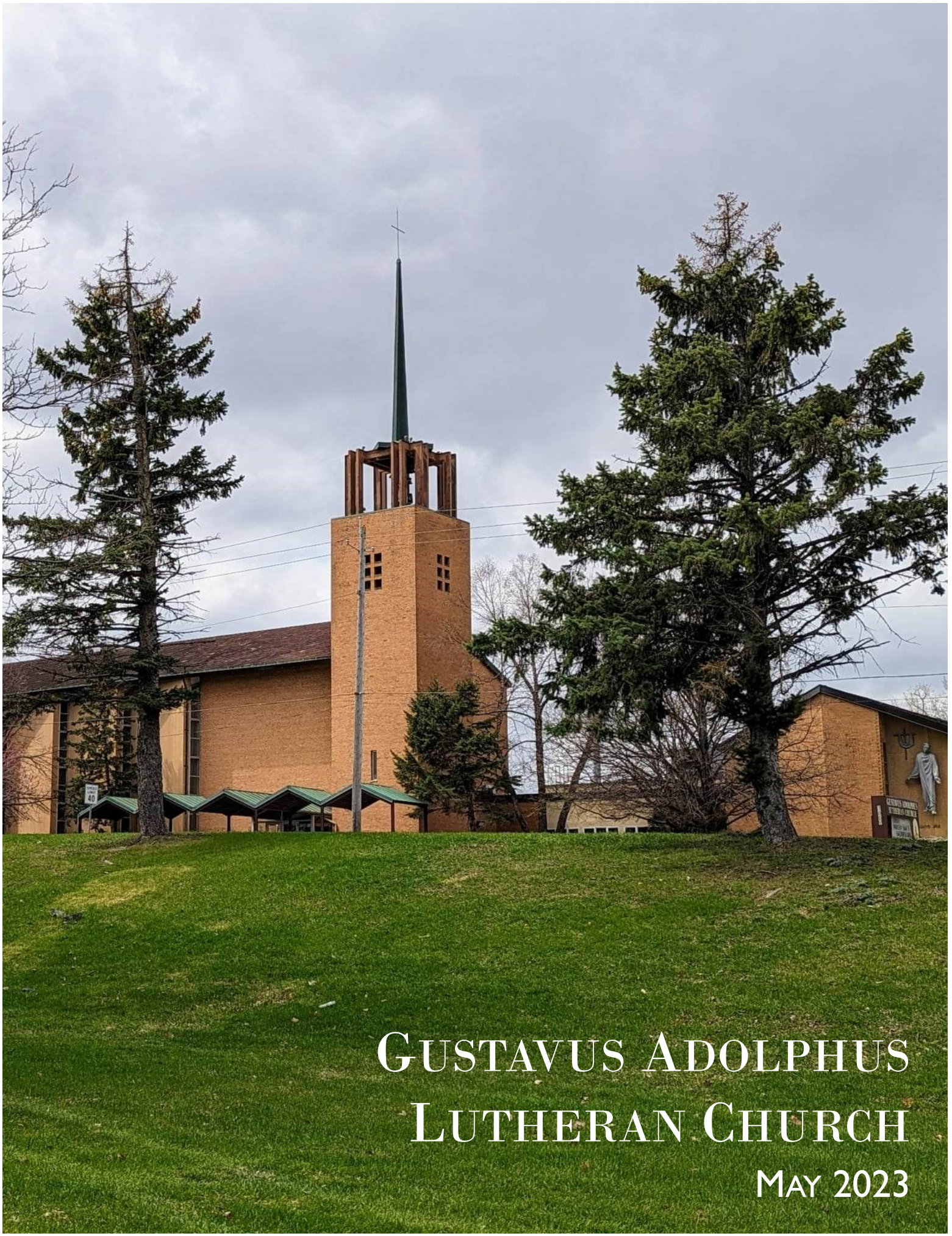

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

May 2023

Thoughts from Pastor John

So, what next, pastor?

This is a question that I have heard a fair number of times over the past four months… asked by many of you from GA, but also my friends and family. Recognizing with Pastor Amanda moving on from Gustavus, we have the opportunity to explore what will be next for us as a church. At the time of a staff transition, it is always a good opportunity to reflect on these questions, pray for God's guidance and explore with one another what will be next.

I don't need to remind you but the pandemic certainly had an impact on us as a congregation. It is no secret that we are a different church now than we were in March 2020. I am not implying that our core values have changed or our mission is different, but the pandemic changed us, all of us. We now offer worship in person, online, or through the phone. Our Bible study is hybrid, so people can join us from the comfort of their homes or in person in our building. We also experienced a decline of in-person participation with many of our weekly, monthly or annual programs.

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

As I mentioned, though, many of the things have stayed the same. First and foremost we continue to gather as a community to worship our living God. So many of you continue to support GALC and our ministry through your generous financial gifts and the gifts of your time and energy. We are still very active and a vital part of our community for the people who live and work near us. Open Table, our weekly community meal continues to provide an opportunity for people to be together and be fed with a free meal. Our support for our partners in Tanzania hasn't changed a bit. So yes things are different, but there are many wonderful things about us that haven't changed a bit.

