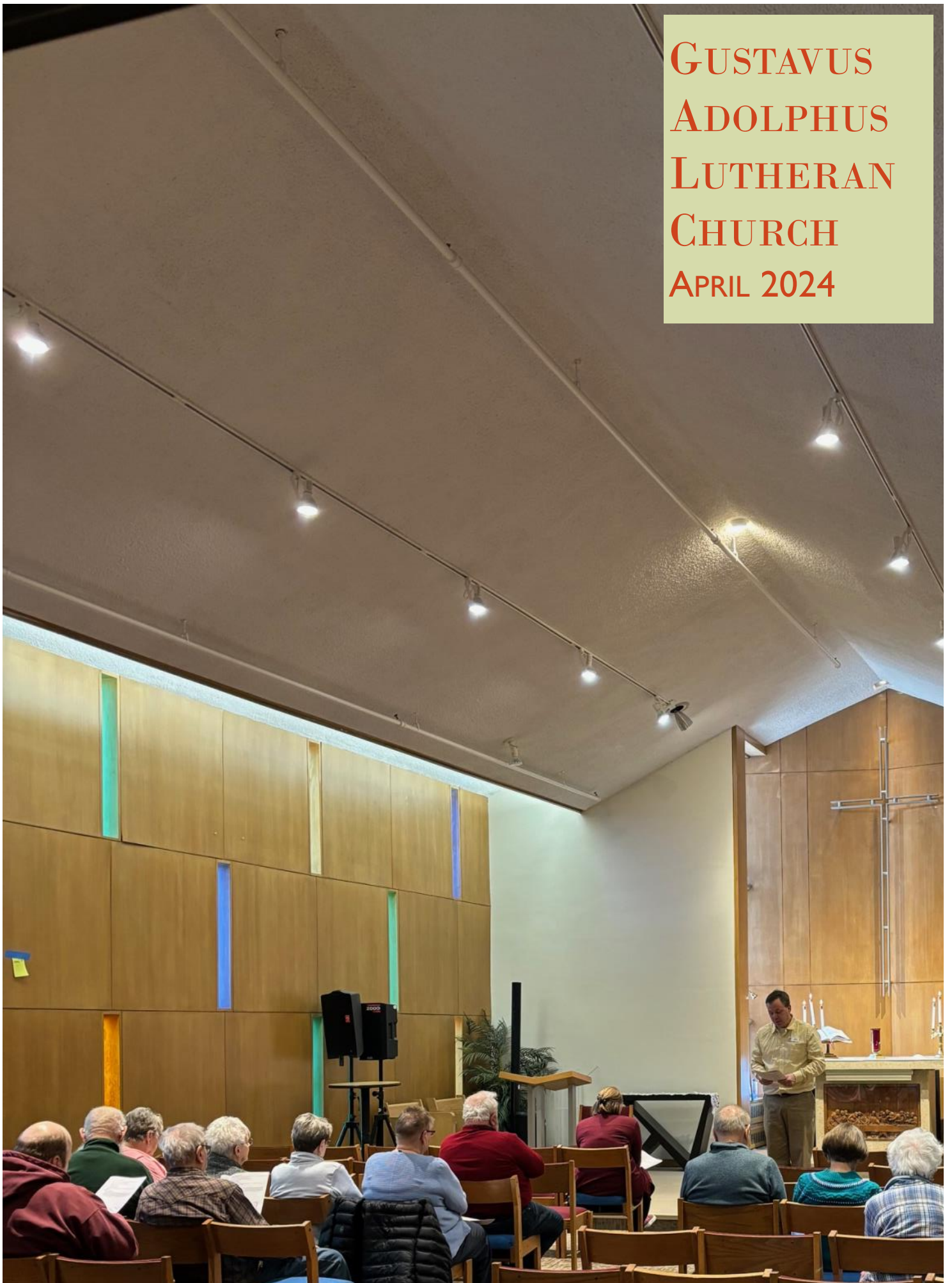


GUSTAVUS
ADOLPHUS
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
APRIL 2024



Thoughts from Pastor John

An Invitation to Planting Hope

Grace and peace to you, God's beloved. I give thanks to God for you, your faithful discipleship and your commitment to leading with love for the world.

