

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

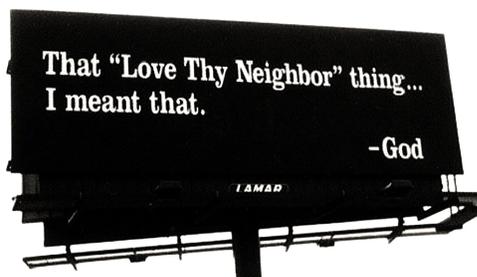
SUMMER 2021



Thoughts from Pastor John

Grace, peace and mercy to you, beloved child of God. I continue to hold you in my prayers, praying for you to be surrounded by God's grace, mercy and love in all that you do. This season of spring has been a gift to me in many ways, and hopefully for you as well. As I have gotten older, I have realized how important it is to pay attention to God's ever evolving work in the nature that is around me. When you pay attention, you see new life evolving all around. I think the highlight for me this spring was for the first time watching milkweed burst through the ground and spring to new life in our St. Paul yard. Thanks, to Diane Giovanazzi, for explaining to me what I should be watching for. Sure enough, I found a couple shoots of milkweed coming to life and I have been checking on it each time I walk by it. It brings me such joy as I witness this plant that has sat dormant all winter, ready to be back to provide food for monarchs and the like.

Moving from dormant to life is how I have been feeling as we, as a community, move forward into our new reality following the impacts of COVID-19. Although we aren't entirely in the clear, we will be soon. Those of us who are parents of children are anxiously awaiting news of a vaccine that is safe for those of youngest in our community. This is the main driving force behind our continued mask mandate at Gustavus Adolphus. Our children are our future, so wearing masks for a bit longer protects them, and for us that is important.



Now that I am fully vaccinated I have been able to resume my pastoral responsibilities that have had to be "dormant" during this pandemic. I have been able to make visits to congregational members' homes for conversation and Holy Communion. Just recently, I was able to be with a congregational member who was recently placed into hospice and was grateful I could be with them and their family for a powerful time of prayer and Holy Communion. I look forward to additional opportunities like these. Being with you in conversation, prayer and Holy Communion are some of my most treasured responsibilities as your pastor.

In addition, we have invited the congregation back to our building, for in-person worship. Although not all of you are comfortable with in-person worship yet, for those that are, it has been such a joy to see you, sing with you and catch-up again after the 14 months we have been apart.

The powerful thing about our God, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, is the ways we have been carried these past months.

Although we haven't been in-person, we have been united by the Holy Spirit. We have received comfort and support as we faced difficult moments, been carried through those and now can experience "life" again. For that I give God thanks and praise.

Now that spring has sprung, and we are able to move beyond our dormant phase, join us as you feel comfortable. As we have been saying all along, you ARE the church, you bring joy and hope into all we do! Alleluia!

✚ Your partner on the journey,
✚ Pastor John

Join us live for worship Sunday mornings online or in person at 9:30 am! Here is the online link:
vimeo.com/event/377275

Thoughts from Pastor Amanda

On Pentecost Sunday the Sanctuary was filled with the movement of the Holy Spirit as in-person worship resumed. The hymns were sung with gusto, the Lord's Prayer spoken in unison, and nodding heads accompanied the sermon. As I presided over the Table for Holy Communion I kept blinking my eyes in order to keep tears of joy from spilling forward. I was elated to see you and gather with you in person after so many months of physical separation due to the pandemic. While the pandemic remains ongoing across our nation and world, and as we await vaccination rates to rise in our state and to be made eligible for our children, hope seems ever more present and tangible as we can regather in person. Hope for our community. Hope for our world. Hope for new beginnings and to pick up what was before that still brings us life. As a community of faith we are a place of healing and dreaming, of lamenting and rejoicing. As we return to in person worship we each bring with us unique experiences from this past year of pandemic living. As we move forward into this newest phase of the pandemic, one in which we continue to strive to place love of neighbor and safety first for our faith community (thus the mask mandates onsite), we also know that some of us are yet carrying grief, loss of identity or relationships, or even silver linings from the pandemic that we've not yet named or had time to process. As you reenter our faith community for in-person worship we invite you to participate in a ritual of return (see below) as a sacred means to assist you in processing this shaping experience in your individual life and our communal life. This ritual may be used as you attend worship at GA this summer or at home. I adapted it from a healing ritual used by Rev. Dr. Kadi Billman, my seminary professor for pastoral care. I encourage you to make time and space in your life to name and process your

