

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 2022



# Thoughts from Pastor John

## Building a Culture of Generosity: Our Fall Stewardship Campaign

Two years ago as the world was shutting down, there were serious concerns about what effect that would have on the church? Take a look now as we re-emerge from the pandemic. Many of us feared that scarcity would prevail, but that is not what happened. God has been abundantly present.

It is in times of difficulty that the world sees the importance of the church and our message of grace more clearly. God is up to something here and it is exciting to be part of it.

First, let me say thank you for the ways in which you stepped up to continue to worship, to care for one another, and to look for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus when our community so clearly needed the Gospel during the pandemic.

You also demonstrated significant generosity to make certain that this ministry remained strong.

Now, let me encourage you that I believe what God has shown us through this crisis is our need to walk together, continue to innovate, and step up the ways in which we share God's love with a world that still so desperately needs to recognize God's presence.

We are looking forward. God is calling us to great new adventures and your generosity will help us accomplish so much.

Generosity continues to grow in the United States. Generosity grew even in the pandemic. However, a recent study found that the median protestant (person in the middle if lined up smallest percentage to largest) only gave 0.62% of their income to the church. For most people the reason for this has less to do with their wealth or

income and more to do with intentionality and regular systematic giving.

Over the course of a year, \$1 per day comes to a gift of \$365, which for about 35-40% of Americans would be significant growth in their giving to the church. The average Starbucks coffee costs \$2.75. This amounts to over \$1,000 if one is purchased every day of the year.

As we continue to work on Building Generosity at Gustavus, it takes each of us to do this work. Regular, systematic giving can help all of us become more generous. We get overwhelmed when we think about larger numbers like \$1,000. However, most of us can find \$2.75 per day as you think and pray about your generosity this year.

I am excited to explore with you how you can grow in your generosity and ongoing support of GALC. Now matter how much or how little we give, we all have room to grow in our generosity and give more.

✝ Your Partner on the Journey  
Pastor John



### 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 Amanda for  
a time at [a.simons@gachurch.org](mailto:a.simons@gachurch.org)**

## Thoughts from Pastor Amanda

As I relayed in a recent sermon, my mind has been straying a lot to Joyce Rupp's book *Praying Our Goodbyes*. This season of autumn, in particular, I continue to think about the way that God teaches us how to say goodbye through the gift of this season. In my nature walks and as I play outdoors at the playground with my children I marvel at the brilliance of the golden yellows, orange and reds shimmering across the canopy landscape. I breathe in the cooler, fresh air that fills my asthmatic lungs with strength and gives me breath to run. I see the seasons going by more quickly as I gaze with awe at my five year old daughter who just seconds ago seemed to be a newborn babe in my arms. I miss my dad as I remember the way he'd rake up all the autumn leaves into a big pile and jump in them with my sister and I, laughing whole-heartedly. As we turn towards Halloween, All Saints and Thanksgiving, I miss him more and more. Although his grandparents died in a car crash on Thanksgiving day on their way to the family feast, it remained my father's favorite holiday. A time in which he remembered them with love, a time in which he cherished the previous years of holidays, a time in which he delighted in sabbath space from work and spending time with loved ones, aware that such time could be all too fleeting.

I tend to be late to the grieving process, I tend to focus on the crisis and how to get through it and then grieve later, privately. As the pandemic has come to a different season, only now am I grieving the goodbyes and changes that it wrought, especially those within our beloved congregation. In the space of weeks I officiated the funeral services of three beloved saints, Ed, Lucille and Betty, and we said goodbye as a community to them and to who we were with them among us. When I blessed Lucille on the day that she died, I took time to say goodbye well. And, much as Joyce Rupp's book talks about our foundational Christian pattern of hello-goodbye-hello, I leaned close to Lucille's ear and whispered, "Goodbye until we meet again. Thank you, Lucille." This year as I gaze at the Thanksgiving table, the one we set at GA and the one my family sets together, I will hold together the sacred space of the saints of yesterday, today and tomorrow, pulling together the threads of this hello-goodbye-hello pattern. The table has many, many chairs, filled with those whom I miss, those whom I have the breath to love and hold this day, and those whom the table yet waits for . . . and now I can see, for the first time, why my dad loved Thanksgiving. Thank you God for my dad. Thank you God for all of our beloved saints, including you, dear reader. You are God's beloved child. May God be with you in the hellos and the goodbyes of this season.

✚ God's peace,  
Pastor Amanda



# Worship Schedule

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### NOVEMBER 2022

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

We gather Sunday morning for Traditional Worship at 9:00 am and Contemporary Worship at 11:15 am.

We gather Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm, following our Open Table meal.

Sunday services are live-streamed and recorded for worship participation from home.