Coming up in April, you are going to be invited to consider making a financial gift towards the Saint Paul Area Synod capital campaign.

From the synod's website:

The Planting Hope Campaign expresses our confidence that God is at work in the 107 congregations and mission starts of the Saint Paul Area Synod, and God is at work in the East Metro of the Twin Cities, the territory served by our synod. To date, we have raised more than \$1.4 million that supports these four activity areas:

Invite neighbors into life in Christ

Renew the congregations of the synod

Raise up the next generations of leaders

Invest in a transformative project on the East Side of St. Paul

Thanks to the generosity of congregations and major donors, we rejoice in the successful completion of that fourth item...the transformative project on St. Paul's East Side. At the 2023 Synod Assembly, we presented a \$1 million check to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Those funds were designated for the renovation of Grace Lutheran Church in St. Paul to house LSS' Families Together Eastside Preschool. This therapeutic preschool will be a life-changing resource for children and their families on the East Side of St. Paul when it opens in the fall of 2024.

As of early 2024, we are now moving into the "Planting MORE Hope" phase of the campaign as we focus on two of the other initiatives: Raise up the next generation of leaders and Renew the congregations of the synod.



From my perspective, one of the beautiful things about our church body, the ELCA, is that it reminds us our work is much bigger than just what we do at 1669 Arcade. Through our prayers and generosity we are able to support this larger work that God is doing all around us. Join us as we learn more and consider a generous gift to support this larger work. Thank you to the Endowment Fund and their gift of a matching gift of \$5,000, every gift you give will be doubled!

Stay tuned for more information!

✝ Pastor John

Gustavus Adolphus Lunch Bunch

If you are interested in joining together with other people from GA for lunch, the Lunch Bunch gathers together once a month. In April, we will be gathering at Johnny's Kitchen (1900 County Road D East, Suite 135, Maplewood, MN 55109) at 11:30 a.m. On April 4.

Thoughts from Pastor Ruthie

I was nervous as I walked into Jimmy's looking for the Brewing Faith group. I didn't know exactly what to expect. Pastor John had told me there was a room in the back and not to worry because the people that gather would be very chatty. When I walked in, the huge rectangular table already looked full. The group greeted me with such joy, and all pointed to a seat in the middle of the table designated for me.

Still more people started coming. We had to go into the next room to find chairs. Everyone scooted closer to their neighbor so that all could fit around this one banquet table. All were welcomed and it seemed like a miracle there was enough room to fit.

Some questions were asked. Thoughts were shared. Conversations with the neighbors were in the mix as well. But it was the responses to the last question of the night that grabbed my heart. Someone else who was also at Brewing Faith for the first time asked: *Can you share what you love about GA?*

It seemed like everyone responded in unison, "The People!" What a beautiful thing to love about this church. Then I asked that they put some flesh and bones to their answers. From there we heard stories that gave life and breath to the people of this church. Stories of welcoming and caring for one another and gathering together to bring each other hope.

In worship, we gather to tell the stories that have shaped our Christian faith for centuries. It was beautiful to gather in the back room at Jimmy's and tell the stories that have been shaping the faith of this congregation here and now. And what a gift to have the time and space to share those stories with those of us who are new among you.

Thank you for your stories. I look forward to hearing more.

✝ Peace,
Pastor Ruthie Mhanga



**THE GREAT GUSTAVUS
GARAGE SALE WILL BE
MAY 17 & 18 2024
DETAILS COMING SOON!**

Worship Schedule

OUR LIFE TOGETHER APRIL 2024

We invite you to join us for worship at church or from home.

We host two worship services on Sunday morning, at 9:00 am in the sanctuary for a more traditional worship experience, and 11:15 am in Luther Hall with a more contemporary feel, both with communion.

We also come together for midweek worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, following our Open Table Meal at 5:00 pm.

