

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
Gwinner, North Dakota

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



Our theme for this Advent Season is "*A Thrill of Hope*" from the creators at Church Anew. This Advent, we will unwrap one of the Bible's most neglected and misinterpreted books, Revelation, revealing a thrill of hope that lies within John's apocalypse. Despite the fear and uncertainty this book presents, at its core it is a vision of Christ's jubilant return, of the Word of God fulfilled on earth. Together, we will seek the hope in every page, and unveil the promise that lies within the chaos, fear, and anxiety of the world around us today.

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Important December Dates

December 8: Blue Camel Name Drawing & Gift Making

December 11: Christmas Cantata 7:30pm

December 15: Ugly Sweater Sunday, YOGA Soup & Auction, Blue Camel Gift Exchange

December 22: Family Sunday Fun Day

December 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service 4pm

December 29: Jammies & Jingles Worship service

“God Pause”

Blue Camel Exchange: You may have heard of a "White Elephant" gift exchange, but you haven't heard of a "Blue Camel" exchange, until now! Advent season is right around the corner, *beginning December 1st*, and we are going to begin this Advent with some fun! The Blue Camel Exchange, created by Pastor Jaime, along with her coaches and colleagues, Pastor Meta Herrick Carlson and Deacon Michelle Walka, derives from a longstanding tradition on the Y.O.G.A. (Youth Of G.A.) Crow Wing River canoe trip. For over 30 years, it has been a tradition for youth and adult leaders on the canoe trip to draw names for a "secret pal." While on the trip (2 nights, 3 days), each person is asked to make a gift for their secret pal. Gifts are created by using items from nature they find along the river and/or at camp, along with craft and woodworking supplies provided by the leaders. At the end of the trip, we exchange our gifts with our secret pals.

The "Blue Camel" exchange will run a bit differently than the canoe trip. Every family unit or individual is **invited** to sign up to participate in this exchange. On Sunday, **December 8th**, we will draw names for our "secret pal/family" and begin creating our Blue Camel gifts during fellowship time (after worship service.) Craft and woodworking supplies will be provided.

How to participate in the Blue Camel Exchange:

- 1) Sign up! A sign up sheet will be posted in the church entry starting Sunday, November 3rd. Deadline to sign up will be Sunday, December 8th. *need to sign up to participate*
- 2) Think of a family tradition, whether it be a family recipe, prayer, or Christmas tradition that you would like to share with your secret pal/family. Write this tradition on a sheet of paper, notecard, or whatever creative item you prefer and use this to be the basis of your Blue Camel gift. *This is an option to help with creating your gift and not required.
- 3) Show up! Be present on Sunday, December 8th to draw the name of your secret pal/family and to begin creating your Blue Camel gift. *Remember to bring your tradition to share if you choose to use this as part of your gift idea.
- 4) Show up! Be present on Sunday, December 15th to exchange your Blue Camel gift with your secret pal/family.
- 5) Have fun! The Blue Camel Exchange is similar to the White Elephant exchange. The Blue Camel gift is meant to be inexpensive, yet memorable and fun. My hope is for us to notice our secret pal/family and create stronger relationships with each other. And as a bonus, we will delight in joy and laughter as we journey to the manger this Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Jaime +

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Dec 01: 9:30am Worship, No Communion—Leader Jim Wilson

Dec 01: Pastor Jaime on Vacation thru Dec 2nd

Dec 04: 3:30pm GASP

Dec 08: 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime, Make-A-Change Sunday

Dec 08: Blue Camel Name Draw & Gift Making

Dec 08: 6:30pm Church Council Meeting

Dec 11: 3:30pm GASP

Dec 11: 7:30pm Multi-Community Christmas Cantata

Dec 12: 2:30pm Ruth Circle

Dec 15: 9:30am Ugly Sweater Sunday, Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime

Dec 15: After Worship: YOGA Soup & Auction, Blue Camel Gift Exchange, Movie for Kids

Dec 18: 3:30pm GASP

Dec 22: 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime, Family Sunday Fun Day after worship

Dec 23: January Newsletter Deadline

Dec 24: 4:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

Dec 25: No GASP and Church Offices Closed

Dec 29: 9:30am Jammies & Jingles Worship—Pastor Jaime, Altar Guild meeting after Worship

Dec 29: Baby Shower for Amber Kempel Noon-2pm at GA Church

December 15th: YOGA soup, sandwich, and auction. Following worship service, the Youth Of GA will begin this annual fundraiser with a live auction, followed with the meal. Each YOGA family is asked to provide at least one item for the auction. YOGA also invites anyone who is willing and able to provide item(s) for the auction. The more items to be auctioned means more money raised for our YOGA program. Proceeds go towards paying fees for events/camps/activities that our youth participate in, such as mission trips, the Crow Wing River canoe trip, Castaways Fall Retreat, and more. Auction items can be dropped off at the church office before or on December 15th.

