

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church  
E.L.C.A.



"E" is for Ethiopian Eunuch

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Bulletin Donated: Happy Birthday Izabelle!

**Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.**

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Ministers:

*You, All Members of G.A.*

Pastor:

**Jaime Decker**

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

**Gathering**

**Call to Worship**

L: We gather in the name of the Creator,

**C: inviting us always to risk the unknown.**

L: We gather in the name of the Christ,

**C: fully human, fully divine, full of gift and mystery.**

L: We gather in the name of the Spirit,

**C: unveiling for us what feels long-hidden. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For this water, crisp and cold, inviting us to shake off the cobwebs of all we had thought to be true.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for gift of baptism,

**C: For this water, warm and inviting, reminding us of your comfort and embrace.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For lakes and rivers, oceans and creeks,**

L: For waters that foam and rage, for those that drip and trickle,

**C: For waters that teem with life.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For waters that hide dangers yet unknown,**

L: For waters that remind us to be born anew,

**C: For all the waters across your wide creation.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism!

**C: Alleluia! Amen**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*Here I Am, Lord*

ELW #574 vs. 1

**Teacher Recognition**

L: Dear friends, let us recognize and give thanks to our faithful leaders who responded to the call of God as teachers in our Sunday school program throughout the past years. Denise Dahl, Carrili Larson, Michael Sorlie, Julie Waswick.

L: To teach, to administer the work of teaching, and to support the work of teaching are ministries of Christ among us.

L: Let us pray: Eternal God, you have entrusted us with the message of your power, grace, justice, and love. Provide for us your guidance, that we may be teachers and learners together. Believing that you are in our midst, we set apart those who serve in our Sunday school program. We give you thanks for the gifts you have given to these teachers who have served you over the years in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who were entrusted in their care. Bless each one gathered before us, enabling them to continue to be channels of your grace. We pray through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

(Laying on of hands)

L: Denise, Carrili, Michael, and Julie, you recognized God's call in your lives.

**ALL: We give thanks to God for encouraging you and strengthening your gifts for teaching so you would pass on the Christian faith.**

L: You were faithful to the task, taking seriously the commitments of time and talent.

**ALL: We give thanks to God for your role as a learner, as you trusted in God's promises to support, sustain, and encourage you through gifts sufficient for the task.**

L: You were not called to be perfect. **ALL: You were called to be faithful.**

L: You were not called to be all-knowing. **ALL: You were called to believe.**

L: Your acceptance of God's call to teach invites others to recognize and respond to God's call in their lives.

**ALL: God of all wisdom and knowledge, your Son came among us as a teacher. Send your blessing and guidance to these previous leaders who taught your message in this place, that by word and example they may continue to lead those whom they encounter to the knowledge and love of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### \*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### \*Prayer of the Day

**C: O God, thank you for your guidance in our lives, just as you led Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch. Help us to be attentive to your voice and to seize opportunities to share your love and truth with others. Open our hearts to understand your word more deeply, and grant us the courage to reach out to those who seek you. Amen.**

## Word

### Reading

**Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Message

### **\*The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Response: **Hear Our Prayer.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

### **Offering**

#### **\*Offering Song**

#### ***Give Thanks***

#### **Gray #170**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong!" Let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us! (Repeat)

Give thanks.

#### **\* Offering Prayer**

**C: God of every good thing, you provide for us in every season of our lives. Help us to open our hands, open our lives, to your whole creation, that we might prioritize justice over wealth, truth over reputation, people over profits. Amen.**

## **Meal**

### **Holy Communion**

\*Words of Institution

Pg. 207

\*Lord's Prayer

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\* Lamb of God

Pg. 208

### **\*Invitation to Communion**

P: This table is set for you, you who are seeking and you who rest in the illusion that you have all the answers, you who speak up in the face of injustice and you who struggle to find your voice, you who understand that we are both/and, sinner/saint, from beginning to end. Come. Share in God's meal of grace.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

\*Post Communion Blessing

### **\* Post Communion Prayer**

P: O God, you have fed us with a meal beyond our imaginations– a meal of grace, and delight, and freedom. Send us forth from your table now, bearing good news for the whole world. **C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

### **Blessing**

L: May God bless you with the curiosity to continue growing into your own self.

May God keep you steady in the face of all that is unknown.

May God's face shine on you as you seek new answers to old questions being born anew.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go now in peace with open hearts and minds, seeking justice and truth in all things.

**C: To Share the Good News of God’s Word and to serve the community and the world.**

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Postlude

Mission Statement of Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)

**To share the Good News of God’s Word and to serve the community and the world.**

*Matthew 22:39* ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

*Matthew 28:19* Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

\*\*\*\*\*  
We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord’s real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ’s name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament. *From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and live streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #35904. CCLI# 3138595 and #21256999*

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