- April 7** **Traditional Worship — 9:00 am (Sanctuary)**
Contemporary Worship — 11:15 am (Luther Hall)
EASTER II
- April 10** **Wednesday Worship w/ Communion - 6:00 pm (Chapel)**
- April 14** **Traditional Worship — 9:00 am (Sanctuary)**
Contemporary Worship — 11:15 am (Luther Hall)
EASTER III
- April 17** **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (Chapel)**
- April 21** **Traditional Worship — 9:00 am (Sanctuary)**
Contemporary Worship — 11:15 am (Luther Hall)
EASTER IV
- April 24** **Wednesday Worship — 6:00 pm (Chapel)**
- April 28** **Traditional Worship — 9:00 am (Sanctuary)**
Contemporary Worship — 11:15 am (Luther Hall)
EASTER V

SAVE THE DATE — SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

We will have one worship service at 10:00 am, followed by a luncheon in Luther Hall to celebrate the ministry of Sherrie Nordquist as she transitions into retirement. More information to come, but please save the date .

Worship With Us

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

JOIN WORSHIP AT
GACHURCH.ORG
OR 833-452-0202!

SUPPER IS SERVED 5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM WEDNESDAYS
WORSHIP FOLLOWS SUPPER EACH WEDNESDAY



Open Table

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! HELP US MAKE OPEN TABLE
HAPPEN AT GUSTAVUS! CONTACT PASTOR JOHN.

ALL are welcome!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

YOUTH GROUP for Youth in Grades 6-12

10:10 am on Sundays in The Fireside Room

April 7

Acts: The Birth of the Church

April 14

Paul and the Early Church:
One Man, Many Churches

April 21

Service Project: Serve Coffee Hour

April 28

Paul's Theology:

Lots of Letters, One Main Message
Afternoon Deep Dive Experience



Sunday School for April

Sunday School starting at 10:10 am
Kids Cavern for PreK Children to Grade 5
Parents are welcome!

April 7

Doubting Thomas

April 14

The Great Commission

April 21

The Good Shepherd

April 28

Philip and The Ethiopian



FROLIC FAMILY INVITES YOU!

Children (birth-four years) and their parents are invited to join Stephanie Surine in the church library at 10:30 am on the first Sunday of each month for Bible story time and play-based learning.

Join us on April 7!



CHRISTIAN education



For more information about Sunday School and Confirmation programs, contact Sherrie Nordquist by calling the Church office 651.289.9882 (direct line) or sherrie@gachurch.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



CELEBRATING PASTOR RUTHIE

Pastor Ruthie Mhanga will be ordained on Saturday, April 20 at 11:00 am at Lutheran Church of Peace in Maplewood. All are invited. Please consider wearing red and staying for lunch following the service.

Pastor Ruthie's formal installation as associate pastor at Gustavus will take place during worship on Sunday, April 28, here at GA. Thanks be to God!

Welcoming First Communicants to the Table

9 children and their parents participated in ***Fed and Forgiven*** communion sessions with Pastor Ruthie this past month. The children assisted Gwen Michaelson in baking the communion bread served on Palm Sunday and brought the bread forward during the service. Each received an olivewood communion cup from the Holy Land as a remembrance of this special time in their faith journey. We welcome them as they join us at the Lord's Table!



Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly

Pastors Ruthie and John are invite you to join us at the St. Paul Area Synod Assembly coming up on May 10 and 11 at St. Andrew's in Mahtomedi. The theme is *Called to Show Up*. We will explore what it means to show up for each other, to show up in our neighborhoods, and to show up as people of faith, in both expected and unexpected ways.

We gather for worship on Friday, May 10 at 7:00 pm, the assembly for then runs from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm on May 11.

As a congregation we are invited to bring 8 delegates from GA and would hope you would consider being one of those delegates this year. Synod assembly is a great opportunity for us to be with our church partners throughout the synod, learn about the many great things God is doing throughout our synod and celebrate together what it means to be the church.