December 15th: Movie for kids - We will be showing the movie, Inside Out 2, during the YOGA auction for any kids who want to join us. We will remember how God knows us inside out as we watch this movie. Please meet in the YOGA/Gathering room across the hall from the kitchen following worship service.

December 15th: Ugly Sweater Sunday. This Sunday you are invited to wear your holiday or non-holiday ugly sweater/sweatshirt/shirt that you have been either hiding in your closet or wearing proudly throughout the year.

December 22: Family Sunday Fun Day. This is an opportunity for families and individuals to join us after worship service for cookie decorating and making Christmas gifts/ornaments. Supplies provided. All ages are welcome to participate in this holiday fun.

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship Service: will be held at 4 pm with a candlelight service.

December 29th: Jammies & Jingles worship service. Enjoy listening to the Christmas story and singing Christmas jingles in your pjs or festive Christmas clothes.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Our Sympathies : Go out to the family and friends of: All those who have lost a loved one. May God's loving embrace help you through this difficult time, and may the many happy memories ease your pain.



Food Pantry: The Gwinner location of the Sargent County Food Pantry Top Needs: Prepared meals (hamburger helper, stuffing mix, etc.), Pasta (preferably no spaghetti) & pasta sauce, Flour, sugar, cooking oil, Pancake mix & syrup, Baked beans & pork 'n beans, Shelf stable juice, Cake & cookie mixes, Soups (preferably cream soups), Coffee, Household items (toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex, laundry soap, dish soap), Personal items (shampoo, body wash, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste). Monetary donations: are also appreciated, they can be sent to PO Box 101, Forman ND 58032. Monetary donations are used for vouchers for the grocery store for perishable items: (milk, eggs, butter, bread, cheese, fresh vegetables and fruits). Drop off places in Gwinner are GA Lutheran Church, Zion Lutheran Church, or you can drop off items at the Food Pantry, located in the Gwinner Community Center 104 Main St., every Tuesday, 1:00-4:00pm. Thank you for your continued support and generosity! If you or anyone you know are in need, feel free to stop by the Gwinner location on Tuesdays from 1-4pm and pick up some supplies. Food Pantry Phone #: 701-680-7049.

Virtual Retreat: *A Pilgrims Journey*, Beginning Dec 1st, hosted by Dn Michelle Walka. It is a 4 week virtual retreat to explore holy wandering. Please see flier for more information. Sign up is required. Contact BelovedArtAndPractice@gmail.com for more information.

Sargent County Food Pantry Christmas Giving Tree: The tree is in the entry of the church. If you would like to purchase a gift for a person who is part of this program, please take a tag, print your name, phone number, and tag number on the sign up sheet, which is located on the table next to the Christmas Giving Tree. One gift per tag. Please have gifts brought to the church by December 15th. More information is available on the sign up sheet.

Help Needed: GA Church is looking to hire a new custodian. Trudy Peterson has stepped down from her position. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication in keeping GA looking great. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please have them contact Kris Beck. Spread the word!

Snow Removal: Just a reminder, snow removal is done at the church on a voluntary basis. If you have the time and equipment, it would be greatly appreciated if you helped to keep the church safely accessible this winter. Thank you in advance.

Church Finances: For the Month of **October 2024:**

Beginning Balance: \$43120.63, Deposits: \$14555.87, Payments: \$20191.33 Ending Balance: \$37485.17

2024 Year to Date Giving:

GA 2024 Budget: \$210,770.00 **Giving to Date:** \$166,554.27 **Giving Needed by 12-31-24:** \$44,215.73

GA Church now has Venmo! If you would like to use Venmo to place your Weekly/Monthly/Annual Offerings please do so!! Our account is **@GustafAdolf-LutheranChurch** or scan the QR Code. Thank you!



