

OCTOBER 2020

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DRIVE-IN
WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OCTOBER**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION RESUMES...OUTSIDE!**

ONLINE WORSHIP GOES LIVE IN THE SANCTUARY!

Thoughts from Pastor John

One of the many tasks that families have to do at the time of death of a loved one is to clean out the person's apartment or home of all their belongings. If you have done this, you know this is not an easy task. It's a matter of processing through items that should be kept and those items that will be donated to Goodwill. For the items that are kept, it then takes time to sort out which family member gets to keep which items. The items that are kept are items that have either can be used in our home or have significant sentimental value. This is a process that my dad and his brother and sister are currently going through after the death of their mom and my grandmother-Pat.

As her grandson I, too, have participated in the sorting out of belongings. We have brought to our house my grandma's dresser that she has had in her bedroom for as long as I can remember. My son Will is in need of a new dresser and it will fit perfectly in his room. Samantha, my daughter, brought home a wheelchair that my grandma had. Don't ask-she has plans for this as a prop in the plays that she does in our basement theater. These are the items we can put to use.

I also brought home a painting that hung in my grandparents kitchen once they got it from my grandma's parents after they died. It's a picture that I love and can recall the many times I talked about the painting with my grandma. As you can see in the picture, the painting is of my great-grandpa John Speir, who I am named after, and me walking hand in hand out to their chicken coop which was on their farm. A quick note about the picture, my dad just discovered and gave it to me. It is from Fathers Day 1981, I was three, and was with my great-grandpa when he opened the painting which he received as a gift. The painting was done by a family member and it is my favorite item out of my grandparents' home. I am so thankful to have it now in our home.

This is my item and I am sure each of you have cherished items that came from your great-grandparents, grandparents or parents' houses.

Of course it's not about these items at all, but instead it is about the memories that the items bring you back to. The times you shared, the lessons you learned and the love you exchanged. For me and maybe for you as well, this painting reminds me of Hebrews 12:1-*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

I am overly blessed to have had the witnesses of faith that I have had in my life. I fully recognize not everyone is so fortunate. Some don't have extended family that are or were in your life. Some do have extended family but for many reasons those relationships are strained or don't even exist. I am grateful to God for the gifts of these people in my life. The ways God used these people to support me and my faith development. My life is full and I am so thankful for these people and all they gave and the ways they still live in me.

Today we can give thanks for our cloud of witnesses and at the same time recognize the witness we are giving and sharing with those in our lives. We are called to live out our faith in a way that allows God's love to be relieved in the way we welcome the stranger, care for the outcast and those who are in need.

That's the beauty of faith-we get to receive and then we get to give. Continue to pray for the ways God is using you and the way you are giving witness to God's love and grace.

✠ Your Partner on the Journey,
John Hierlinger



Thoughts from Pastor Amanda

What does it mean to live generously?

Whenever I think of generosity, my mind immediately envisions the Thrivent Financial *Live Generously* t-shirts. Their slogan is catchy and memorable AND the t-shirts are the softest shirts I've ever worn. (If you don't have one and would like one, contact me and I'll double-check our church closet to see if we have your size in stock...I bet we do). The slogan easily reminds the wearer of the importance of generosity in every aspect of our living, as we're disciples of Christ in everything we do. For me, it's become even more of a reality in my life these past few years.

At the beginning of our marriage David and I had very open conversations around finances, budgeting, goals and values. The year before the birth of our daughter Violet we met with a Thrivent financial advisor to guide us through the next financial steps of our adulting, and hopefully, parenting future. At our first meeting with our advisor we were asked to choose our values and then discuss them together. Then to name out loud our goals and financial fears. It was a transformative experience for us, and, is one we now regularly engage in together without the guidance of a financial advisor. Our advisor opened our eyes and hearts to see what it means for us to live generously and how we can faithfully do that together.

For us living generously means providing for our family from providing stability for our kids and saving money for them to attend college to having the resources to retire in our older years and to help our parents out as they age. For us it means making intentional choices that reflect our values...from being sustaining members of Minnesota Public Radio to giving to our congregation to putting solar panels on our home and going green as much as we can.

For us it means demonstrating compassion and advocating for justice, it means caring about the wellbeing of our community and being involved in decision making that affects our broader community.