Yet, we are still at a point where we need to explore, together, what is next for GA and what is the best staffing model for us to accomplish our future goals. It certainly might mean that we call another pastor, to fill the position Pastor Amanda held, but is that best?

I want you to help us, as a congregation, answer that question. Your Congregation Council has begun thinking about this question and talking about a variety of options, but we want to hear from you.

I hope you can join us on Sunday, May 7 at 11:30 a.m. in Luther Hall for this conversation. We are going to have one worship service at 10:00 am followed by a meal, served in Luther Hall. Once people have their food, we will begin our conversation, wrapped up by 12:30 pm. We hope you can join us.

In the meantime do a couple of things: Pray. Pray for GA, and for the Holy Spirit to guide us. Number two, reflect on the question: as we continue to plan for the future, what should be a high priority for us as a church?

Bring these reflections with you on the Seventh.

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Your partner on the journey,
Pastor John

Worship Schedule

OUR LIFE TOGETHER
MAY 2023

We invite you to join us for worship at church or from home.
With the exception of May 7, when we have a single worship service at 10:00 am followed by brunch, we gather Sunday morning for Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am and in Luther Hall for Contemporary Worship at11:15 am.
OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE (SINGLE 10:00 AM SERVICE) BEGINS MAY 28

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

May 3	***Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm***
May 7	***Sunday Worship at 10:00 am (Sanctuary)*** ***Brunch in Luther Hall 11:00 am • Staffing Conversation 11:30 am*** ***Fifth Sunday in Easter • Youth Sunday***
May 10	***Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm***
May 14	***Sunday Worship at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 11:00 am (Sanctuary)*** ***Sixth Sunday in Easter***
May 17	***Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm***
May 21	***Sunday Worship at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 11:15 am (Luther Hall)*** ***Seventh Sunday of Easter***
April 19	***Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm***
May 28	***Sunday Worship at 10:00 am (Sanctuary) • SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS*** ***Day of Pentecost***
May 31	***Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm***

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH!!!!!!!

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF MAY, MAY 7 AT GUSTAVUS, WE'LL COME TOGETHER FOR A SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM AND ENJOY A FESTIVE BRUINCH AFTERWARD IN LUTHER HALL AND JOIN IN CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR PASTORAL AND OTHER STAFFING NEEDS AT GA.

Wednesday Morning In Person and Online Bible Study at 11:00 am

Join us for a weekly Zoom 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 Fireside Room and on Zoom. We hope you will join us.
Gustavus Adolphus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Weekly Zoom Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88545386075?pwd=QzN5NFEvNEJvdHZLTEM2Q0g0OHNPdz09

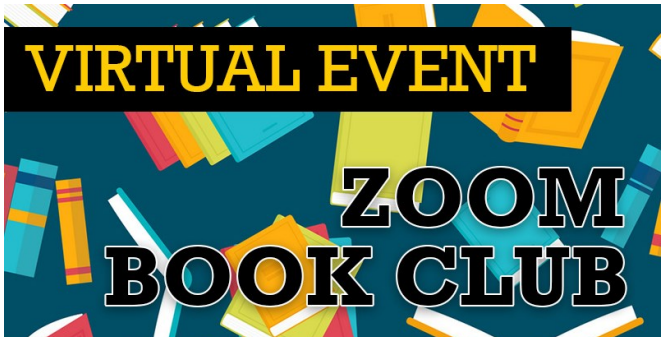
Meeting ID: 885 4538 6075 Passcode: 972405

Help Celebrate Our High School Graduates!
There will be a basket for cards and notes of congratulations if you would like to add your best wishes. Everyone is welcome!

GA College and Beyond Graduates!
If you or someone in your family will be a College graduate this spring/summer, please let us know. We would like to highlight GA Collage and beyond graduates in the Summer newsletter!

The Gustavus Zoom Book Club -

Join us on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 pm online as we discuss The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama. RSVP to Sherrie Nordquist at sherrie@gachurch.org to receive the Zoom link.



We are going to be meeting on the second Thursday of each month for Brewing Faith. Please join us at Jimmy's in Vadnais Heights on **Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm**. We will have one of the private party rooms reserved for our group.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday Mornings in Kids Cavern

May 7 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (YOUTH SUNDAY)
May 14 - THE ASCENSION, JOHN 14:15-21
May 21 - LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
May 28 - PENTECOST! NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

YOUTH SUNDAY @ GA CHURCH

On **May 7** we highlight the many gifts that our children and youth have, celebrate leadership opportunities, and stress their roles as important parts of our church family. We will need many children and youth to sign up for the different roles including: *Acolyte, Communion Server, Reader, Prayer Leader, and Special Music*. Children and youth are invited to sign up for the role or roles of their choice. Here is the Sign-Up Genius link: https://tinyurl.com/2untuynb
We will have one worship service on May 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A brunch will follow in Luther Hall at 11:00 am, with a free-will donation benefitting Youth Ministry at GA.

