

GUSTAVUS
ADOLPHUS
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MAY 2024

MEET THE AUTHOR
WITH COLLEEN BALDRICA
APRIL 24, 2024

Thoughts from Pastor John

This week at our Wednesday evening worship in the chapel, we took time to reflect on the realities of our broken world and the impact they are having on the children of our community, state, nation and world.

We prayed for those who went to bed that night without dinner because their families simply didn't have enough.

We prayed for those who went to bed terrified if they would wake up the next morning because they live in Gaza, which continues to be impacted by the attack of Israel.

We prayed for those who went to bed worried that night, afraid for their parents who are fighting a war against Russia in Ukraine. We prayed for the 8 year old and 5 year old who had to put themselves to bed last night because their parents are having to work two-three jobs to make ends meet.

Our prayers could go on, and I hope yours will. As I was reflecting on the time I had with our community at that worship service I was reminded of Kurt Bestor's song *Prayer of the Children*. He composed this over 30 years ago and when asked why, here is what he said: "But none of my compositions has had the kind of reach and emotional effect of *Prayer of the Children*. Ironically, I never intended to publish the song at all. I wrote it out of frustration over the horrendous civil war and ethnic cleansing taking place in the former country of Yugoslavia." If you have time, I would encourage you to search on-line for a recorded version of this beautiful song. Try to find Singing Brothers of Stillwell and their recording from 2018. Wow.

Here are some of the lyrics of this powerful song.

Can you hear the prayer of the children?

On bended knee,

in the shadow of an unknown room

Empty eyes with no more tears to cry

Turning heavenward toward the light

Crying Jesus, help me*

To see the morning light-of one more day

But if I should die before I wake,

I pray my soul to take

Indeed our prayers, actions and work must continue to go on. May you be empowered to find ways to tend to these among us, listening to their prayers and knowing we can be the hands and feet of Jesus tending to their needs.

✝ 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 May we will be gathering at Keller Golf Course (2166 Maplewood Drive in Maplewood) at 11:30 am on May 2.

Ordination

Dear Siblings in Christ,

What a joy to have you all celebrating my ordination! Thank you to all who showed up at the service. For all who sent their words of encouragement. And for all who even thought about it. You all make up my cloud of witnesses. Those who are surrounding me with your persistence and faith that God is really at work in this world and we in the church are called to be a part of that. It is an honor to have been called by people in the church and the Holy Spirit into the role of pastor to walk alongside you all as we see what God has in store next for us.

During the sermon at my ordination service, Pastor Jodi Houge shared a story about two marathon runners. One was looking rather strong. The other was definitely struggling. The stronger of the two lagged behind just a bit and waved his arms to get the crowd's attention and pointed at his friend who was struggling to keep going. The crowd cheered for that runner. The friend waved his arms again and pointed, asking the crowd to cheer louder. The crowd did. And they witnessed the effect take hold in the struggling runner's body as his steps became stronger and his head lifted. Then Pastor Jodi asked who among the assembly would be willing to be that sort of support for me while I am in this life of ministry. As I looked around... so many of you had your hands up. It was humbling. It was such a gift to be surrounded by you all who are willing to acknowledge how hard ministry can be for pastors sometimes, and be willing to encourage and support me through it. What

Thoughts from Pastor Ruthie

a blessing this congregation is to your pastors. And this week, as I recover from the joyous day of ordination and walk with the families of Diane Hedenstad and Gary Vietor as they plan their loved ones' funerals, I am so thankful that Christian congregations like this exist. It is part of the life of the church to show up for one another so none of us have to face the hard times alone. We can continue to share the promise of Jesus that whatever feels like it is the end, when it feels like death has won and we cannot go on, that is where Jesus surprises us with healing and new life. And we are willing to accept that it takes some time. Jesus walks along the road of grief with us. Jesus walks along in our life struggles. And Jesus transforms them into something new.

I want to leave you with the words of Hebrews 12:1-2 from *The Message* translation. "Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in." We are in this race together. Sometimes running, sometimes stumbling. But always in it together. Giving thanks to those who have gone before us. Making sure we are bringing along those who travel with us. Hoping to make the path better for those that come after us. Thank you for being the ones I have the privilege to travel with.

✠ Peace,
Pastor Ruthie Mhanga



Worship Schedule

OUR LIFE TOGETHER MAY 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. Our summer worship schedule begins May 19 with a single 10:00 am worship service.

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

- May 1** **Wednesday Worship w/ Communion - 6:00 pm (Chapel)**
- May 5** **Traditional Worship — 9:00 am (Sanctuary)**
Contemporary Worship — 11:15 am (Luther Hall)
EASTER VI
- May 8** **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (Chapel)**
- May 12** **Traditional Worship — 9:00 am (Sanctuary)**
Contemporary Worship — 11:15 am (Luther Hall)
EASTER VII
- May 15** **Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm (Chapel)**
- May 19** **Single Worship Service — 10:00 am (Sanctuary) - SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS**
DAY OF PENTECOST CELEBRATING SHERRIE NORDQUIST
- May 22** **Wednesday Worship — 6:00 pm (Chapel)**
- May 26** **Single Worship Service — 10:00 am (Luther Hall)**
HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY
- May 29** **Wednesday Worship — 6:00 pm (Chapel)**

May 19 — Celebrating Sherrie Nordquist

We will have one worship service at 10:00 am followed by a luncheon in Luther Hall to celebrate the incredible ministry of Sherrie Nordquist as she transitions into retirement.

More information to follow, 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

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



Open Table

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

May 5 - Youth and Parents Meeting with Pastor Ruthie

May 12 - Collaborate Confirmation with Pastor Ruthie

May 19 - Pentecost!
One worship service at 10 am.
No Confirmation Class

May 26 - Summer Schedule
No Confirmation/Youth class



Sunday School for May

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

May 5
The Holy Spirit Came Down
Acts 10:44-48

May 12
Matthias the Apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

May 19
Pentecost!
One worship service at 10 am

No Sunday School
May 26 - Summer Schedule
No Sunday School



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 May 5!



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

 **Lutheran Campus Ministry | TWIN CITIES**
324 HARVARD ST SE, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

Death Cafe

An open, honest discussion about death, grief, loss, and the meaning they can bring to our lives.

Gustavus Adolphus
Lutheran Church
May 30th



Presented by the East Side Collaborative
Open to all

Questions? Email Jacob at jsummersville001@luthersem.edu

April 15, 2024

Dear Friends at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the board of directors, we are so grateful for your recent contribution to Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities in the amount of \$1,065.00. Your gift, at this particular time, is so meaningful to us – it makes it possible for us to continue to reach out to young people on the campus of the University of Minnesota. YOU make it possible for us to step forward in hope.

We remain grateful for the gifts and energy of the incredible students who, generation after generation, discern God’s call to our ministry, and faithfully lead in this context which is always shifting and changing. We look forward to celebrating new beginnings!

We are grateful for the many connections that have sustained our students and this ministry through the last year. We give thanks, always, for the ways the Holy Spirit moves in individual lives and in Christian community. We give thanks for the new connections that were formed among students this year, and the ways our returners are eager to welcome new people into a community which embodies God’s grace and warmth.

Servant leaders remain the hands and feet and beating heart within and outside of our community. It is their resilience that sustained our community, and their grit which will help us deepen and expand the warmth and welcome of Christ on campus next fall through creative outreach, small group leadership, 1:1 conversations, community building events, and service opportunities.

We continue to give thanks for the interest in and commitment of our students to “being the church” in so many ways. As our ministry grows and deepens on campus, so does our ability to extend God’s love and care to the broader community.

We couldn’t do this without YOU. Thank you, again, for your contribution!

God’s peace to you,

Pastor Kate
Pastor Kate Reuer Welton

Thank you!

GA College and Beyond Graduates!

If you or someone in your family will be a college graduate this spring/summer, please let us know. Attention new college students: The Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Endowment Fund provides scholarships for those attending post secondary education programs. We are asking applicants to write something about their faith and life to share in the church newsletter. Applications are due June 30, 2024. APPLY ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/gachurchscholarship>

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS MAY 19 SINGLE 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORSHIP AT SAINT ANDREWS

All are invited to join as we gather for worship on Friday, May 10 at 7:00 pm, for the opening of this year’s synod assembly....it’s a wonderful experience!



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

MAY SPECIAL CONCERN GIVING: OPEN TABLE



Open Table has become an incredible ministry over the last years, now serving on average 150 meals every week. There is no hidden agenda...if you are hungry we want to feed you. Some are hungry for food...some are hungry for company... we hope to satisfy all who cross the threshold at GA. We don't know any better way to follow Jesus' teachings than that.

But Open Table is not free. In addition to food purchases, each week, we've also had to invest in our kitchen to make this whole thing work...but work it does. We encourage you to make a financial gift to Open Table in May or at any time of the year...also, please consider volunteering! It is an exceptionally rewarding experience. Thank you for your support.

CAMP ONOMIA 2024

Camp is not just for kids - it's 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.? Check out the 2024

Camp brochure found at the Welcome Center for details about these amazing camp opportunities.



Camp Onomia offers a life changing experience which invites all people to encounter Christ through creation and community.

ONOMIA WORKDAY - Saturday, May 4!

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 9: am - 3: pm. 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

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH LIBRARY!

GA Church Library May Spotlight: PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

Check out these books available in our church library...



Adult: *Dog Stories* by Richard Olsenius

Through personal accounts and insightful photographs, Richard Olsenius explores the deep and lasting bond between humans and dogs. The author is the son of GA's Pastor Emeritus, Lemman Olsenius.

Youth: *Racing in the Rain: My Life as a Dog* by Garth Stein

This novel is told through the voice of Enzo, the dog who takes on his family's challenges and emerges a hero. An adaptation for young people of the New York Times adult novel - *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

Children: *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca

When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that. Her unique mind allowed her to connect with animals in a special way, helping her invent groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe!

SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY PLANNING

Mark your calendar for Sunday May 5th at 10:10am for you and your youth to come to the summer youth ministry planning meeting. Bring your summer calendar and hopes for summer programming. The plan is to get some campfires, service days, and fun outings scheduled together.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GA GARAGE SALE IS MAY 17 & 18

COLLECTION DATES AND TIMES

Monday May 13 through Wednesday May 15
10:00 am until 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm

SALE DATES AND TIMES

Friday, May 17 • 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday May 28 • 9:00am – 2:00 pm

ITEMS ACCEPTED

GOOD usable clothing, household items, sporting goods, tools...use your judgement.
NO computers, printers, TVs or electronics.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer.
Visit the Signup Genius page to sign up online (use QR code)
or sign up at The Welcome Desk at church.



Son of the Congregation Graduates from Seminary

Curtiss Peterson will graduate on May 12, 2024, with a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. A baptized and confirmed member of GustavusAdolphus, Curtiss served in various roles including counselor at church camps and acolyte coordinator. He is the son of Len & Janet Peterson. Through Wartburg Seminary's Collaborative Learning Program, he was able to attend classes remotely while living with his family (wife Anna, son Zeke) in Dilworth, Minnesota. The Gustavus Adolphus Congregation supported Curtiss's education throughout his seminary journey. Join us in celebrating Curtiss Peterson!



INVITE PASTOR RUTHIE!

Spring is upon us! Along with that comes performances and other events for our youth! Pastor Ruthie would love to get to know you better and come and support our youth in their plays, recitals, tournaments, and other events. Please send Pastor Ruthie an email with the event details and she will let you know if she can attend! ruthiem@gachurch.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

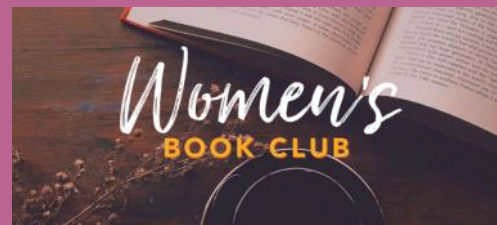


**Wednesday Morning
In Person Bible Study
at 11:00 am**

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 May 28 at 1:00 pm in the Church Library. We will be discussing *The Atomic City Girls* by Janet Beard. Readers are asked to find their own copy of the book at their local library or bookstore. Please contact Carol Sandberg for more information.

BREWING



FAITH

We meet on the second Thursday of each month for Brewing Faith. Please join us at Jimmy's in Vadnais Heights on **Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm**. We will have one of the private party rooms reserved for our group.

Gustavus Zoom Book Club

Join us on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 pm online. Our book this month is *Of White Ashes* by Constance Hays Matsumoto and Ken Matsumoto. This is a WWII historical novel based on a true event. RSVP to Sherrie Nordquist at sherrie@gachurch.org to receive the Zoom link.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER



MAY BIRTHDAYS AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

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

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TEAM?

At Gustavus, one of the ministry opportunities we offer is inviting you to be a Eucharistic Minister. *What is the Eucharistic Ministry?* This is a program in which Gustavus Members who feel called to serve in this way, can visit homebound members and bring them Holy Communion. These visits typically take place once a month and are scheduled at a time that works for both of you. If you are interested in joining this team and becoming a Eucharistic Minister, please reach out to Nancy Johnson (651-483-1490) or Gwen Michaelson (651-771-1893).

The Children Youth and Family Committee is partnering with FamFare Kitchen for a fundraiser this spring. They will create homemade and ready to eat meals for pick up at church on May 21 and will give a portion of the sales to Gustavus Adolphus. More details to follow!



LEND A HAND...MAY 4, 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
Emily Harrison, Finance Manager	finance@gachurch.org 651.289.9885
Rob Sebo Lubke, Office Administrator/Communication Specialist	rob@gachurch.org 651.289.9884
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Neil Jones, 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