

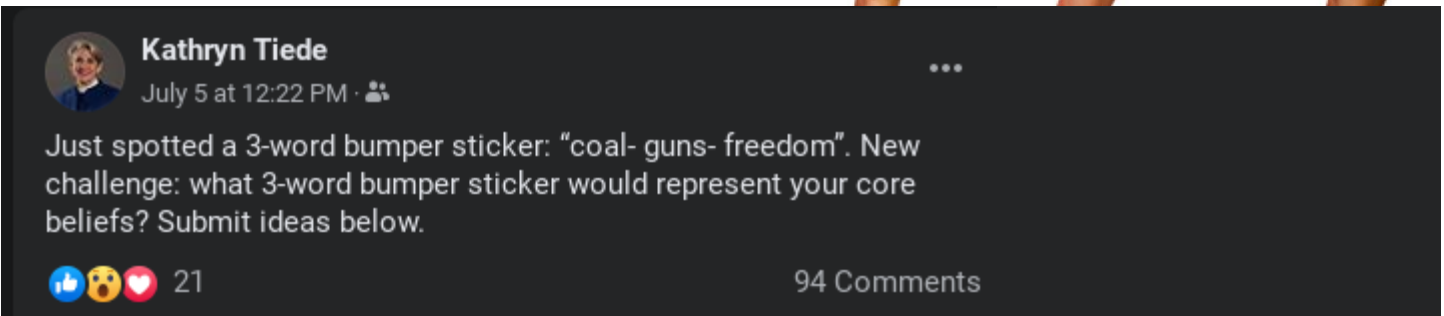


GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2020

Thoughts from Pastor John

A couple weeks ago, I was struck by a Facebook post shared by a friend and colleague of mine. Kathryn Tiede is a Lutheran pastor serving at Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota as the Associate Vice President of Philanthropy.



This post really got me thinking. If I were to create a bumper sticker, that could only use three words, to represent my core beliefs, what would I choose?

I suspect your three words wouldn't be "coal-guns-freedom." What would they be?

Part of my struggle is simply narrowing it down to just three words. Right away, I started creating my list of words, some of which included:

Community

Equality

Justice

Disciple

Follower

Leader

Service

Coffee

Fishing

Camping

Vacation

Madeline Island

Ministry

Twins (the baseball team, not multiple children)

Family

to be honest, the list could go on.

This exercise though requires deeper reflection than creating a list as long as mine, because Pastor Kathryn ask for core values and wondered with her Facebook community is it possible to narrow it to just three.

Have you been able to narrow it down, what did you choose? Really, I'd like to hear from you and what you choose for your three words. What three words best reflect your core values, those things that matter the most?

For me-today-this is what I chose:
Service-Community-Family



Your Partner on the Journey,
Pastor John



Thoughts from Pastor Amanda

This is a strange world that we live in . . . in some ways daily living feels just like normal (aka pre-pandemic) as I wash dishes, walk the dog, care for my children, and spend Wednesdays on-site at our church facility. And then there are the other ways in which everything seems topsy-turvy . . . the Zoom video calls and phone calls instead of in person conversations and gatherings, parking lot worship services in which I can see you yet have to maintain physical distance, wearing a mask everywhere and washing hands a thousand times a day (a slight exaggeration), and wondering constantly if a cough or sore throat or fatigue means it's Covid-19 or if it's just a regular, common cold or so many other viruses that exist.

On top of all of that our society seems to be at this moment of massive change in which we're trying to figure out who we are as a nation. What sins from the past aren't yet in the past? How do we confess and repent? What ideals do we hold dear? I'm still hopeful that the Declaration of Independence's words hold true as shared ideals: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men (ahem, all people) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. What do we do as a nation, as a community, as a congregation, when some people's pursuit of happiness and liberty infringes upon other people's right towards life and liberty? There are so many layers of reflection and action for us as Americans right now and I'm grateful that you are digging into them too, for our Christian discipleship calls us to care for our neighbor's justice and liberty as much as our own.

As I write this article the news of the death of Congressman John Lewis is very fresh. Rep. John Lewis was a hero of mine. His persona, words, actions, and faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ and love of neighbor have always instructed and inspired me. Even though I'm in my mid-thirties now, I still think, "When I grow up I want to be just like John Lewis!" Well, I am a grown-up (mostly) and I too can pick up the mantle of faithfulness to this beautiful idea, really a God-created idea, that all people are valuable and worthy of human rights. Rest in peace, John Lewis, and thank you for so faithfully following Jesus Christ.