Because you give...we worship, fellowship, learn, serve & grow. Thank you for your generosity.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

Looking Ahead:

Annual Reports Due: February 2nd 2025

Annual Meeting: March 2nd 2025



Lutefisk Supper: The Men’s Group would like to thank all those who made lefsa, coleslaw, cranberry relish, meatballs, and gravy. Thank you to those who prepared before and after the meal, peeled potatoes and worked on the day of the meal. We could not have done it without all of your help! ~GA Men’s Group~

Trunk or Treat: Thank you to all who brought Trunks to the Trunk-or-Treat event. We had 19 Trunks and 174 kids attend the event. Thank you to all who had a hand in providing this great event for our youth.

Thank You: Thank you to all who donated their time and equipment to help keep the lawn at GA looking great this season. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Baby Shower: For Tanner and Amber Kempel on December 29th at GA Church from 12:00-2:00 pm. They are registered at my.babylist.com and are all welcome. They are expecting their first child, a baby girl, in January.

Bulletin Donation Sheet: The bulletin donation sheet for the 2025 church season is on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to donate/sponsor a bulletin for a Sunday, please mark it down and get your payments to Carrili. Bulletin donations are \$15.00 per Sunday. Thank you for your support.

Poinsettias: If you have donated a Poinsettia to GA for the Advent Season please fill out the Donation/Memorial sheet for Poinsettias on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for helping decorate our church for the Advent Season.

December WELCA Action Group

Co-Chairs: Val Bjork

Bonnie Beem

Judy Berg

Heidi Johnson

Denise Dahl

Karen Euscher

Deb Johnson

Joan Johnson

Wendy McFarland

Stacy McKeever

Jan Melroe

Diane Odegard

Julie Waswick

Heidi Gleason



December Birthdays

- 2 Darci Asche
Paula Hansen
- 3 Jesse Anderson
- 4 Michelle Goettle
Walter Wrage
- 5 Kolby Berreth
Jessa Berg
Tyson Porter
- 6 Zachary Johnson
MaKennzie Stubbert
- 7 Jessica Sherlock
- 8 Alexis Sarith
- 10 Traci Hanson
- 11 Brandi French
Eric Wiederholt
- 12 Tamera Zink
Taylor Waloch
- 13 Josh Rotenberger
Sabrina Schwagel
- 14 Hayley Anderson
Sarahbeth Ring
Lilly Melcher
Charlee Melcher
- 15 Tanya Walth
- 17 Blake Beckstrom
Easton Johnson
Brad Lien
- 19 Jayden Johnson
- 20 Amanda Anderson
- 21 Rachel Nelson
- 22 Casey Decker
Ryan Udem
- 23 Curt Erickson
Lori Wiederholt



- 27 Morgan Blair
Judy Tyler
- 28 Jeff Comegys
Jakob Creech
- 29 Brice Christensen
- 30 Corey Melroe
David Witkowski
Theo Peterson
- 31 Mary Rotenberger
Julie Waswick



December Anniversaries

- 4 Nancy & Glenn Comegys
- 7 Trace & Mark Hanson
- 12 Jeanie & Raymond Stahl
- 12 Janae & Pete Sherlock
- 12 Cheryl & Doug Anderson
- 12 Morgan & Dean Blair
- 21 Jaime & Casey Decker
- 22 Julie Waswick & Martin
- 27 Kris & Shawn Beck
- 31 Amber & Tanner Kempel

***Have you been left out
of the birthday and
anniversary page?***

***Or is the date always
wrong?***

***If you have noticed any
mistakes in the monthly
newsletters, please con-
tact the church office at
678-2552 or email us at***

***[galutheran-
church@outlook.com](mailto:galutheran-church@outlook.com)***

Thanks!

December Worship Assistants

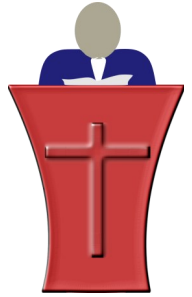
Communion Assistants

- 01 Auston Creech
- 08 Mike Larson
- 15 Michelle Ciesynski
- 22 Shirley Waloch
- 24 Youth
- 29 Paul White



Readers

- 01 Val Bjork
- 08 Becky Salberg
- 15 Michelle Goettle
- 22 Michelle Ciesynski
- 24 Nancy Wrage
- 29 Val Bjork

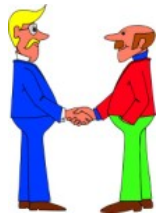


Snow Removal

Just a reminder, snow removal is done at the church on a voluntary basis. If you have the time and equipment, it would be greatly appreciated if you helped to keep the church safely accessible this winter. Thank you in advance.

Greeters

All Members of GA Are Invited To Welcome our Visitors and Each Other.