What does it mean to live generously to you? I welcome your answers! I'm learning how to live generously too. I find it's often a daily choice I have to make. I keep trying though, because I remember and hold fast to these words: **Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.**

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

✝ Peace be with you,
Pastor Amanda.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday School at Home in October

Watch for an e-mail with a recorded video of the Bible story and a message from Pastor John, Pastor Amanda or Sherrie! Open your Faith Kit to find leaflets, directions and craft supplies, family conversation pages and a service project idea. A BIG THANK YOU to Cyndi Blume and Cynthia Olson-Crayne for preparing this month's Sunday School at Home activities!

October 4 - Parable of the Vineyard
(Matthew 21:33-46)

God asks us to take care of God's world and people

October 11 - The Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

God invites us all to love and be loved.

October 18 - Paying Taxes (Matthew 22:15-22)

God made you + Jesus says *Give to God the things that are God's*
Give yourself to God

October 25 - The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34-46)

Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbors.

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ HOME

Wednesdays at GA

6:00 pm Drive-In Worship

Children, Youth & Family Groups

*Outdoor, socially distanced,
in-person with masks*

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm **KINGS** (Kids IN God's Service)

for children in grades K-5

Confirmation Meetings for youth in grades 6-8

High School Youth Group



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

Tune in to Table Talk on Sundays in October.

The link to the sessions will be provided each week on Sunday mornings. We will begin at 11:00 a.m. The following are the topics for each Sunday. There will be a presentation each Sunday, followed by discussion on Zoom.

Sunday, October 4 — *Coping with COVID 19*, hosted by Christopher Stordalen

What have you been doing, and what have you learned about yourself during the pandemic? Share whatever you wish. We will also hear a few suggestions about coping in a video presentation.

Sunday, October 11 — *Does Truth Matter Anymore?*, hosted by Arland Hultgren

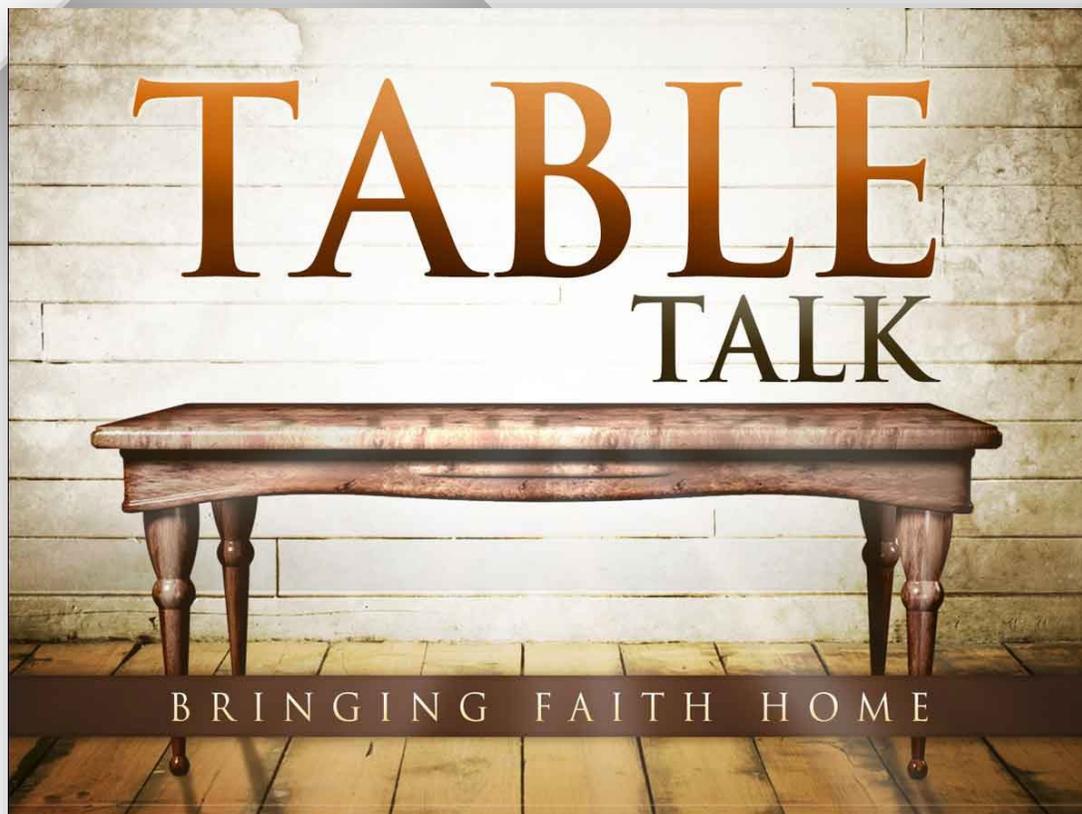
The session starts off with a video on the present as a “post-truth era,” in the view of some, and what that means. In this political season, like any other, truth-telling is important. Is there a problem? If so, can we do anything about it?