experiences this past year. As a historian I have read many books, including John Barry's *The Great Influenza*, about the 1918-19 influenza pandemic and how our parent, grandparents, and great-grandparents didn't really process this major traumatic event in their lives. In my own family it wasn't even talked about but rather something I learned about as I visited our family cemetery and noticed the amount of young relatives in my familial tree who died in their childhood, youth and young adulthood. My mom shared with me that her grandmother always grieved the death of her closest sister at such a young age. I wonder what other griefs from that time that my great-grandmother carried in her heart and memory for her entire life.

So I ask you: How have you been impacted by Covid-19 this year? How has it changed your life? (In negative and positive ways). What are you grieving? What are you grateful for? What are you carrying and what are you needing to let go?

We are a people of stories and rituals. That is who we are as people of God who turn to holy scriptures comprised of ancient stories from the ancient Israelites and Galileans. Yet these stories continue to breath life into us and our community of faith. For me, it's our living God whose thread of love, hope, and presence undergirds it all . . . weaving our experiences together with our familial and biblical ancestors and all living creatures across our globe. May you see your story within God's bigger story of ever unfolding agape love, in times of challenge and in times of joy.

I will be on sabbatical from June 15th through July 24th. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, July 25th. May God be with you and grant you peace. And, I hope you'll take time for the ritual of return, whether at our sanctuary or at home.

 God's peace
Pastor Amanda

Worship Schedule

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SUMMER 2021

Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30 am

We gather for worship on Sunday mornings, both in person and online. Visit www.gachurch.org for more information... we hope to see you soon!

Wednesday Evening Worship at 6:00 pm

We gather in the south parking lot on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month for drive-in worship. Come early and join us for our Open Table community meal at 5:00 pm!

Vacation Bible School - August 2-6

We are planning to welcome children IN PERSON for VBS at GA this summer as we closely watch recommendations for safety. We will try to have most activities outdoors and limit time spent indoors as much as possible. Watch for details coming soon! Contact Sherrie Nordquist for more information. sherrie@gachurch.org or 651.289.9882.



GA Youth - SAVE THE DATES for these VBS Prep Parties here at GA! July 14 and 28

GA middle school and high school youth are invited to come on over to church between 10am and 4 pm on these days to help create decor, prepare and plan Bible stories, activities and more for Vacation Bible School in August. Lunch will be provided and there will be time to hang out with GA friends. Contact Sherrie Nordquist sherrie@gachurch.org for more information.

Summer Family Activity Kits Coming Soon!

The Children, Youth, and Family team is working to assemble some summer family kits with ideas and activities and fun to share faith as a family this summer.

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

2021 High School Graduate Milestone

We are proud to recognize two GA High School seniors who will be graduating this spring! Samantha Doiron, daughter of Jake and Shanna Doiron and niece of Rick and Lori Howard, is a senior at Centennial High School in Lino Lakes.

Gabe Krueger, son of Chris and Amy Krueger and grandson of Ken and Nancy Bjork is a senior at Irondale High School in New Brighton.

Did you know that Gustavus offers scholarships to high school grads? See page 11 for info! Congratulations and God's blessings to these young people who have graduated from High School this spring. Our prayers for God's continued guidance, protections and strength go with them wherever they go and whatever they do. Our tradition here at GA is to present them with a blanket in the colors of their school and embroidered with their name and special dates. Our prayers are with Samantha and Gabe as they prepare for graduation and the exciting future ahead of them.