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

Confirmation Group for Youth in Grades 6-8

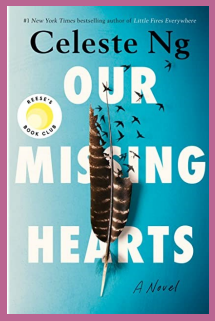
May 7 - Echo the Story: Promised Land
May 14 - Echo the Story: Judges
May 21 - Last Day of Confirmation

CONFIRMATION RESUMES THIS FALL

YOUTH GROUP Wednesdays at GA

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

Tuesday Women's Book Club - Join us for our next meeting on May 23 at 1:00 pm in the Church Library. We will be discussing *Our Missing Hearts, Celeste Ng* by T. Martin Bennett. 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.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

The Great GA Garage Sale!

DONATE!
Donated items will be accepted Monday May 15 through Thursday May 18 from the hours of 10:00 am — 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm — 8:00 pm
Please use the north entrance for donations.

SHOP!

Friday May 19	8:00 am — 4:00 pm
Saturday May 20	9:00 am — 2:00 pm

We can help with unloading your vehicle
We will accept clothing, accessories, jewelry, household items such as dishes, cookware, home decor, furniture, outdoor items, books, DVDs, toys, sports gear, pet accessories.
Items should be clean and useable.
Items will be priced to sell.
We cannot accept computers, printers or TVs.
We will not take mattresses or car seats.

We also need donations of paper, plastic or fabric grocery size bags.

VOLUNTEER!
We need folks to help with accepting items, hosting the sale itself and clean-up.
If you have a few hours to offer that week please let us know...contact Maggie Kidnie at maggiekid@comcast.net or 651-253-6903 or Lori Howard at lojehoward@comcast.net
Proceeds from the Garage Sale will be used for ongoing ministries and/or special projects.

CLEAN UP DAY at Camp Onomia: Saturday, May 6, 2023

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 if anyone wants to go up on Friday evening. Please contact Jeff or Cathy Ronning for details or to sign up!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

MAY BIRTHDAYS AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

1	Diana Bjorkman	11	Larry Cowen	18	Patricia Domagall
2	Brooke Aguirre		Kristian Stordalen		Amelia Travis
	Hayley Husnik	12	Marge Ball	19	Nikolas Larsen
3	Susan Carlson	13	Houa Moua		Andy Sederstrom
	Lydia Lund		Lindsey Siebert	20	Donovan Weiblen Jr.
6	Jack Stensby	14	Jeffrey Surine	21	Jennifer Eckes
7	Elizabeth Surine		Arianna Shoals		Lily Nelson
8	Helen Alberg		Morgan Thompson	22	Ted Madison
	Teresa Bettmann	15	Ron Anderson	25	Emily Anderson
	Lennart Pearson		Stephanie Surine		John Strong
9	Michael Krispin	16	Jeff Anderson	26	Gage Aguirre
	Janet Peterson		Evelyn Mader		Susan Aguirre
10	Brittany Billings	17	Norinne Hobbs	28	Janessa Bordsen
	Vinette Hamm		Laura Spiel	31	Maggie Kahler
	Wayne Kelm				

College Scholarship Grants - The Gustavus Adolphus Church Endowment Committee will be accepting applications for the 2023-2024 academic year. These scholarships are to help students who are active members of our congregation to continue their education at a college, university, or technical school. Here is the link to the application: https://tinyurl.com/yxrhev6x

High School Student Recognition, May 7

2023 GA High School graduates will be recognized and blessed during Youth Sunday worship on May 7th. Each graduate will receive a special gift of a cozy, fleece blanket from our congregation. The blankets are stitched with the graduate's name, birthdate, baptism, confirmation, and graduation date. Congratulations and God's blessings to…Adam Hassenstab, Stillwater Area High School, Noah Holthaus, Math & Science Academy, Christian Krueger, Irondale High School, Greta Krueger, Irondale High School, Elliot Weiblen, Roseville Area High School.

MAY SPECIAL CONCERN GIVING: OPEN TABLE MEALS

Our Wednesday Open Table meals are an important part of our nutrition ministry here at Gustavus Adolphus. These free community meals do more than just provide calories, however, and also provide opportunities for fellowship and connectivity in the lives of our members and our neighbors. Your gift to support our Open Table Meals helps cement our church's role as a community center, as well, and better introduces us to our Payne Phalen neighborhood. Your financial support… as well as volunteer contributions…are what makes this important work possible. Thank you.

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)

Church Staff & Contact Information

The Rev. John Hierlinger, Senior Pastor	johnh@gachurch.org 651.289.9880
The Rev. Jacqueline Belzer Interim Associate Pastor	jacquelineb@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
Brett Bowman, Interim Finance Manager	finance@gachurch.org 651.289.9885
Rob Sebo Lubke, Office Administrator/Communication Specialist	rob@gachurch.org 651.289.9884
Judy Hitchcock, Administrative Assistant	judy@gachurech.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

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 (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 Brett Bowman in the business office at 651.289.9885.