Sunday, October 18 — *Meet the Author*, hosted by Christopher Stordalen

Christopher will interview Dr. Joe Norquist, who has written a book, recently published, on *Keeping Faith in the 21st Century: Encouraging Respectful Discussions of 4th Century Beliefs with 21st Century Minds and Hearts*

Sunday, October 25 — Reformation Sunday

The video *Opening the Door to Luther with Rick Steves* will be shown, followed by discussion, hosted by Arland Hultgren. Steves, a major proponent and guide to travel, takes us to major sites in Germany where Luther lived and worked, and he talks about Luther’s activities and teaching in these places.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

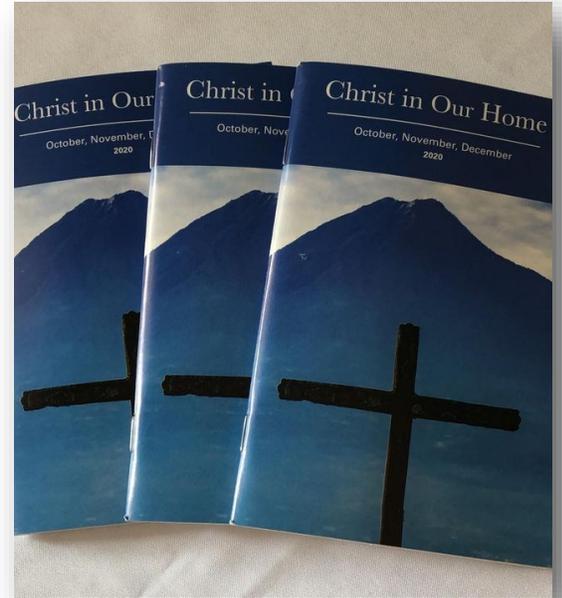
DEVOTIONALS FOR FALL

If you make use of the printed devotional booklets that are commonly available at church...

Please let us know!

We would be happy to mail you printed copies of either of the two devotional series that are regularly available at Gustavus.

Please send an email to church@gachurch.org with your name and address, or call the church at 651-774-5954. Leave a message if no one is on hand.



GA Women's Book Club - October 27 at 1:00 pm

We will gather safely wearing masks and social distancing in the Gathering Space. We will not be able to serve or share food or coffee and tea. October's book selection is *Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn. Readers are asked to find their own copy of the book at their local library or bookstore. Other book selections for our Book Club this year include: *Small Great Things*, Jodi Piccolt, *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, and *Swede Hollow* by Ola Larsmo. Please contact Sherrie Nordquist or Carol Sandberg for more information.



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR EACH SUNDAY MORNING AT 11:00 AM

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

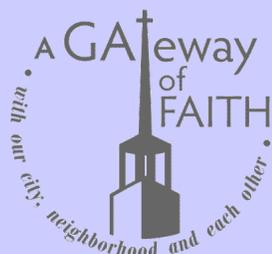
If you don't have a computer, you can call in!

Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 91801847094

Password: 405261

Hope To See You!



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Special gifts needed to support Camp Onomia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

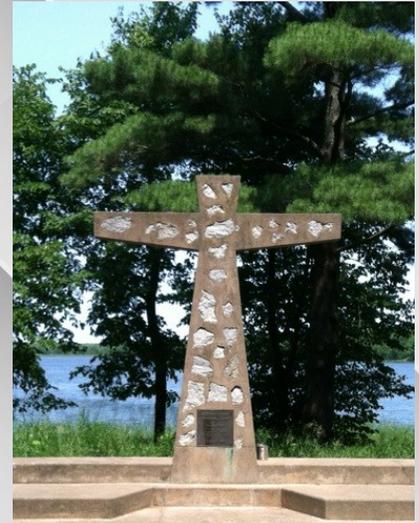
A note from Jim Schmidt, Executive Director, Camp Onomia:

Greetings from the shores of Shakopee!