A Prayer for Graduates

O Lord Jesus Christ, when you welcomed the children your invitation included each one of us. Your guiding hand has continually been upon Samantha and Gabe. You have sustained them. You have shared in their laughter and wiped away their tears. In times of confusion you have offered direction. In times of sorrow you have offered hope. In times of doubt your Holy Spirit has lifted them up. Grant, O Savior, Samantha and Gabe the knowledge of your continued presence as they go forth into the future. Bless them and keep them. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Bless them and keep them now and forever. Amen.

If you have recently graduated from college, we would love to share an update with the congregation. Please pass along a note to either Pastor Amanda or John. We have one update to pass along.

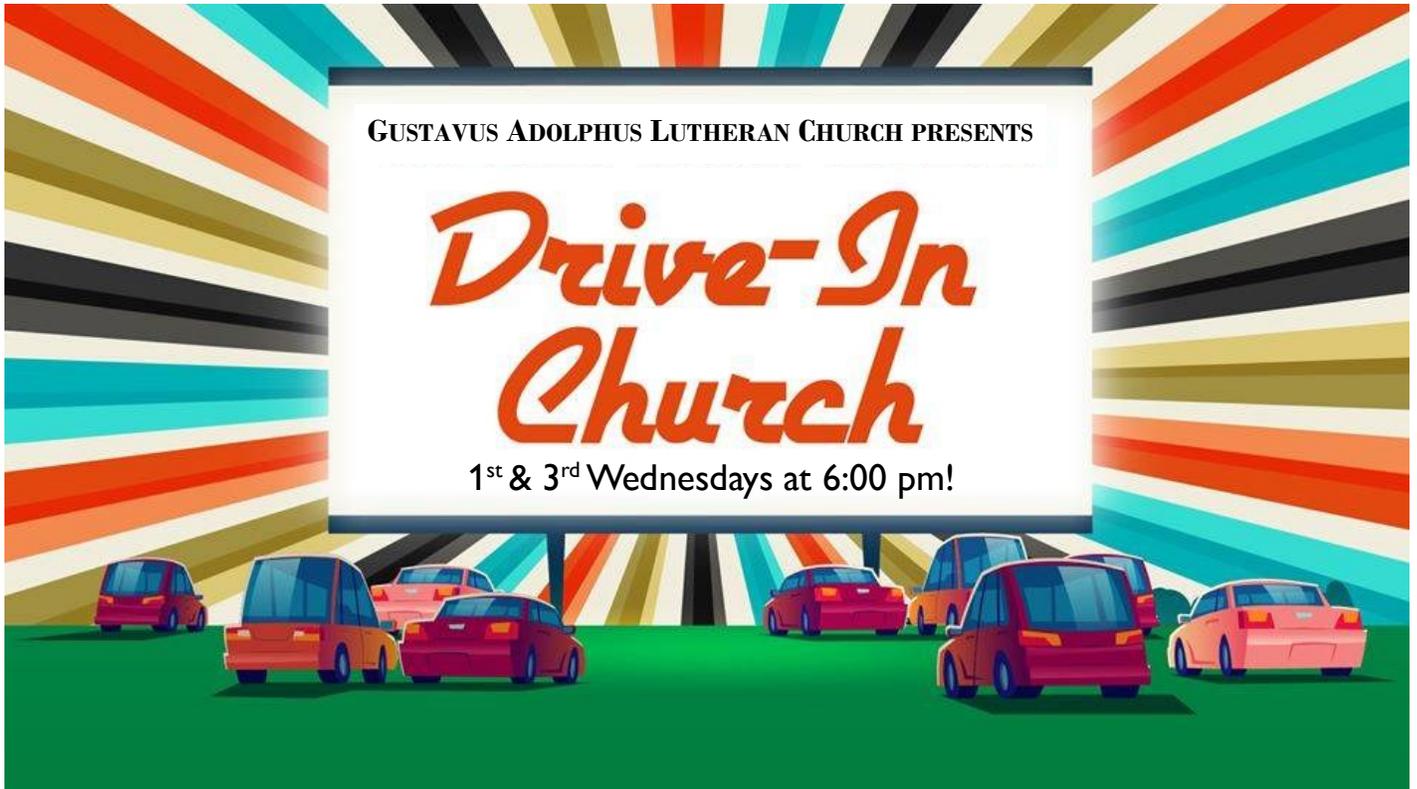
Congrats to Johannes Weiblen who has completed his undergraduate degree from the UofM! Graduating with a Bio-Chemistry degree. Graduated December 23, 2020.

Johannes took an EMT class Fall semester at the UofM; passed the certification testing in mid January 2021. Applied for and got an EMT job with United Hospital in the ER! Started April 1, 2021.

This in addition to his continued working on medical research at the Lillihei cancer research lab will keep him busy as he completes applications to medical schools.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER



1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 pm! Join Us!



Youth Campfire Hangouts

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Middle School and High School Youth are invited to Youth Campfire Hangouts on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month this summer following Open Table and outdoor worship. Bring a camp chair and come hang out with peers around a campfire in the south parking lot at church. Snacks will occasionally be provided. Campfires begin June 2.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

JUNE SPECIAL CONCERN GIVING —
LYNGBLOMSTEN

JULY SPECIAL CONCERN GIVING —
LSS REFUGEE SERVICES

AUGUST SPECIAL CONCERN GIVING —
EVERY MEAL (FORMERLY SHERIDAN STORY)



SUPPORT

Camp Update - A Message from Camp Onomia Executive Director

When I was younger...much younger I was invited to attend a church camp experience out in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Without going into much detail, that experience changed my life. I knew from the experience that God loved me without exception and that he knew "every hair on my head." Well those hairs have thinned quite a bit, but I have been fortunate to be able to serve Lutheran Outdoor Ministries for more than 35 years. In that time I have seen first hand the REAL impact that Bible Camp has on God's kids, young and old. Positive because camp is relational and equips campers with the tools they need to be a good person.

Positive because camp is participatory - it gets kids involved.

Positive because camp is different than life at home. Campers are engaged with peers, cell phones are put away, and there is inspiration in the silence of creation.

Positive because camp is a safe place, centered in faith, where there is room to stretch and to be nurtured.

Let us not let that get away from us as we wander out of a pandemic. Come to the waters and let God's people gather.

In God's peace,

Jim Schmidt, Executive Director Camp Onomia



More Camp News!

Eleven GA youth are signed up for camp in July and GA is committed to paying a portion of the camp fee for each of them. Riley Himmer will be participating in LIT (Leadership training).

Save these Dates!

Family Weekend Escape, July 3- Aug. 1 and Family camp, Aug. 1-6...Join Jeff and Cathy Ronning at Camp Onomia for a weekend at camp this summer with your friends and family. Supervised activities for kids. Adults find options galore, warm conversation, and the coffee is always on! Several housing options available or bring your RV and use the camper space. Check out the camp website for details www.CampOnomia.org.

Annual Quilt Auction, Sept. 18, 2021 - A quilt that will be raffled off is being made for the auction.

It will be on display at GA sometime this summer and raffle tickets will be on sale.

YOU BELONG! A retreat for confirmands, Sept. 24-25

Women's Refresh Retreat, Nov. 5-6

Save the Date for State Fair Park & Ride

Mark your calendars and save the date for the State Fair Park & Ride from Thursday, August 26 through Monday, September 6. The State Fair is a go and GA wants to be ready to serve as a park and ride spot. We will need your help to direct cars to parking and greet guests. Every volunteer shift filled helps us to raise money to support our Gateway of Faith mission. Thanks for your help!