- November 2**      **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (following our Open Table free community meal)**  
**Chapel — Holden Evening Prayer**
- November 6**      **Sunday Worship at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 11:15 am (Luther Hall)**  
**All Saints Sunday**
- November 9**      **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (following our Open Table free community meal)**  
**Chapel — Campfire Worship**
- November 13**     **Sunday Worship at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 11:15 am (Luther Hall)**
- November 16**     **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (following our Open Table free community meal)**  
**Chapel — Holden Evening Prayer**
- November 20**     **Sunday Worship at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 11:15 am (Luther Hall)**  
**Christ the King Sunday**
- November 23**     **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (following our Open Table free community meal)**  
**Chapel — Thanksgiving Eve Service**
- November 27**     **Sunday Worship at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 11:15 am (Luther Hall)**  
**First Sunday in Advent**
- November 30**     **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (following our Open Table free community meal)**  
**Chapel — Holy Darkness Service**

JOIN WORSHIP AT [GACHURCH.ORG](http://GACHURCH.ORG) OR 833-452-0202...LIVE OR LATER!

# Worship With Us

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

SUPPER IS  
 SERVED FROM  
 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
 EACH  
 WEDNESDAY



## Open Table

ALL are welcome!

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23  
6:00 PM  
THERE WILL BE PIE TO FOLLOW!

# thanksgiving

— service —

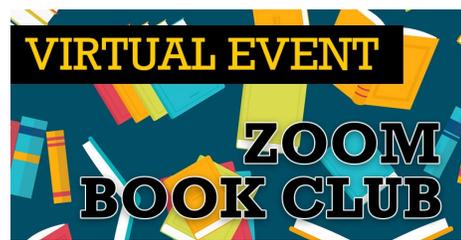
DON'T FORGET TO **FALL BACK**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 2022**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 2022**

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

## The Gustavus Zoom Book Club - November 17, 7:00 pm



This month we'll convene Thursday, November 17th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Last month we read and discussed the novel *Homegoing* by author Yaa Gyasi. We had an engaging conversation around generational trauma and racism. Out of our conversation, we decided that we'd like to learn more about generational trauma and racism in the more recent history of the United States.

For November's conversation, we will discuss the PBS Documentary *The Murder of Emmett Till*. To view this film, visit [to.pbs.org/3N45Jlw](https://to.pbs.org/3N45Jlw)

## GA Women's Book Club - November 22 at 1:00 pm

November's book selection is *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*. Readers are asked to find their own copy of the book at their local library or bookstore. The story of this remarkable young woman's journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering, and loss. Contact Sherrie Nordquist for information.



# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## Sunday School Families!

November 6 (All Saints) - Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-11)

Celebrate those who came before you!

Spark Story Bible pages 264-267

Spark Bible page 1062

Nov. 13 - God's Love Is Forever (Luke 21:5-19)

God is always working for good.

Spark Story Bible pages 408-409

Spark Bible pages 1162

Nov. 20 - Thanksgiving!

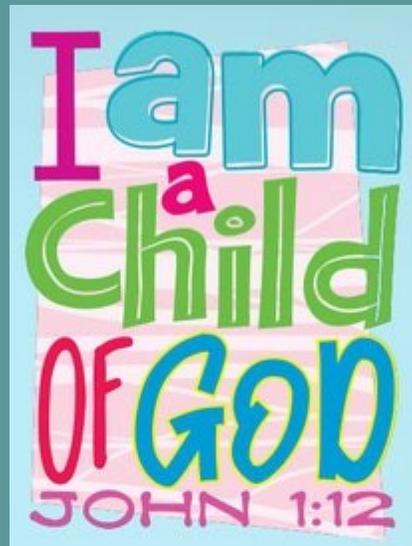
A lesson in Gratefulness

Nov. 27 (Advent 1) - God Will Bring Peace (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Jeremiah spoke God's promises to the people.

Spark Story Bible pages 178-179

Spark Bible pages 858



*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](mailto:sherrie@gachurch.org)*



## Confirmation Group for Youth in Grades 6-8

Sundays from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room

Nov. 6 - Encanto: Luisa

Nov. 13 - Encanto: Julieta and Camilo

Nov. 19-20 - Deep Dives: Our Whole Lives RETREAT

Nov. 27 - OFF - Happy Thanksgiving weekend!

# YOUTH

## YOUTH GROUP Wednesdays at GA

6:30 pm Grades 6-12 Youth Hang-Out

Watch for news about volunteering to bake, set up, and work at the Youth Bake Sale during the GA Craft Show on Nov. 26!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Faith Formation Opportunities for Adults

### November/December Brewing Faith - Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 pm

Brewing Faith is an opportunity to gather over table fellowship and beverages, both non-alcoholic and alcoholic, for a deeper level of theological conversation with peers from our faith community. This month we'll gather at on December 1 for our holiday event and discuss the nativity stories.