If you are interested in going, could you let us know? We will cover registration fees and get you signed up — simply let us know if you are interested in going.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

APRIL SPECIAL CONCERN GIVING: CAMP ONOMIA

As a member congregation of Camp Onomia we understand the need for Outdoor Ministries as an extension of the programs of faith formation for children, youth, and families that happen here at GA. We understand the tremendous resource that camp provides. One of the biggest influencers of faith life for many youth is their experience at Bible camp. It is an environment where kids have fun but also have space and time to wonder about God and the faith we share. Camp isn't just for kids and youth. There are many opportunities for adult members to attend retreats, grandparent/grandchild camp, and family camp. This month our Special Concerns offering is dedicated to our association with Camp Onomia. Thank you for supporting the good work of our camp and our partnership with them through your special concerns offering this month!

CAMP ONOMIA NEWS

We celebrated Camp Sunday at GA with Onomia program director Sari Kroschel on Sunday, March 10! She shared news about summer camps at Onomia and spent time with some of our youth. GA will still pick up \$300 for the cost of camp if you notify one of the pastors or Sherrie before May 19th.



CLEAN UP DAY at Camp Onomia: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Camp Onomia is our congregation's camp and it is time to clean house! We are gathering a group of GA adults, youth and families to head up to camp to help clean up, fix up, paint up, rake up, cut up. General labor and skilled trades folks are all needed from 9am - 3pm. Free lunch served. Free overnight lodging is an option.

There are Two-day youth camps for K-2 campers with a parent and a three-day camp; for first time campers in Grades 1-3. How about spending three days at Camp Onomia with a grandchild or grandparents? Are you a youth who loves fishing? There is a week of camp for you and your fishing pole! And camp is not just for kids! New this summer is ArtVenture camp for Grades 7-12 and Adults to come explore your creative side! Camp is a great place for families, friends, and generations to enjoy an all inclusive vacation. How about a Family Escape Weekend in July or a whole week of Family Camp?

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH LIBRARY!

GA Church Library Spotlight: Trees and Poetry



April is Poetry month and the month we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. We welcome guest speaker, Colleen Baldrica, author of *The Tree Spirited Woman*, on April 24th. Our April library spotlight will focus on trees and poetry

The Llama Who Had No Pajama: 100 Favorite Poems by Mary Ann Hoberman
There is a poem for every mood, every interest, every day. . This enchanting book is a classic introduction to poetry for young children. A favorite of our church librarian Carol is Timothy Toppin who climbed up a tree and would not come down.

Through Minnesota's Seasons With Jim Gilbert

A rich and varied book of observations on the changing seasons in Minnesota with award-winning photographs by Minnesota naturalist, Jim Gilbert. What do you know about the Minnesota State Tree?

An afternoon with The Author!

Colleen Baldrica, author of *Tree Spirited Woman*:

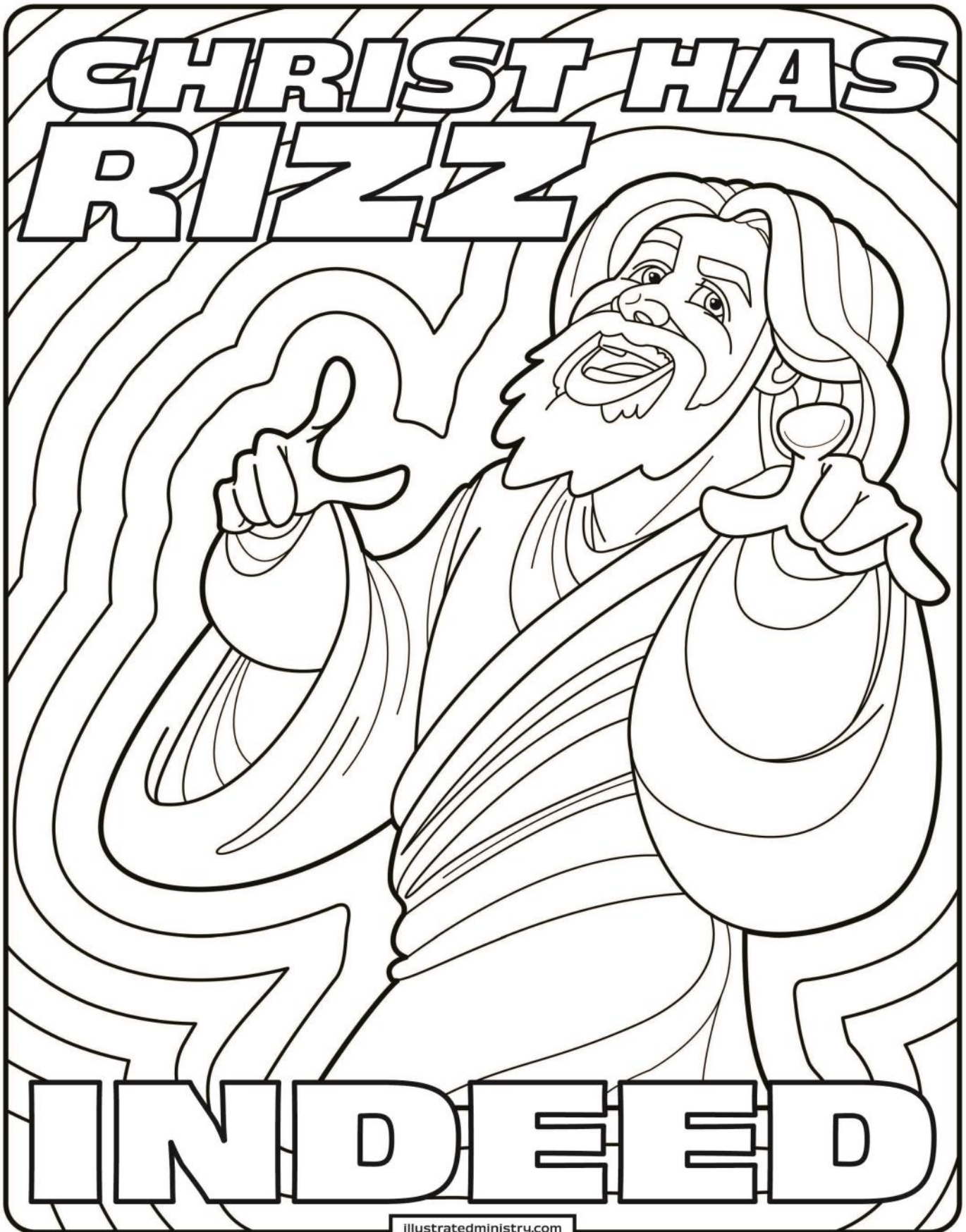
A story of Spiritual Awakening and Life Enrichment will be at Gustavus on Wednesday, April 24 at 1:00 pm to talk about her book.

Ms. Baldrica is a member of the Pembina Band of Chippewa (Ojibwe) from the White Earth Reservation in Northern Minnesota.

GA book groups have enjoyed discussing her book which is filled with simple truths, friendship and wisdom. Everyone is welcome!



KIDS' COLORING PAGE



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

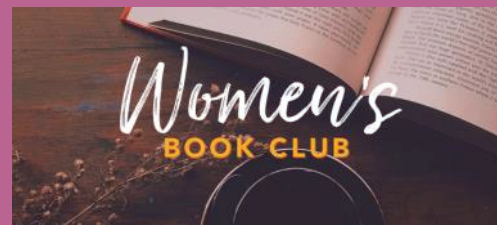


**Wednesday Morning
In Person Bible Study
at 11:00 am**

Join us for a weekly Bible study on Wednesday mornings. During our weekly Bible study we will discuss the assigned Bible readings for that upcoming Sunday. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Library. We hope you will join us.

SAVE THE DATE!

GA High School graduates will be recognized during worship on Sunday, May 12th. There will be a special coffee hour between services to celebrate this milestone with their families and church friends.



Join us for our next meeting on April 23 at 1:00 pm in the Church Library. Watch Announcements in April for the book selection. Readers are asked to find their own copy of the book at their local library or bookstore. Please contact Sherrie Nordquist or Carol Sandberg for more information.



We meet on the second Thursday of each month for Brewing Faith. Please join us at Jimmy's in Vadnais Heights on **Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm.** We will have one of the private party rooms reserved for our group.

Gustavus Zoom Book Club

The Join us online on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 pm. Watch for announcements in April for the book selection.

RSVP to sherrie@gachurch.org for the Zoom link.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER



APRIL BIRTHDAYS AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

3	Elyse King Strong	16	Diane Hedenstad	24	Bonnie Carle
4	Beverly Challengren		Rebecca Kidnie		Joyce Hauge
	Benjamin Lund		Logan Otto		Amy Lipetzky
8	Tim Youngren	17	Eileen Berglund	25	Wesley Bidon
9	Carol Borglum		Courtney Schluender		Claire Crayne
	Cora Lowther	18	Connor Busse		Carrie Fraser
11	Lynn Anderson		Braden Zenk		Lynn Harris
	Gloria Paul	19	Andy Lowther		Pamela Siebert
12	Karen Weiblen	20	Wayne Melaas-Swanson	26	Lorraine Vietor
13	Khloe Ogren	22	Betty Bonrud	27	Tyler Lindgren
14	Thomas Buzay		Dean Husnik	29	Sharon Carle
15	Donald Haugen		Eleanor Pearson		Jennifer Sanft
	Marika Roberts		Amy Scamp	30	Timothy Drake
			Alexander Van Ert		

Spring Caroling

We are sure you have heard of Christmas Caroling, but have you heard about Spring Caroling? Well to be honest, we hadn't either, but we are going to give it a try. On Sunday, April 28th, we are going to gather for lunch in the Fireside Room and then at 1:00 pm head out to visit each of our homebound members to bring them some spring joy with our voices. Those of you who are homebound, please note you will be receiving other communication from us regarding this.

For the rest of you, we hope you will join us on April 28. We expect it to be a joy filled time together and want as many of you to join us as possible. Please reach out to Pastors John or Ruthie if you have questions.

Caring thru Caroling



LEND A HAND...APRIL 6, 9:00 AM — NOON
 WE'RE GETTING TOGETHER TO DO WHAT
 NEEDS DOING...TREATS ARE PROMISED!
 MANY HANDS MAKES FOR LIGHT WORK!





GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1669 Arcade Street North
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.5954 - www.gachurch.org



Gustavus Adolphus is a member of the Saint Paul Area Synod (SPAS · www.spas-elca.org), of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA · www.elca.org)



Gustavus Adolphus Office Hours

Monday — Thursday
9:00 am — 12:00 pm

by Appointment Only, Please
Schedule Your Visit with
Individual Staff Members

The Sanctuary Is Available for Prayer by
Request, Email Pastor John for
a time at johnh@gachurch.org

Church Staff & Contact Information

The Rev. John Hierlinger, Senior Pastor	johnh@gachurch.org 651.289.9880
The Rev. Ruthie Mhanga Associate Pastor	ruthiem@gachurch.org 651.289.9881
Sherrie Nordquist, Director of Christian Education	sherrie@gachurch.org 651.289.9882
Andrew Parr, Director of Worship and Music	andrewp@gachurch.org 651.289.9886
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Rob Sebo Lubke, Office Administrator/Communication Specialist	rob@gachurch.org 651.289.9884
Judy Hitchcock, Administrative Assistant	judy@gachurch.org 651.289.9883
Bruce Pelava, Campus Manager	brucep@gachurch.org 651.288.9887
Kevin Berglund, Lynn Holmes, Hugo Bustos Custodians	custodians@gachurch.org 651.289.9889



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church is
financed entirely by the generous, direct
financial gifts of its members and friends.

There are several ways you can bless this mission of Jesus with your gifts:

- Place your **check or cash** in the offering plate during the service. Envelopes are in the pews.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer** from our website, gachurch.org (upper right corner). You can set up a one-time or recurring donation. You can also give electronically from your phone by texting the numeric value of your desired gift to 651-204-1921, then follow the prompts.
- **Bill Pay.** Follow the directions for your bank or credit union to create GA as a Payee at 1669 Arcade St. N, St. Paul, MN 55106, and choose to make a one time or regular weekly or monthly offering.
- **Stock Transfer to the church.** Contact Emily Harrison in the business office at 651.289.9885.

We are inspired by the Spirit to:

GROW in spiritual vitality

WORSHIP creatively and faithfully together

EMBRACE our wonder

BUILD authentic Christian relationships