There is a chill in the air today as seasons begin their shift from summer to fall.

It is also a time of temporary change for your camp.

The COVID pandemic has had significant impact on our financial situation. Our retreat ministries have pretty much been non-existent since March. This fall has seen most of our traditional retreat partners cancel through the winter months. As you know, we had to drop all of our programmed summer camps in 2020, and we are not able to provide our usual programmed retreats into the immediate future. Expectations are such that even summer of 2021 programs will be adversely affected by the pandemic we are in.



Camp is all about interpersonal relationships between campers and campers.

Camp is significant due to trusted interpersonal relationships that occur between campers and summer counselors and other program staff. The pandemic has restricted this core camp experience... for now. Be assured, Onomia will be on the other side of this to pick up where COVID has dropped us during this pandemic.

We are sad that we could be missing seeing you for quite a while!

In order to survive this "financially dry period," your camp Board of Directors have chosen to end the Program Director position until we can again gather campers and guests here for the kind of quality programs you've come to expect from us. Daniel Ditmanson, who has served us faithfully for 4 years will be moving on to new challenges in the next few weeks. He will be deeply missed. Our other part time support staff will only be working on call, and I have voluntarily cut my position of Executive Director to half time through the end of the year. This is all to conserve funds so that we can be ready to provide Summer Camps for you in 2021.

I am SO GRATEFUL for the outpouring of donations by concerned individuals and churches over the past 6 months as we navigate this winding road together. Many individual and several churches have more than doubled their usual annual giving to support Camp Onomia. YOU ARE AMAZING!

I invite you to consider a monthly donation to help see us through the next 6 months. May God grant you peace and health in this extraordinary time.

Until we are again able to safely gather at camp. Peace.

Jim Schmidt,
Executive Director



Sunday, November 1, 2020

Sunday, November 1st is All Saints Sunday. Annually, as a congregation, we remember those from our community who have died in the past year. The names of these beloved saints are read during worship along with the tolling of a bell. Additionally we invite candles to be lit for these people as well as all other loved ones whose we choose to honor. This year these same rituals will happen during our live-stream worship service, however we recognize it might be difficult for some because we won't be gathering for in-person worship in the sanctuary this year. In addition to our Sunday morning worship, we will be providing a special All Saints Worship service which will be in our south parking, drive-in style at 5:00 p.m. on November 1st. We will gather as a community to celebrate the saints of our community, including a candle lighting ritual at the service. Instead of lighting candles we will be using battery operated candles, being that we will be outside. We hope you will join us as we gather together.

Saturday, November 14, 2020

Although 2020 has been very different than any year before, we still have so much to be thankful for and celebrate. Join us on Saturday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. for a virtual gathering where we will celebrate the work God has continued to do through us as a church this year. This will be a gathering where you can join through your computer or call in, because we want our entire community to join us as we give thanks to you for being the church God has called us to be and the ways your generosity has allowed us to be. Keep an eye out for additional information that will be mailed to you towards the end of the month.

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Annually we gather together as a community on Thanksgiving Eve for a worship service that gives us the opportunity to give thanks to God for our many blessings. Many of you bring

non-perishable items for Merrick's food shelf. And, you stick around for a delicious piece or two of pie. We hope you will join us at 6:00 p.m. for our Thanksgiving Eve worship service, drive-in style in the south parking lot. We will invite you to bring food to donate and after you drop off your donation, we will have a piece of pumpkin or pecan pie for you to take home and enjoy.



It is with prayer and regret that the GA Annual Craft Show is cancelled for 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic. Hopefully 2021 will be a year we can resume this outreach to our community. All vendors were notified.

- Karen Landkamer (Craft Show Committee)



**No, We DON'T KNOW
WHAT WE ARE DOING.
YES, WE ARE DOING IT ANYWAY.**

A NOTE FROM ROB SEBO LUBKE, GA COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

**ON OCTOBER 4, 2020 AT 9:30 AM WE WILL GO WHERE WE
HAVE NEVER GONE BEFORE...WE WILL ATTEMPT TO
BROADCAST A LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE FROM OUR SANCTUARY LIVE ON THE INTERNET.
EVERYTHING PLUGS IN! EVERYTHING LIGHTS UP! THESE ARE GOOD SIGNS!
STARTING THE FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER, WE WILL GIVE THIS A SHOT.
WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO LIVESTREAM TO FACEBOOK AND OUR WEBPAGE.
WE'LL SEND OUT AN EMAIL ON SUNDAY MORNING WITH THE INFORMATION YOU NEED.
PRAY FOR US!
WE CAN TALK IT OUT DURING COFFEE HOUR...LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!**



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AND SUPPORT GA!
WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF THESE CUSTOM MASKS THAT WE PRINTED FOR OUR STUDENT AND EDUCATOR BLESSING. THEY ARE QUITE COMFORTABLE AND ATTRACTIVE AND ARE FOR SALE FOR FIVE DOLLARS AT WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN! THEY CAN BE LAUNDERED, TOO! IT HELPS US TO DEFRAY THE COST OF THE PROJECT...SO THANKS FOR ANY HELP!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



September 11, 2020

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
1669 Arcade St
Saint Paul, MN 55106-1000

Dear Amanda,

Thank you for your financial contribution of \$1,180 on August 21, 2020 to The Sheridan Story. Your partnership will enable The Sheridan Story to continue to make a positive impact in the fight against child hunger.

We believe that no child should be hungry, yet over 200,000 children in the state of Minnesota live in food insecurity, including over 100,000 in the Twin Cities alone. The weekends represent a significant need in our community, as kids are at greater risk of missing meals than during the week, when they have access to food at school.

Your financial partnership plays an integral role in closing this weekend food gap. You have changed the story of child hunger for many kids. Thank you!

I truly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Thank you!

Rob

Rob Williams

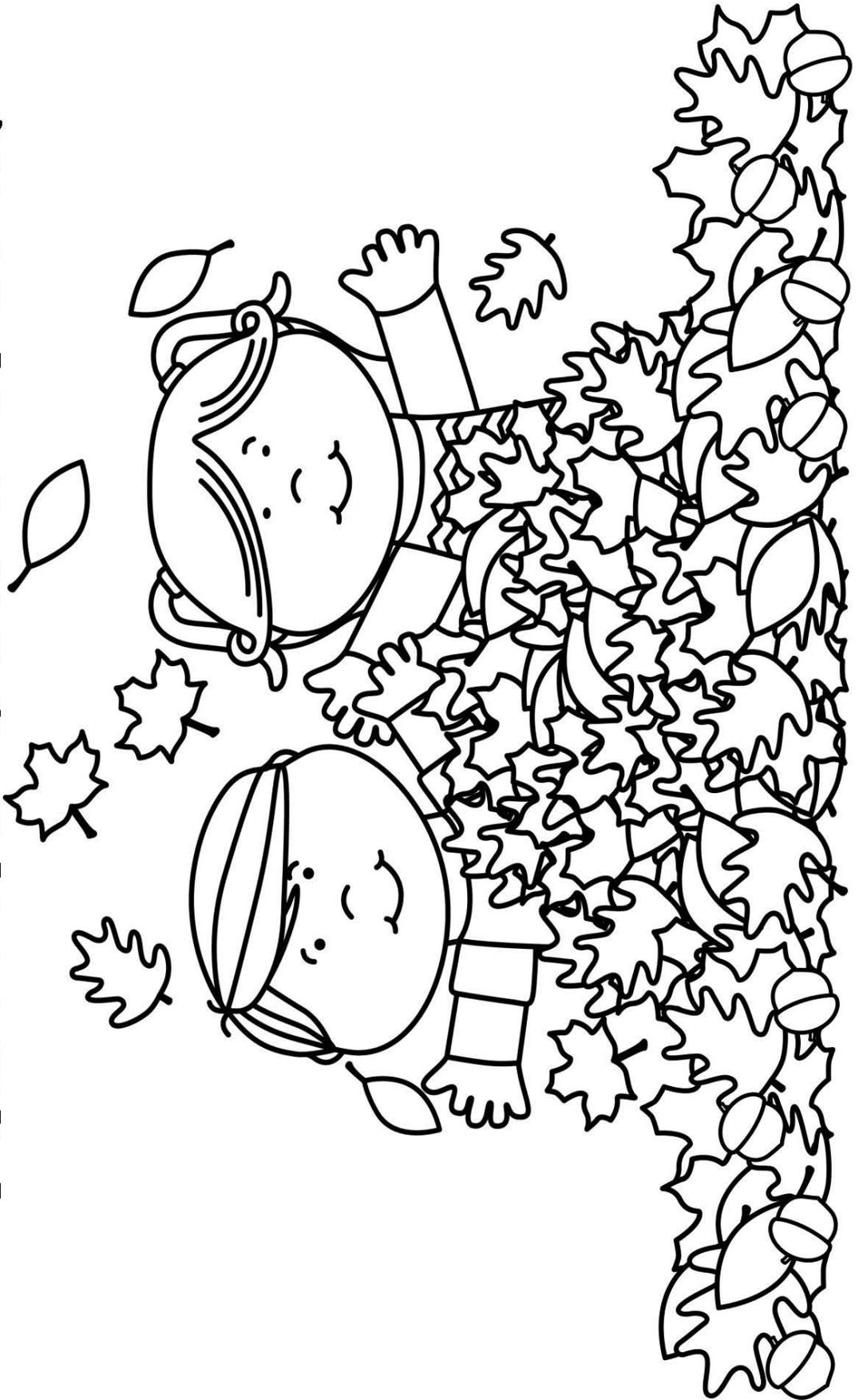
Executive Director
The Sheridan Story
Tax ID# 80-0919680