Who are the heroes and saints of your life who have embodied Christ for you?

What are you struggling with the most in this season of pandemic and national wrestling with identity?

I encourage you to reflect upon these questions and to sit down and pray over them. Trust that God hears your prayers.

And please know that Pr. John and I are available to listen too.



Peace be with you,
Pastor Amanda.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY



Camp Onomia has a new online camp store! Check out the site and order a camp t-shirt or other gear for all ages. Your purchases will help support camp during this year of financial challenges!

<https://camponomia.square.site/>

TAKE OUT CHURCH BOXES for GA children and their families!

Take out Church is a way for GA families to bring faith to life with them on vacation this Summer. In this box are ways to Worship God, Grow as Disciples, and Love our Neighbors. During this summer when we are unable worship in our building, families are worshipping together at home. Stephanie Surine has assembled some awesome activities for GA children and their families including: Beach Ball Thanksgiving, Serve your Neighbor game, Finger Labyrinth, Coloring pages and more surprises! Email Stephanie at stephaniemjiskra@hotmail.com or Sherrie Nordquist sherrie@gachurch.org if you haven't received one and would like a box for your family.

Camp Onomia 2020 Golf Outing (Pandemic Style)

Golf at a time of your choosing... 18 holes of regular golf or mini golf!

Camp Onomia still needs your support in this season of uncertainty. Here is a fun way to let you enjoy your sport while supporting the camp you love. There will be drawings for prizes! This is how it works...

Gather a foursome for 18 holes of golf or mini-golf at a course of your choosing. Set up a date and time to play during the first week of August.

Have someone at the course sign your golf card at the end of the day and mail it to camp. This will be your prize drawing card.

Go to the camp's donation portal online at camponomia.campbraingiving.com and donate \$50 or more per person for the 2020 Golf Outing or mail a check to camp along with your score card by August 12th. Prizes to be awarded by August 15.



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

Update on the GA Gardens

Thank you Grant and Lindsey Siebert for cleaning out the weeds from the community garden!

This last week Grant and Lindsey cleaned out the community garden near the sanctuary so that it may rest for a season as new hopes and visions for its next purpose arise. For five years this garden space provided vegetables and herbs to our local neighbors as a community garden. In preparation for the arrival of our newest tenant Monarch Montessori Preschool and their desire for a playground this space was left unused this summer as a garden. Monarch was eyeing it as a possible playground location. Until Monarch definitely has their new playground in the ground, either at this spot or near the cemetery, our community garden will be in a season of sabbath.

Members have shared a new vision for that space if it's not filled with the sound of children playing on a playground. As Laurie Johnson pondered out loud last winter, "Why not a prayer labyrinth with plants?" Let the visions come forward!

Our newest garden on the north side between the GA north entrance and the Merrick main entrance is our pollinator-friendly memorial garden. Thanks Ted Madison, Diane Giovannzi, Laurie Johnson, Siebert and Himmer families for creating this beautiful space! It's a work in progress with a few years of plantings in the spring to fill in the space. Milkweed, coneflowers, and other perennials and annuals have been planted to attract butterflies and bees. This last week Diane G pointed out to me the monarch butterfly eggs on the plants. We're already helping out our local pollinators! I look forward to this gardens future at GA.



Climb aboard for...ROCKY RAILWAY

Virtual Vacation Bible School

We are joining our friends from
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
in Saint Paul for this online adventure!



August 10-13 (Monday - Thursday)

Online Registration at <https://vbspro.events/p/vbs-galc>

Cost is \$8.00 per student.

(Additional \$7.00 if you would like
a music cd for your family)

Children in Preschool (Age 3) through Grade 5 and their parents. Kids will explore Jesus' power in them and how we can trust Jesus - not our own strength - to pull us through life's challenges. COVID-19 has come through our lives like a freight train and derailed countless plans, routines, and expectations. This summer, more than ever, we all need to trust Jesus' power to pull us through these unique times. Activities will include Sing & Play Express, Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Loco Motion Games and Little Kids Depot story and craft for preschoolers.

Register at www.gachurch.org starting July 1st. You will receive information about a Drive-up date to pick up Stay-On-Track Student Packs. You will also find directions for accessing the videos for each day. Contact Sherrie Nordquist at the church office for more information.