### Bible Study Series: Women of the Bible Sundays 10:15 am (hybrid) & Wednesdays 6:30 pm (in-person)

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the women of the bible? The first preachers of the good news, Jesus' resurrection, were women, and yet our lectionary text in Sunday worship rarely highlights the stories of women in our bible. Why? And what are the stories of our biblical matriarchs? Come and join your pastors and peers to engage in learning and conversation about women of the bible.

This is a six-week series during the months of October and November. You can participate in one, a couple or all of these bible study lessons and conversation. The Wednesday bible study will meet in-person at the church library. The Sunday bible study will meet in-person and via Zoom (hybrid) from the Fireside Room.

*Mary, the Mother of Jesus & Elizabeth* Wednesday 11/2 & Sunday 11/6

*Mary Magdalene* Wednesday 11/9 & Sunday 11/13

*Women of the Early Church* Wednesday 11/16 & Sunday 11/20

There will be no bible study on Wednesday 10/26 or Sunday 10/30 due to other festivities.

## SENIOR MOMENTS ADVENT LUNCHEON RETURNS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

We'll gather for worship with holy communion and a delicious lunch...a special event for our Gustavus and neighboring elders



## Intergenerational Christmas Program - December 18 at 11:00 am

GA Children, Youth and Families are invited to be part of this unique worship service on Sunday, December 18.

We will need readers, actors, singers, artists and more.

If your family or your children would like to be involved, contact Sherrie Nordquist for details. Watch for an email with more information coming this month.



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

- |    |                     |    |                  |    |                         |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | Bruce Pelava        | 15 | William Bidon    | 22 | Diane DePover           |
| 2  | Isabelle Reidenbach |    | Neal Lund        |    | Yonaton Tola            |
| 3  | Thomas Miller       |    | Trevor Lund      | 23 | D.A. Deiman             |
| 5  | Don Lattimore       | 16 | Joshua Lindgren  |    | Madeline Holthaus       |
| 6  | Rene Hathaway       | 18 | Thomas Nelson    |    | Lukas Miller-Sederstrom |
| 7  | David Husnick       |    | Kinley Svendsen  | 24 | Karen Netwal            |
| 8  | Spencer Goodman     |    | Cheryl Westman   | 25 | Barb Holmstrom          |
|    | Linnea Haller       | 19 | Michael Domagall | 28 | Alex Damico             |
| 9  | Jerry Stern         |    | Laura Hamrick    |    | Nicole Mullis           |
| 11 | Harold Froelich     |    | Gene Haugen      | 29 | Cameron McDonough       |
|    | Donna Viker         |    | Verilyn Pelava   | 30 | Christine Patino        |
| 13 | Len Peterson        | 21 | Eric Buzay       |    |                         |
| 14 | Nancy Anderson      |    | LaDonna Osborne  |    |                         |
|    | Betty Fiebiger      |    |                  |    |                         |
|    | Cindy Higgins       |    |                  |    |                         |
|    | James McCann        |    |                  |    |                         |

*Happy Birthday*

because birthdays are awesome



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

On August 20th, the Boy Scouts, adult leaders and volunteers for Troop 25 helped Aiden P. complete his Eagle Scout project: a fire pit just off the north parking lot. In the photo, the scouts are lighting the first fire and preparing to make s'mores.

Plans call for the fire pit to be surrounded by a number of wooden memorial benches. You can sponsor, and customize with your dedication, one of the benches for \$60.00.

These benches will be used by our church for many years to come. See the display in The Gathering Place, or call the church office for information.



## There Is Still Time to Register for the Camp Onomia Women's Retreat

**November 4-5, 2022** Friday, 6:00 pm through Saturday, 3:00 pm • Cost is \$94 (includes Friday supper, Saturday breakfast and lunch) • Extended Saturday night option is available. Register at [www.camponomia.org](http://www.camponomia.org)



**THE 2022 GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW AND BAKE SALE IS NOVEMBER 26 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM • YOUTH BAKE SALE RETURNS EGG ROLL QUEEN LUNCH • SIXTY CRAFTERS A NEIGHBORHOOD TRADITION • VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

## HELP THE YOUTH BY DONATING INGREDIENTS!

We are collecting ingredients for the youth bake sale on November 26th. You will find a collection of needed ingredients written on post it notes on a sign in the Narthex. Please consider grabbing a couple and bringing those ingredients to church by our baking day on November 20th. We appreciate your support!

## Baking Party: Sunday, November 20, 12:30 pm — 4:00 pm

GA families are invited to join the Baking Crew at GA on Sunday, November 20, 12:30 — 4:00 pm. We will be mixing up, baking and packaging treats to sell at the Bake Sale (GA Craft Show) on November 30. Lunch provided! If you love to bake, join us!



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## Deep Dive Abundant Life Retreat

*Abundant Life Retreats are designed for youth to enhance their confirmation experience by learning about sexuality in the context of faith in a joyful and inclusive environment.*

Learning about sexuality, at church, has never been so fun! Our learning sessions are interactive and broken up with activity and meal breaks. We'll focus on aspects of our sexual identity such as *gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation* in the light of our **goodness** (Genesis 1) and to help us live **abundant lives** (John 10:10b)!

### Abundant Life Retreat Values:

- **Care & Concern**
- **Consent**
- **Health & Wellness**
- **Safety**



### Retreat:

**When: Saturday, November 19th 8:30am - 6 pm  
& Sunday, November 20th, 12:30pm - 4pm**

**Where: Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church,  
1669 Arcade St, St. Paul, MN 55106**

**Cost: \$25; payable before or day of retreat to Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church;**

**Memo: Deep Dive Retreat**      *Scholarships are available as needed.*

**Please register by Sunday November 6 at [Abundant Life Retreat Google Form](#)**

**Learn more at our Virtual Parent Info Session! Tuesday, October 25th 7:30-8:30pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89871671958?pwd=RXRGYWpEYVc4TmpLajk3ODluYk9kQ0T09> Meeting ID: 898 7167 1958 Passcode: 052489

The retreat is sponsored by our Deep Dive Confirmation collaboration and facilitated by Karin Galloway Egge, a mother, educator, coach, and writer, who catalyzes transformation and inspires deeper faith, connection and joy through workshops, consulting and individual coaching. She is a comprehensive sexuality educator, certified professional coach, parent educator for "It's That Easy: A Guide to Raising Sexually Healthy Children," with additional training in yoga, mindfulness, energy work, and Montessori education. Karin's not the best graphic designer but likes to laugh, and appreciates puns such as "a bun dance." [www.karingallowayegge.com](http://www.karingallowayegge.com)

Please reach out to Pastor Amanda for more information! We hope to see you there! [a.simons@gachurch.org](mailto:a.simons@gachurch.org)

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

When I think about the future of the church one of the things that really gets me excited is collaborative ministry. Collaboration, and working together in new ways is what the church has been called to do throughout its history. In this time working collaboratively looks different than it has in the past, but to me, this call to collaboration and shared ministry looks like a call to be the kingdom of God.



This past weekend saw five Eastside congregations together working towards the mission of the EastSide Collaborative. Our Mission: The EastSide Collaborative explores new ways of being church together by engaging in shared ministry opportunities that deepen our relationship with God, one another, and our neighborhoods. People from Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Hope Lutheran Church, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church are all actively working out the mission of the East Side Collaborative (ESCo). We gathered for a full day on a Saturday to further our work by revisiting where the group has come from and where we are going, looking for opportunities for shared ministry, dreaming into future possibilities, and continuing work on shared ministry. From the work of ESCo we are doing shared midweek Advent worship and fellowship. There is a daytime worship service at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church at 11:00 AM with a soup lunch to follow, this service will be live-streamed as well as an evening service at Gustavus at 6:00 pm with dinner before at 5:00 pm. This group is also working on a shared interfaith and cultural educational opportunity with our Ukrainian, Muslim, Jewish, and Hmong neighbors in the new year. Other members of the group are putting together shared social activities for us to grow our relationships with each other. These are just a few things that ESCo is working on.

In the past this group has done shared worship, picnics, service opportunities, bible study, shared a pastoral intern, collaborated for Night to Unite (formerly National Night Out), and more. ESCo is a way for our Eastside congregations to be stronger together through collaboration and exploring new ways of being church together. We look forward to further shared ministry together through the East Side Collaborative.

- Hilary Hinrichs (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church)

## NOVEMBER SPECIAL CONCERN GIVING: GIVING TREE FOR LSS LIFEHAVEN

LifeHaven is a family-style home on the east side of Saint Paul that provides housing and support to 16-17 year old mothers and their children, who are experiencing homelessness. LifeHaven provides a friendly, safe space where young moms can move out of survival mode and begin to work on a plan that will lead them toward stability for themselves and their children. Our gifts and cash make the season bright for families.





## GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1669 Arcade Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651.774.5954 - [www.gachurch.org](http://www.gachurch.org)



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



## Church Staff & Contact Information

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Kevin Berglund, Lynn Holmes, Hugo Bustos Custodians	<a href="mailto:custodians@gachurch.org">custodians@gachurch.org</a> 651.289.9889

**We are inspired by the Spirit to:**  
**GROW** in spiritual vitality  
**WORSHIP** creatively and faithfully together  
**EMBRACE** our wonder  
**BUILD** authentic Christian relationships



**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](http://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.** Jana Dietering in the business office at 651.289.9885.