*We're fighting child hunger through community and school partnerships -
because no child should be hungry.*

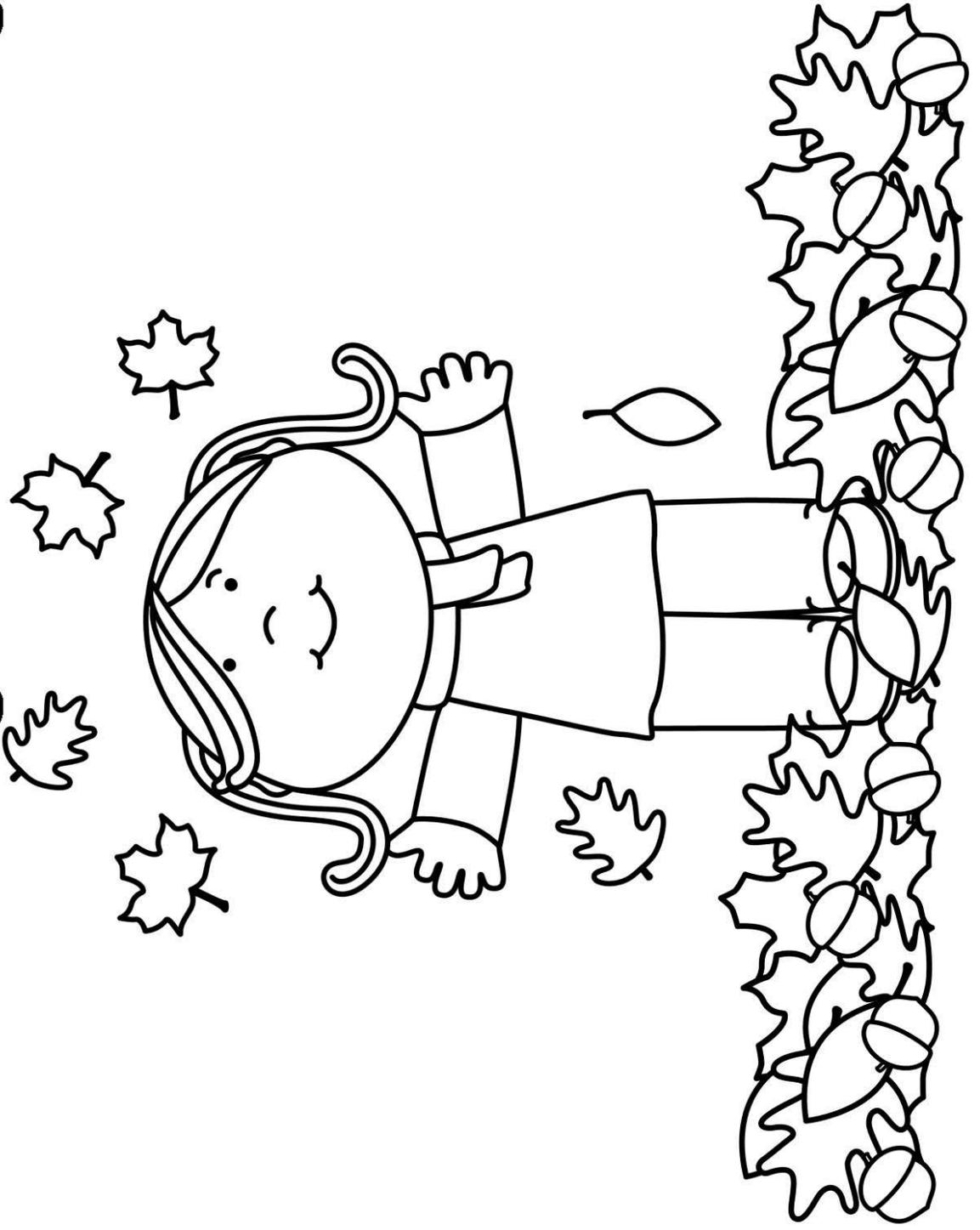
The Sheridan Story is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous financial donation.