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

JUNE

1 Andrew Damico
 Alan Hamm
 2 Kaden Nadeau
 3 Robert Sanft
 4 Karen Thompson
 5 Kevin Kidnie
 6 Tammy King-Strong
 7 Janette Capeder
 8 Will Crayne
 Carol Lundgren
 Torsten Simons
 9 Caitlin Marie Domagall
 Rick Howard
 10 Paul Cocoanto
 Joseph Howard
 Mark Schmidt
 11 Larry Kahler
 12 Gwendolyn Michaelson
 14 Isabella Gioino
 Anne Mader
 16 Janice Sanft
 17 Jill Bewley
 19 Barbara Haag
 20 Ray Hitchcock
 Alice Reinert
 21 Chelsea Bertsch
 22 Olivia Travis
 23 Charles Fraser
 Peter Gawtry
 Lucy Wegscheider
 27 Mary Lou Cromey
 Ashley James
 Dustyn Selander
 28 Ryan Billings
 Benjamin Harrison
 Andrew Parr
 Jack Reidenbach
 Elliot Weiblen
 29 Cyndi Blume
 Harlan Johnson
 30 Roxanne Stachowiak
 Jill Swanson

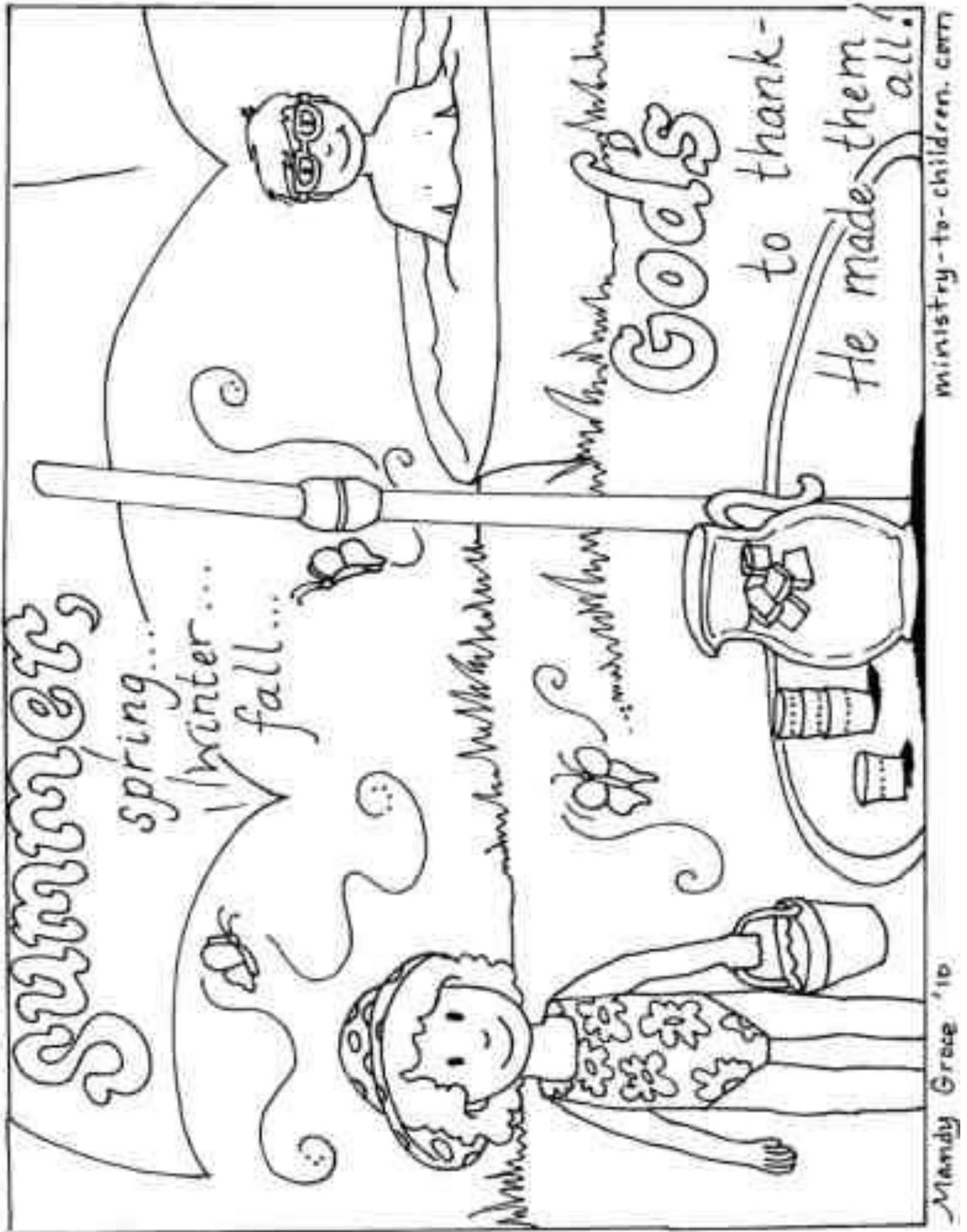
JULY

1 Dawn Semlak
 2 Stephen Bordsen
 Douglas Ryan
 3 Maddy Hierlinger
 Noah Howard
 Teri St. Martin
 4 Judy Hitchcock
 Debra Hogen
 Erin Michaelson-Richie
 Jan Pierson
 6 Greta Krueger
 7 Laura Ottinger
 10 Roger Schwartz
 11 Kyle Anderson
 12 Anna Gustafson
 Audrey Moua
 Jeff Ronning
 Jill Youngren
 14 Galen Fitzel
 Kristen Lynch
 15 Linda Fried
 17 Jenny Croucher
 Arland Hultgren
 19 Breanne Foster
 David (DW) Surine
 20 Gary Johnson
 21 Kevin Berglund
 23 Nathan Blume
 Bryn Relay
 James Swanson
 24 Alice Dahlblom
 Mari Drake
 Louise Feske
 25 Diane Fitzel
 Thomas Himmer
 James Peters
 26 Samuel Blume
 Karen Landkamer
 27 Audrey Barrette
 Chelsea Burfield