If you would like to be a part of getting VBS on track this year, we will need help with the following (you contact Sherrie if you'd like to help: Assemble Student/Family Packs, Decorating Team (Background Set for Recording), Assist with Pre-Recording Station Leader Segments and Sing & Play Express



THE NEW WAY TO ACCESS SUNDAY WORSHIP AT GA!

CALL 833-452-0202 (IT'S FREE!) AND YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE MOST RECENT WORSHIP SERVICE ANYTIME OR YOU CAN LISTEN LIVE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS STARTING SEPTEMBER 13, 2020. WE HOPE THIS IS ONE MORE WAY WE CAN REACH MORE FOLKS WITH WORSHIP AT GA.



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR EACH SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30 AM

Join us for our weekly coffee hour on Zoom.com!

If you don't have a computer, you can call in!

Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 91801847094

Password: 405261

Hope To See You!



Let's keep camp colorful! It's quiet this summer at Camp Onomia...use your skills to put the color back in camp!



PREPARING FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We continue to move forward with our plans to have in-person worship at Gustavus, starting September 13th. It will be one service that morning at 9:30 a.m. Earlier this summer we sent out a survey to the congregation and as we looked through the results of the survey, it is clear that even if we open back up, many of you are not going to feel comfortable coming back to church until there is a suitable vaccine.

To be best prepared then, our Congregation Council approved the purchasing of audio and visual equipment that will allow us to stream the service live for those of you who have internet access but will be staying home. Additionally, this improvement will record the service so we will be able to post a link to the service if you can't join us through the live feed. Also, we will be able to take the recorded service and distribute it out on cd's like we have been doing. We've also created an option for joining worship by phone.

Not only will this new equipment serve our community and the broader community during the pandemic, but after as well. One example: All of the funerals held at Gustavus will be streamed live, so if there are family members who are unable to attend because they live in other states, they can still participate in the service. As we get closer to September 13th, we will communicate with you on how to watch the live stream so everyone can stay connected.

JOIN US FOR IN-CHURCH WORSHIP!

WELCOME

Home

Attention: Email Scam using Pastor John's Name

We want to let you know that Pastor John's email address book has been hacked and the hackers are using the list to try to get you to buy gift cards. Please, if you get this email, don't do it. If Pastors John or Amanda need your help with giving money to a project or buying gift cards we will call you instead of using email, to make sure something like this doesn't happen again.



Below are a couple of the emails that were sent to one of our members, you can see how sneaky they are. They made it look like Pastor John sent the email. They even included a scripture verse from Isaiah.

Email One: On 7/8/2020 9:19 AM, Rev. John Hierlinger wrote:

Do you have a moment I have a request I need you to handle discreetly. I am currently busy in a prayer session, no calls so just reply my email.

Sent from my Mail

--

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Response 1:

I will try to help if it is something I can do from home

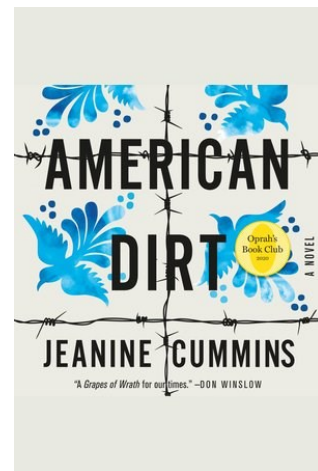
Email 2: On 7/8/2020 9:37 AM, Rev. John Hierlinger wrote: GREAT! Thank you for responding. Here's what I want you to do for me because i'm a little busy right now. I have been working on incentives and I aimed at surprising some of our diligent staffs with gift cards this week. This should be Confidential until they all have the gift cards as it's a surprise. Can you get this done? and how soon?

We're sorry that this has happened.



Fall Book Club: American Dirt

American Dirt, a fictional novel by author Jeanine Cummins, was the highlighted book of Oprah's Book Club in 2020 and is a New York Times Bestseller book. Author Stephen King's review on the novel's back cover states, "A perfect balancing act with terror on one side and love on the other. I defy anyone to read the first seven pages of this book and not finish it. The prose is immaculate, and the story never lets up. On a micro scale - the story scale, where I like to live, it's one hell of a novel about a goodwoman on the run with her beautiful boy. It's marvelous." American Dirt tells the story of Lydia and her son as they leave behind their middle-class life in Mexico and migrate to the United States due to violence from the cartel.



This fall you are invited to participate in an online book club to read and discuss this fictional account inspired by real stories of countless migrants to the United States. Together we'll immerse ourselves in the world of Lydia and her son, opening ourselves to a world we may not be familiar with personally.

As a part of our conversation and experiential immersion, we'll also ground ourselves in scripture and the ELCA's social message on immigration as we reflect upon our own ideology and theology and immigration.

If you're interested in participating in this fall book club please contact me at a.simons@gachurch.org.

Currently, I envision this online book club meeting weekly for six weeks for an hour long conversation on a Tuesday or Thursday evening, beginning mid-September. The day of the week and time would be dependent upon the composition of the group members. A reading guide and timeline will be emailed to all participants by September 1st.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Curtice Bergman
Sandra Durand
Courtney Otto

2 Dorrine Foster
Charles Woods

3 Stephen Treanor

4 John Doiron

5 Ryan Carlson
Elijah Richie

6 Matthew Schulke

8 Eric Albrecht
Julia Bjorkland
Nancy Jones

9 Mike Lipetzky
Nancy Nelson
Andrea Simmer

11 Travis Goepfert
Liam Mader
Rose Madison
Jak Simpson
Katherine Stachowiak

12 Rich Engelstad
Brian Hanson
Tyler James
Laurie Johnson

13 Michael Richie

14 Ericka Coffelt
Marco Reistad

15 Mark Borglum
Riley Estes
Sandra Prohofsky
Marlys Siverson

17 Danielle Carlson
Theodore Drake

18 Jackson Bjorklund
Alyssa Downwind
Andrew Stachowiak

19 Claudia Ryan
Steven Stachowiak

20 Sharen Dahm

21 Maddex Nielsen

22 Rick McMillan

23 George Carlson
Barbara Gawtry
Eric Hassenstab

24 Mary Donnelly
Steven Hayne

25 Yim Meej Her

26 Mia Carlson
Diana Williams

27 Amanda Olson
Elaine Rhode

28 Kirsten Gustafson
Gayle Herr
Sarah Nevin

29 Matthew O'Brien
Joan Sigmundik

30 Phyliss Kendig

31 Lucille Asp
Anna Himmer
Kylie Jones
Carter Krueger
Anthony Rees

*Happy
Birthday*

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



AUGUST 2020

Sunday, August 2	8:00 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Summer Road Trip: Glacier National Park Suzie Johnson, <i>Preaching</i>
Wednesday, August 5	6:00 pm Drive-In Worship (South Lot)
Sunday, August 9	8:00 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Summer Road Trip: Bryce Canyon Diane Giovanazzi & Ted Madison, <i>Preaching</i>
Wednesday, August 12	6:00 pm Drive-In Worship (South Lot)
Sunday, August 16	8:00 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Summer Road Trip: Voyageurs National Park Eric Hassenstab, <i>Preaching</i>
Wednesday, August 19	6:00 pm Drive-In Worship (South Lot)
Sunday, August 23	8:00 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Summer Road Trip: Rocky Mountains National Park Sherrie Nordquist, <i>Preaching</i>
Wednesday, August 26	6:00 pm Drive-In Worship (South Lot)
Sunday, August 30	8:00 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Summer Road Trip: Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks John Hierlinger, <i>Preaching</i>

*Communion will be celebrated at all Sunday morning worship services.
Communion will be celebrated at every other Wednesday evening service.
In August, these Wednesdays are August 12 and July 26.*



INTRODUCING A NEW WAY TO
JOIN SUNDAY WORSHIP AT GA —
ANY PHONE! CALL 833-452-0202.
IT'S A FREE CALL...YOU CAN
LISTEN TO THE MOST RECENT
SERVICE OR YOU CAN LISTEN
LIVE ON SUNDAYS BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020!



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. Amanda Simons, Associate Pastor	a.simons@gachurch.org 651.289.9881
Sherrie Nordquist, Director of Christian Education	sherrie@gachurch.org 651.289.9882
Maggie Kidnie, Interim Business Administrator	maggie@gachurch.org 651.289.9885
Rob Sebo Lubke, Office Administrator/Communication Specialist	rob@gachurch.org 651.289.9884
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Kevin Berglund, Jerry Martin, Andy Pahl 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

Be safe. We love you

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 regular weekly or monthly offering.
- **Stock Transfer to the church.**

For more information, contact Paul Thorson in the business office at 651.289.9885.