JUST FOR KIDS — COLORING FUN!!!

Fall Into God's Word!



Blessings are Falling!



GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

Drive-In Church

OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, & 28 2020 AT 6:00 PM
SOUTH PARKING LOT • DRIVE UP & TUNE IN!

CALLING ALL RINGERS

WE'RE GETTING BELLS GOING AGAIN!



GA wishes to offer several handbell service-ringing opportunities throughout the coming church year. Music reading experience is helpful, but not necessary! Please contact Andrew Parr at andrewp@gachurch.org for details. Ringers of all ages are welcome.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Barbara Higgins
Ron Paul

3 Michael Siebert

5 Serena Hill

6 Donna Dean
Brad Nelson
Peter Weiblen

7 Carole Dahlquist

8 Emily Challgren
Jori Jones

10 Barbara Josephson

11 Brett Bowman
Barbara Johnson
Ronald Reichel

12 Diane Bertsch
Merritt Linzie

13 Dawn Reichel

14 Gavin LaMotte

16 Lois Buzay
Violet Simons

17 Gordon Pierson
Alexander Wilhelmy

19 Shannon King Strong

21 Xavier Lipetzky

22 Heidi Larson
Brandon Van Ert

23 Carol Sandberg
Carole Wangerin

24 Lois Gunther
Catherine Madison
Dominic Madison
Sharon Reimers

26 Lorelei Bracken
Temperance Bracken

27 Zaccus Ronning

30 Thomas Madison

31 Debra Johnson
Grant Siebert



**KEEP
CALM**

WE WILL

**GET THROUGH
THIS TOGETHER**

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**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Worship Schedule

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday, October 4	9:30 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:33-46 Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost and Labor Day weekend
Wednesday, October 7	6:00 pm Drive-In Worship (South Lot) Presentation of Bibles 6:30 pm Congregational Meeting on Constitution
Sunday, October 11	9:30 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Wednesday, October 14	6:00 pm Drive-In Worship (South Lot) Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 18	9:30 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
Wednesday, October 21	6:00 pm Drive-In Worship (South Lot)
Sunday, October 25	9:30 am Virtual Worship (also available later) Gospel Lesson: John 8:31-36 Reformation Sunday
Wednesday, October 28	6:00 pm Halloween Fun Night Drive-In Movie (South Lot)

*Communion will be celebrated at all Sunday morning worship services.
Communion will be celebrated at every other Wednesday evening service.
In October 2020, these Wednesdays are October 7 and 21.*



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!



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
Andrew Parr, Director of Worship and Music	andrewp@gachurch.org 651.289.9885
Maggie Kidnie, Interim Business Administrator	maggie@gachurch.org 651.289.9885
Rob Sebo Lubke, Office Administrator/Communication Specialist	rob@gachurch.org 651.289.9884
Judy Hitchcock, Administrative Assistant	judy@gachurch.org 651.289.9883
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

Don't forget

YOU ARE LOVED BEYOND
ANY MEASURE.

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.** Maggie Kidnie in the business office at 651.289.9885.