

BRAVE

CREATED

TO

BE

FREE

*authentic*

Change

GENEROUS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2024

## Thoughts from Pastor John

### **Hey, GA, what else?**

A few weeks back, on Sunday October 13th, I preached a sermon I titled 'Hey, John, what else?' It fell as part of our fall theme-***Created to Be***. That day was dedicated to ***Created to be Generous***. In that sermon I took some time to talk about the ways in which I observe Gustavus Adolphus living out the call to be generous with all which God has entrusted us.

Together we raised over \$2,500 for students that are attending secondary school in Tanzania, through our efforts of Bite's for Tanzania. It was through your generosity that we were able to resurface our north parking lot at a cost of over \$80,000. This parking lot allows us to continue to be a place of welcome, where all who show up can be safe.

***What else?*** This is a church that is generous with a spirit of inclusion and welcome. Holding onto the promise that we are called to be a community that leads with the love of Christ and welcoming to anyone who shows up. To be honest, I could go on with my ***What Elses?*** This church gets it, it has and will continue to find ways to be generous people with all which God has entrusted us. This is what I ended the sermon with, when you asked ***Hey John, what else?...YOU TELL ME...and I mean it.***

As great as it is to celebrate what we have done, we are the people of God and God continues to call us forward and asking ***Hey, GA, what else?***

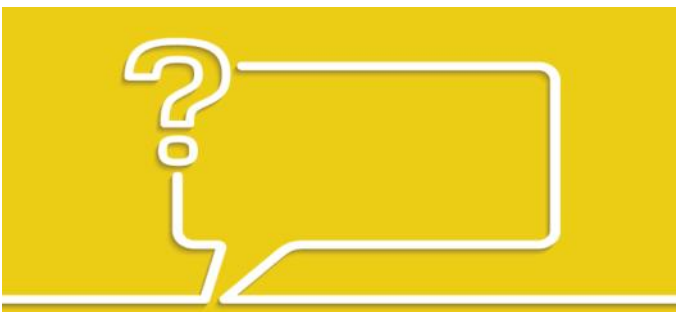
The reality of this congregation understanding its mission and call all came into clear view on Tuesday, October 22. As you may know Joe Norquist, a 95 year old life long member of Gustavus Adolphus, had died. We gathered together as a community to celebrate Joe's life and give God thanks for the gift of Joe in our presence. But here is what dawned on me... through out Joe's life GALC has done a lot of amazing things and has had lasting impacts on the community around us. Our church has changed drastically in 95 years. However, the one thing that has been true and that we have always of ourselves, is ***Hey, GA, what else?***

Throughout our history we have said goodbye to many, amazing people who have helped us answer the question of ***Hey, GA, what else?*** Through ***you*** we will be able to answer this question once again...as we live into who God is calling us to be.

I will be sending you additional information in November, sharing with you some lofty goals for our ministry in 2025. Although aggressive, I am confident we each can step up in new ways that will stretch us and allow us to achieve our goals.

We are, indeed, ***Created to be Generous***. I am excited to see the ways in which God is going to use us and allow us continue to be a church which has much to celebrate.

✝ Your Partner on the Journey,  
Pastor John Hierlinger



## Thoughts from Pastor Ruthie

Dear Siblings in Christ

Many of our Sunday School families are attending worship in Luther Hall and our playground is often full. One of my favorite things to watch over there is all of the movement!

Now there are many of us who grew up being told to sit still and be quiet in church. There is a gift to learning how to be calm and sit still, but I have been pondering the importance of movement and dance for the healing of our bodies and souls.

During my year on internship, I did a project exploring how church communities can help people process the trauma of the pandemic. I was captured by the research that insisted that trauma and healing need to happen in and through our physical bodies, not just in our logical thinking brains. Dance and movement were often cited as a space for individuals to express feelings and experiences that words cannot capture. By engaging in physical expression, people are able to release pent-up emotions and trauma that otherwise gets trapped in our very bodies.

I believe the ways we practice worship together through singing, swaying our bodies, and clapping together in rhythm is a critical way that we experience a sense of connection and can be a profound means of healing for those of us who gather. The ancient practice of worship has been a source of experiencing the healing power of God throughout generations.

In Christian theology, the incarnation represents God entering into the human experience in the person of Jesus Christ. This act of becoming flesh signifies an intimate connection between the divine and the material world. Through the incarnation, God not only affirms the value of the physical body but also demonstrates a commitment to healing and restoration.

After the Israelites escaped slavery and crossed the Red Sea, Miriam led them in song and dance. King David dances before God in the temple. Many of the Psalms portray singing and dancing. In his book *My Grandmothers Hands* focusing on how race, trauma, and body awareness intersect, Resmaa Menakem writes, *The sound of clapping can become a balm for the soul, a reminder that we are alive, present, and part of something larger.* Such experiences are spiritual, drawing us out of ourselves and connecting us to one another and God.

One of the biggest gifts I have received from being with our partners in Tanzania is the gift of realizing that there are millions of Lutherans that dance in worship. I can't explain it so much in words, but there is power in the act of moving together to the rhythm of music. This past Reformation Sunday it was such a joy to dance in the aisle waving streamers and scarves throughout the congregation.

As we come together in these ways, we enter a space where healing can occur—healing of the individual, the community, and ultimately, a healing that reflects the divine purpose of restoration for all creation. In this beautiful dance of faith, we can experience a deeper connection to the incarnational love of God that seeks to heal and redeem..

✠ Peace,  
Pastor Ruthie



# Worship Schedule

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER NOVEMBER 2024

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

We host two worship services on Sunday mornings. We have a traditional worship service at 9:00 am in the sanctuary, and a more contemporary service at 11:15 am in Luther Hall. We also come together for midweek worship every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm, following our Open Table Meal at 5:00 pm.

- November 3**      **9:00 am Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)**  
**11:15 am Contemporary Worship (Luther Hall)**  
**All Saints Sunday**
- November 6**      **6:00 pm Wednesday Worship (Holden Evening Prayer with Communion)**
- November 10**     **9:00 am Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)**  
**11:15 am Contemporary Worship (Luther Hall)**  
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
- November 13**     **6:00 pm Wednesday Worship (Joyous Light)**
- November 17**     **9:00 am Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)**  
**11:15 am Contemporary Worship (Luther Hall)**  
**Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**1:00 pm Deep Dive, Serving at Interfaith Action of Saint Paul**
- November 20**     **6:00 pm Wednesday Worship (Campfire Worship)**
- November 24**     **9:00 am Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)**  
**11:15 am Contemporary Worship (Luther Hall)**  
**Christ the King Sunday**
- November 27**     **6:00 pm Wednesday Worship (Thanksgiving Eve Service)**

Worship With Us

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

SUPPER IS SERVED 5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM WEDNESDAYS  
 WORSHIP FOLLOWS SUPPER AT 6:00 PM.



Open Table

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! HELP US MAKE OPEN TABLE  
 HAPPEN AT GUSTAVUS! EMAIL NEILJ@GACHURCH.ORG

ALL are welcome!

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### CAMP ONOMIA 2024

#### FALL MEN'S RETREAT

Hey guys-you are invited to a Camp Onomia November 15-17. During the retreat you are invited to enjoy autumn in lake country with Bible studies, free time to fish, or just read a book...a wonderful mix of encouragement and fellowship in our cozy camp setting! The cost for the retreat, which includes all meals and lodging is \$120 per person. Please contact Pastor John (johnh@gachurch.org) if you have questions or are interested in attending.



#### November 3 & 10 — 10:10 am in The Fireside Room

##### **Christian Nationalism: what it is, why it matters and how we can respond.**

American Christians have always struggled with the relationship between church and state. But recently the alignment between right-wing politics and Christianity has taken on a new intensity. This power grab co-opts the language and symbols of Christianity, deceiving many and harming both faith and democracy. (Christian nationalism strongly influenced the Jan. 6, 2021, riot in Washington, D.C.) How do we understand this movement and respond to it?

Over the past two years Pastor Rolf Olson has made over 30 presentations on this topic to metro congregations. On November 3 and 10 he will lead us in a discussion of what “Christian Nationalism” is and why it matters, who’s involved, and ways we can respond.



##### **Presenter's Bio:**

Pastor Olson serves Roseville Lutheran church as visitation pastor after serving several congregations in Wisconsin and Minnesota. He is married and the father of two grown children and grandfather of five.

#### November 17 — 10:10 am in The Fireside Room

##### **Our Church's Namesake: King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden**

Gustavus Adolphus is Latin for Gustav II Adolf, King of Sweden from 1611 – 1632, the “Lion of the North” and a military powerhouse during the Thirty Years War.

So why is our church named after him? *The records are silent as to precisely how ‘Gustavus Adolphus’ was chosen, and what other names were considered, but we may agree that the new congregation chose well.*

- from the book *Gustavus Adolphus, 1889-1989 100 Years in Christ.*

Learn more about how this unlikely figure sparks big important questions yet today, especially today – about faith, power, war and freedom. We’ll discuss how those forces continue to affect us as people of faith -- and others.

Presenter's Bio: Monika Strom is a member of GA who recently traveled to Sweden and has done some research about who our church is named after. She is excited to share what she has learned with our congregation and lead a discussion with Pastor Ruthie Mhanga about what this might mean for us today.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## Deep Dive Youth Event for Grades 6 — 12 Sunday November 17, 1:30 pm — 3:00 pm

We are gathering with other Lutheran youth at Central Presbyterian Church. We will learn about and do a service project with Faithful Hospitality, a program of Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. Faithful Hospitality provides mobile shelter to help asylum-seeking families who are experiencing homelessness. Central Presbyterian is the location of the daytime shelter. Next Month: On December 15 we'll attend the 4:00pm performance of *Black Nativity at Penumbra Theater*.



**We are continuing to ask questions about the creed as we meet Sunday mornings at 10:10am.**

**November 3** — The Creed:

Does God Still Create Stuff Today?

**November 10** — The Creed:

Did Jesus know he was God?

**November 17** — The Creed:

If Jesus was God, why did he have to die?

**November 24** — The Creed:

The Holy Spirit-Wind/Spirit/Fire/What?

## Sunday School for Children Pre-K — Grade 5

Sundays 10:10 am — 11:00 am

We are talking about Famous Pairs:

November 3: Naomi & Ruth

November 10: David & Goliath

November 17: Elijah & The Widow

November 24 Jonah & The Fish

### Can You Help with Snack Donations?

Please drop off any snack donations for our Sunday School and Confirmation classes at Pastor Ruthie's. We are looking for non-perishable including: juice boxes, apple sauce, granola bars, fruit snacks, goldfish crackers...

Thank You!



**A Time for Families and Our Little Ones , Birth through Age Three**  
10:10 am —11:00am  
Join us on November 10 in the GA library.

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

*Advent*  
*A Season of Hope  
 & Expectation*

### Save the Date for the Advent Senior Moments Luncheon

Join us for our annual **Senior Moments Advent Luncheon** on **Saturday, December 7th** at **11:00 am**

Keep an eye out for more information about what to expect and how to register.

### Wednesday Worship for Advent

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. During Advent we will be offering two Wednesday worship services. We will gather at 11:00 am followed by soup lunch and homemade sourdough bread. Also, following Open Table, we will gather for worship at 6:00 pm. We hope you will join these worship opportunities as we prepare for the great celebration of Christ's birth.

**NOVEMBER SPECIAL  
 CONCERN GIVING:  
 LSS LIFEHAVEN  
 GIVING TREE  
 YOUR CASH GIFTS HELP  
 THESE FAMILIES  
 CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!**



**Lutheran  
 Social Service  
 of Minnesota**

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. Mothers attend regular parenting and life-skills classes, meet one-on-one with a case manager, and engage in fun and enriching activities. LifeHaven also accepts expecting mothers in their third trimester. The home houses six young families, who can receive support for up to 18 months, and offers on-site employees support 24 hours a day.

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER



# Christmas

# CRAFT SHOW

## AND BAKE SALE

SHOP FOR GIFTS AND HOLIDAY TREATS  
AND SUPPORT LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES!

 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

★ 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1669 ARCADE STREET (AT LARPEN TEUR)  
SAINT PAUL





# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

## All Saints Day

REMEMBERING THE GIANTS OF THE FAITH

*Remembering Especially D.A. Deiman, Norma Walker, Paige Donnelly, Diane Hedenstad, Gary Vietor, Lois Gunter, Alice Dahlblom, Virginia Ringler, Clarence Netwal, Bob Barduson, Audrey Haller, Larry Ottinger, Jr., Robert Sanft III, DeeLynn Nelson, Joe Norquist, and Sandy Blyton.*

Come Worship  
with Us!

### SAVE THE DATE FOR HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

- Thanksgiving Eve, November 27 — 5:00 pm supper, 6:00 pm worship
- Advent Wednesdays — 11:00 am (Soup and Bread Lunch at 11:30 am)  
6:00 pm (Open Table Supper at 5:00 pm)
- Blue Christmas — Wednesday, December 18 6:00 pm
- Lessons and Carols — Sunday, December 15 10:00 am
- Children's Christmas Pageant — Sunday, December 22 10:00 am
- Christmas Eve, December 24 — 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm



# 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 am on Wednesdays in the Library. We hope to see you there.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our GA church library has an extensive collection of books for all ages!

On display this month you'll find a large number of high quality illustrated books for young readers highlighting the diversity of our community!

Have you ever checked out a book from our library? Start a new habit next time you're at church!



**COME VISIT THE  
CHURCH LIBRARY**

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**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, November 14 at 6:00 pm**. We will have one of the private party rooms at Jimmy's reserved for our group.

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

1	Bruce Pelava	14	James McCann	21	Eric Buzay
	Keith Schmalzbauer	15	Neal Lund		LaDonna Osborne
3	Thomas Miller		Trevor Lund	22	Diane DePover
4	Sharon Johnson	16	Joshua Lindgren		Chris Young
5	Anita Klein	18	Lillian Bloom	23	Madeline Holthaus
6	Rene Hathaway		Thomas Nelson		Lukas Miller-Sederstrom
9	Jerry Stern		Kinley Svendsen	24	Karen Netwal
11	Harold Froelich		Anna Wegscheider	25	Barb Holmstrom
	Donna Viker	19	Michael Domagall	28	Alex Damico
13	Len Peterson		Gene Haugen	30	Christine Patino
14	Nancy Anderson		Verilyn Pelava		
	Cindy Higgins		Sally Young		

## Gustavus Adolphus Lunch Bunch — Johnny's Kitchen & Bar

If you are interested in joining together with other people from GA for lunch, the Lunch Bunch gathers together once a month.

We meet again on November 7 at 11:30 am at Johnny's at 1900 County Rd D East.



## AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

meets Tuesday, November 26 at 1:00 pm in the GA library.

## EVENING BOOK CLUB

meets Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 pm at a member's home.



**Baking ingredients donations needed! GA families will be invited to a baking party (details to come) in order to make baked goods to sell at the Craft Show. Support this effort by donating flour, brown and white sugar, eggs or butter!**



LEND A HAND...NOVEMBER 2

9:00 AM — 12:00 PM

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](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))



### 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](mailto:johnh@gachurch.org)**

## Church Staff & Contact Information

The Rev. John Hierlinger, Senior Pastor	<a href="mailto:johnh@gachurch.org">johnh@gachurch.org</a> 651.289.9880
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Kevin Berglund, Lynn Holmes, Hugo Bustos Custodians	<a href="mailto:custodians@gachurch.org">custodians@gachurch.org</a> 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](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.** 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