 28 Cynthia Lattimore
 29 Sophia Nelson
 Debra Ottinger
 30 Alec Pfalz
 31 Jeanne Heitkamp
 Lori Howard
 Tammy Ottinger
 Mark Wegscheider

AUGUST

1 Curt Bergman
 Sandra Durand
 Courtney Otto
 2 Dorinne Foster
 Charles Woods
 3 Stephen Treanor
 4 Jake Doiron
 5 Elijah Richie
 6 Matthew Schulke
 8 Eric Albrecht
 Nancy Jones
 9 Mike Lipetzky
 Nancy Nelson
 11 Liam Mader
 Rose Madison
 Katherine Stachowiak
 12 Rich Engelstad
 Brian Hanson
 Tyler James
 Laurie Johnson
 13 Michael Richie
 15 Mark Borglum
 Marlys Siverson
 17 Theodore Drake
 18 Andrew Stachowiak
 19 Claudia Ryan
 Steven Stachowiak
 20 Sharen Dahm
 23 George Carlson
 Barbara Gawtry
 Erik Hassenstab
 24 Steven Hayne
 25 Yim Meej Her
 26 Diana Williams
 27 Elaine Rhode
 28 Kirsten Gustafson
 Gayle Herr
 29 Joan Sigmundik
 30 Phyllis Kendig
 31 Lucille Asp
 Anna Himmer
 Carter Krueger

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS



CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION!

A Ritual of Return: Memory Stones

We recognize that each of us has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in different ways. We hope this ritual may be a way to lament, heal, and reorient as we return to in-person worship.

As you entered the sanctuary you were invited to take a stone with you. This stone harkens back to an ancient ritual from the Old Testament (Joshua 4:1-6, 19-24) and allows space for us today to ritualize our own laments, fears and hopes as we re-enter our worship space together.

The story from Joshua 4 recalls how our ancestors paused on the threshold of the Promised Land to retrieve stones from the river that enabled them to cross over to the other side. They camped at Gilgal with those who had shared the journey out of Egypt and the wilderness. This past year we too have journeyed in a time of wilderness.

The story from Joshua 4 recalls that there were many stones left behind in Gilgal. We are often faced with choices about when to carry our stones with us and when it is more life-giving to let them go. If you picked up a stone, we invite you to hold it in your hand, quietly name what it represents to you, and offer a prayer to God.

As you depart the sanctuary today, you may carry your stone home with you or leave it behind in the baptismal font as a memorial to acknowledge the significance of what you experienced.

And may you hear today and always: *YOU, child of God and companion on the journey, God bless your journey. Amen.*



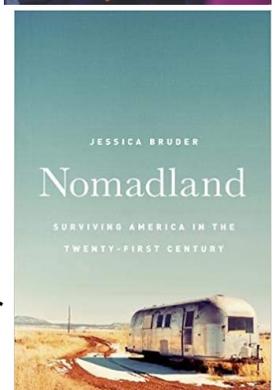
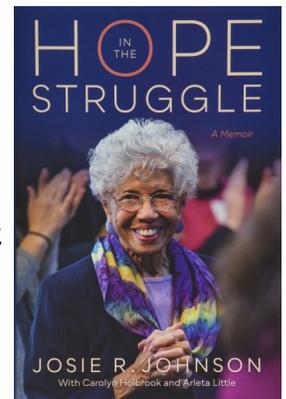
Summer Book Club

You're invited to join the pastors for a summer of reading and small group discussion. This summer we'll gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month to discuss that month's designated book. All gatherings will happen at 7 pm via Zoom.

For the month of June we'll read *Hope in the Struggle* by Josie Johnson. Ms. Johnson is a local author who has written a memoir of her life and work for civil rights in our state and nation.

For the month of July we'll read *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder. This New York Times bestseller hit became an award-winning film in 2020 and tells the story of a growing community of nomads who are living in RVs and trailers in their retirement years.

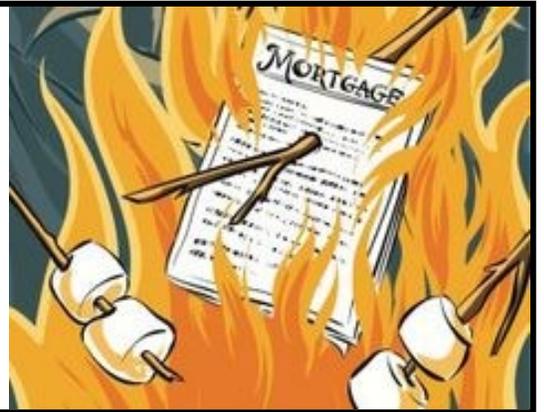
The book selection for the month of August is yet to be determined. All are welcome. You're welcome to participate for one month or all summer long. Please RSVP to sherrie@gachurch.org to receive the Zoom link for our Summer Book Club.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Save The Date-Church Celebration!!!

We are excited to share that we are nearing the end of our mortgage payments to Thrivent Financial. Which means we NEED to celebrate. Although the details are still being discussed, we would ask you to mark your calendar for Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!



Scholarship Opportunities for High School Grads at Gustavus Adolphus!

Gustavus Adolphus is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 academic year. Application forms are available at fill in the link here. These scholarships are to help students who are active members of our congregation to continue their education at a college, university, or technical school. Students may apply for scholarships up to four times.

Please send completed scholarship applications to maggie@gachurch.org. Application deadline is June 30, 2021. For questions about eligibility or to make a contribution to the scholarship fund, please contact Maggie Kidnie. You can find the application form at www.gachurch.org/events



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 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**



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

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Rob Sebo Lubke, Office Administrator/Communication Specialist	rob@gachurch.org 651.289.9884
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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.

We are inspired by the Spirit to:

GROW in spiritual vitality

WORSHIP creatively and faithfully together

EMBRACE our wonder

BUILD authentic Christian relationships