Ushers

Captain: Martin Potts & Julie W

- Walter & Megan Wrage
- Raymond & Jeanie Stahl
- Mike & Carrili Larson
- Kent & Julie Johnson



Sound System

Sound System is now

A Paid Position.

Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.



Reminder: If you are unable to fulfill your duties it is up to you to find a replacement. Thank you!

November 10, 2024

President Kris Beck, called the regular meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Council members present Kris Beck, Martin Potts, Mike Larson, and Auston Creech. Also present, Pastor Jaime Decker.

Devotion and prayer led by: Pastor Jaime

Agenda. Motion to accept the adopted agenda. Creech/Potts. All in favor, motion carried

Secretary's Report. Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Creech/Potts. All in favor, motion carried.

Church Work Group Reports:

- 1. Property and Grounds** – Door in fellowship hall is installed and looks good, need to have Fargo Glass and Paint look at the double doors to fix the inner doors, kitchen door was repaired too.
- 2. WELCA** – Bake sale brought in \$1500. The Thank Offering is going to go towards hurricane relief.
- 3. Men's Group** – Lutefisk was down. The council would like to meet with executive board members and see what we can do to make it better or will it be the last.
- 4. YOGA** – Soup, sandwich, and auction is scheduled for Dec. 15 after church.
- 5. Education** – New model seems to be going well, and after school program started Nov. 6.
- 6. Altar Guild** - Received a donation to use toward baptismal font and they are meeting monthly on Sundays after church.
- 7. Worship and Music** – Meet Nov. 12 to plan for Advent season.

Old Business and New Business:

The after-school program had about 15 kids, they will be singing Nov. 13 at Teals.

Haven't heard anything back from Jericho about the daycare.

Changes to the wedding/church use policy including fees for usage of the building and tables and chairs will be tabled to next month.

Christmas service will be Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm.

We paid the Church Mutual bill which was \$10,267.

Need to update the Job Descriptions.

We are still looking for a custodian. We may have a lead.

At one of Jaime's conferences a consultant looked at our website and gave her some tips and suggestions, so she is going to have Carilli clean it up and make it look better and more user friendly.

Need to have staff evaluations done hopefully before the end of the year.


Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept. Larson/Creech. All in favor, motion carried.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn meeting. Creech/Larson. All in favor, motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: December 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm

DECEMBER 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
01 9:30 Worship No Communion Pastor Jaime on Vacation	02 Pastor Jaime on Vacation 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	03	04 GASP 3:30-5PM	05 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	06 Jaime's Sabbath	07 Jaime's Sabbath
08 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Make-A-Change Blue Camel Name Draw & Gift Making 6:30pm Council	09 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	10	11 GASP 3:30-5PM Christmas Cantata 7:30pm	12 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30pm	13 Jaime's Sabbath	14 Jaime's Sabbath
15 9:30 Worship w/Communion Ugly Sweater YOGA Soup & Auction Blue Camel Gift Exchange Movie for Kids	16 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	17	18 GASP 3:30-5PM	19 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	20 Jaime's Sabbath	21 Jaime's Sabbath
22 9:30 Worship w/Communion Family Fun Day	23  January Newsletter Deadline 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	24 Christmas Eve Worship 4pm	25 No Gasp Offices Closed	26 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	27 Jaime's Sabbath	28 Jaime's Sabbath
29 9:30 Worship Jammies & Jingles Altar Guild Meeting after Worship Kempel Baby Shower 12pm	30 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	31				

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.
207 1st St SE
PO Box 176
Gwinner, ND 58040-0176



2024 December Newsletter



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AND FACEBOOK!

WWW.GALUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GALUTHERANCHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR.....JAIME DECKER
SECRETARY.....CARRILI LARSON
TREASURER.....MICHELLE GOETTLE
CUSTODIAN.....
COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....KRIS BECK
SCS SUPERINTENDENT.....
YOGA LEADERS..... AUSTON CREECH

PHONE NUMBERS

CHURCH.....(701) 678-2552
PARSONAGE.....
JAIME CELL.....(701) 680-2637
SECRETARY CELL.....(701) 680-1190

EMAIL ADDRESSES

PASTOR.....JAIMEDECKER4@GMAIL.COM
CHURCH OFFICE.....GALUTHERANCHURCH@OUTLOOK.COM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

KRIS BECK (PRESIDENT), MARTIN POTTS (VICE PRES.),
(SECRETARY) KIRSTIN KEMPEL, MIKE LARSON,
SHARON BECKSTROM, PAUL WHITE, AUSTON CREECH
AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE