

*Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
Gwinner, North Dakota*

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



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“
 Lord, whether we're leaving behind a year of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we pause to give thanks. We thank you that you are always with us every single day of every single year. Please remind us of your presence in the year ahead, even when life is busy. We are so thankful that we serve a God who makes things new and gives us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings. Be glorified in our lives this year. In Jesus' name,
 Amen.”

HEATHER C. KING

“God Pause”

December 9, 2024

Dear Members,

As we come to the end of 2024, we begin with a thrill of hope found in the book of Revelation. We know the end is the beginning, the beginning of something new! Revelation 21:5 says, “See, I am making all things new.” The book of Revelation is listed at the end of the bible; however, Revelation is about God’s new creation, new beginnings, moving into this world. Your generosity continues to help move God’s new creation among us, both within our congregation and in the wider community. Here are several ways that God’s new creation has shown up throughout this year:

We celebrated 10 baptisms and 6 Affirmation of Baptisms.

G.A.S.P. (Gwinner After School Program) began in November. Kids in kindergarten through 6th grade come to G.A. Church on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 pm for a snack, tutoring, and to participate in a music program. We have about 20 kids from the community participating in this program and 5 high school student volunteer leaders.

6 kids explored the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky.

11 youth strengthened their relationship with God and one another while canoeing and splashing down the Crow Wing River near Nimrod, MN.

20 elementary kids learned about trusting God through our “Camp Firelight” Vacation Bible School summer program held in July.

18 kids expanded their minds and reading skills this summer during a new weekly reading camp.

In August, Youth Of G.A. (Y.O.G.A.) hosted their annual Car Show in the church parking lot.

We celebrated the 86th year of the Lutefisk Supper. That’s a lot of lutefisk!

This fall, we partnered with Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke, VA and implemented their workshop model of Sunday school. Six high school students stepped up to lead this new workshop model. Together with 20 kids aged 3 to 6th grade, they built relationships and learned how to be the “kin-dom” of God. Together, they also learned that God knows us inside out through Bible stories, prayers, arts and crafts, Legos, and flag football.

What a beautiful community of faith! God is certainly active here and creating new things! We look forward to how we can help keep this ministry vibrant throughout the new year.

We invite you to continue walking this path of generosity with us. Your continued support will enable us to reach new heights in our mission endeavors, community outreach programs, and spiritual development initiatives.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings and challenges that have brought us closer as a faith community at Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church. Your generous contributions have been the cornerstone of our achievements, allowing us to spread love, provide support, and make a significant impact within our community. Your generosity gives us a thrill of hope, trusting that God is making all things new!

Below, you will find the various ways you can contribute to the ministries and mission of G.A. Church. We trust that, with your generosity, we can continue to be a beacon of hope and faith in our community.

Thanks for all the ways you bless our lives together.

In Christ,

Pastor Jaime Decker Kris Beck, Council President

Stewardship Committee: Kirstin Kempel, Julie Johnson, Julie Waswick Potts, Dan McKeever, Lori Wiederholt

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Jan 01: No GASP

Jan 04: Pastor Jaime off for Continuing Education thru January 12th

Jan 05: 9:30am Lessons & Carols worship, no communion - Leader Michelle Watne

Jan 08: 3:30pm GASP

Jan 09: 2:30pm Ruth Circle

Jan 12: 9:30am Worship Service, no communion - Leader Gretchen Christenson, Make-A-Change Sunday

Jan 15: 3:30pm GASP

Jan 19: 9:30am Epiphany Sunday Worship with Communion - Pastor Jaime Decker - Baptism Seykora

Jan 19: Potluck following worship service

Jan 19: 6:30pm Church Council Meeting

Jan 20: February Newsletter Deadline

Jan 20: Annual Financial Reports due for all GA Groups

Jan 22: 3:30pm GASP

Jan 26: 9:30am Baptism of Our Lord Sunday Worship with Communion - Pastor Jaime Decker

Jan 26: Altar Guild meeting after worship service

Jan 29: 3:30pm GASP

Annual Meeting: Yes, it's everyone's favorite time of year, Annual Meeting! The deadline for **financial reports from all GA groups is January 20th** and **Leader/President reports are due by February 2nd**. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Also Mark it down! The *Annual Meeting will be held March 2nd* after worship service. See you there!

Soup, Sandwich & Auction: Thank you to everyone that donated items for the YOGA auction, helped out or were there enjoying soup and bidding! It was a VERY successful day. Money raised will go towards the youth of GA. Thank you again for supporting our Youth Of GA.

Fellowship: The January/February workgroup will be experimenting with a fundraiser during fellowship. Beginning January 5th, cinnamon rolls will be available for \$3/roll. The rolls will replace baked goods and the money raised will go towards WELCA to help fund their ministries.

Thank you: Thank you to all who donated poinsettias for the Advent Season, they made our worship space look beautiful!

Book Study: We will reconvene in February to discuss the book, "*Klara And The Sun*," by Kazuo Ishiguro. Grab a copy of the book and read Part One. Contact Pastor Jaime to sign up and/or if you have any questions. First meeting date TBD.

Sunday School: Will resume Sunday, February 2nd with our workshop model. More info will be given at the beginning of January.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Our Sympathies : Go out to the family and friends of: Bob Krause

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.

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.

Poinsettia Donations: Thank you to all who have donated a Poinsettia to help make our worship space beautiful this advent season. A Red Poinsettia was donated by Kirstin & Torey Kempel in Honor of their Grandchildren, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Kirstin & Torey Kempel in Honor of their Parents, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Julie & Kent Johnson in Memory of their Parents, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Kent & Julie Johnson in Memory of their Grandchildren, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Julie & Kent Johnson in Honor of their 4 Grandkids, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Ken & Lori Wiederholt in Memory of Shane Decker and Gloria Decker, A Blue Poinsettia was donated by Brendan & Michelle Ciesynski in Memory of their Loved Ones, A Purple Poinsettia was donated by Donna & David Hansen in Memory of their Parents: Doreen & Ardell Hansen, Charlotte & Bud Melting and in Memory of Steve Jacobson.

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: \$186,710.80 Giving Needed by 12-31-24: \$24,059.20

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:

Leader Annual Reports Due: February 2nd

Sunday School Starts: February 2nd

Annual Meeting: March 2nd



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 give your payments to Carrili. Bulletin donations are \$15.00 per Sunday. Thank you for your support.

WELCA Booklets: The updated 2025 WELCA booklets are available on the table in the Narthex.

January-February WELCA Action Group

Co-Chairs: Rachel Nelson

Dawn Anderson

Carolyn Klemetson

Nicole Shockley

Tanya Walth

Karla Waloch

Kristy Mairs

Jessica Peterson

Paula Mae Hansen

Emma Waloch

LaVon Stoppeworth

Laurie Lee

Janelle Mairs

Sandra Nerison

DeAnna Youle

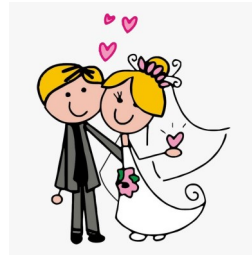


January Birthdays

- 1 Bryan Christensen
Jackson Odegard
- 2 Kylie Anderson
- 3 Athena Erickson
Deb Johnson
Ashley Hansen
- 4 Kent Johnson
Megan Enge
- 5 Austin Johnson
Matthew Stubbert
- 6 Ryan Holden
Jenna Johnson
- 8 Jan Melroe
Jericho Brockman
- 9 Doug Anderson
Chloe Beck
- 11 Jason Bauer
TJ Johnson
- 12 Jan Bjork
Troy Jacobson
- 14 Masyn Stahl
- 15 Bret Buckingham
Morgan Temple
- 16 Angelica Olson
- 17 Karla Frederick
Elijah Hanson
Amelia Hejtmanek
- 18 Charles Klemetson
- 19 Jace Odegard
- 21 Logan Decker
Jaden Gilje
Della Teske
Jeremy Walth
- 22 Elizabeth Hardy
Scott Udem
- 23 Marissa Hanson
- 24 Alyssa Tindell
Heather Swanson



- 26 Lucas Osier
Jessica Peterson
- 27 Shelley Anderson
Richard Jacobson
Karah Weinand
Helen Mairs
- 28 Skylar Peterson
- 29 Nicole Flannery
Karla Ulven
- 30 Payten Herman



January Anniversaries

- 3 Lynnae & Dennis Decker
- 25 Lynn & Troy Jacobson
- 28 Peggy & Richard Olson

***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!

January Worship Assistants

Communion Assistants

If you feel called to help offer God's gift of Holy Communion to God's people, please let Pastor Jaime or the ushers know before worship service or come forward when Pastor Jaime asks for communion assistants. All ages are welcome to assist with Holy Communion.



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.



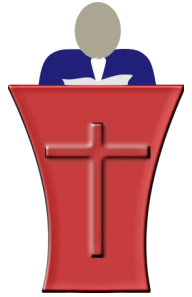
Sound System

Sound System is now
A Paid Position.

Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.

Readers

- 05 Joan Peterson
- 12 Nancy Wrage
- 19 Michelle Ciesynski
- 26 Karla Waloch



Greeters

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



Ushers

Captain: Amber & Tanner Kempel

Jerrold & Becky Sandness

Scott & Jan Melroe

Steve & Barb Melroe

Troy & Lynn Jacobson



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

GA Council Meeting- December 8th, 2024

Members Present: Sharon Beckstrom, Kris Beck, Kirstin Kempel, and Martin Potts.

Also present: Pastor Jaime Decker

President Kris Beck called the meeting to order.

Devotion and prayer led by: Pastor Jaime

Approve the agenda: Kirstin/Martin

Approve the Secretary's Report: Sharon/Kirstin

Pastor's Report: Discussion of Pastor Jaime's vacation time (Dec. 9-10), Blue Camel gift exchange with 18 groups participating (create gift on the 8th and exchange on the 15th) Confirmation lock-in (Dec. 13), Ruth Circle, YOGA Soup-n-Sandwich (Dec. 15), upcoming Dec. services, attending Continuing Ed (Jan 4-12), late celebration of Epiphany (moved to Jan. 19), Baptism on Jan 19, and an upcoming workshop for families-"An intro. to the Bible".

Church Work Group Reports:

Property and Grounds: (Martin) Heat tape was installed by Mike and Kent. Working well.

WELCA: (Sharon) No report

YOGA: (Austin) Soup-n-Sandwich and Christmas Auction on Dec. 15th after church

Men's Group: (Mike) Thanks to them for paying for the Fellowship Hall door that was recently purchased and installed.

Altar Guild: (Kirstin) Baptismal font being built by Dennis Dahl might be completed by the January Baptism.

Education: (Kris) 1st session of SS finished in Dec. and the 2nd session will begin in February. On Sunday, Dec. 15th a movie will be shown for kids during the YOGA auction.

Worship and Music: (Paul) They met in Nov. and picked the Advent theme: "The Thrill of Hope". They invited families to light the advent wreath and do the reading each Sunday.

Old and New Business:

Kirstin and Martin will start staff evaluations this week.

GASP (Gwinner After School Program) is averaging 20 kids. The focus is on tutoring and music.

A custodian has been hired, and things are going well.

The office printer needs a new part. We will try to fix it by purchasing the \$15 part and replacing it ourselves.

Approve Treasurer's Report: Kirstin/Martin

Motion to Adjourn: Martin/Sharon

Next meeting is Jan 19th at 6:30 pm

JANUARY 2025

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			01 No GASP	02 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	03 Jaime's Sabbath	04 Jaime's Sabbath Jaime off for education
05 9:30 Worship no Communion Jaime off for education	06 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime off for education	07 Jaime off for education	08 GASP 3:30-5PM Jaime off for education	09 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30pm Jaime off for education	10 Jaime's Sabbath Jaime off for education	11 Jaime's Sabbath Jaime off for education
12 9:30 Worship no Communion Make-A-Change Jaime off for education	13 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	14	15 GASP 3:30-5PM	16 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	17 Jaime's Sabbath	18 Jaime's Sabbath
19 9:30 Epiphany Worship w/ Communion Baptism Potluck 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	20 DEADLINE February News- letter Deadline 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Financial Reports Due	21	22 GASP 3:30-5PM	23 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	24 Jaime's Sabbath	25 Jaime's Sabbath
26 9:30 Baptism of Our Lord Worship w/ Communion Altar Guild Meeting after Worship	27 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	28	29 GASP 3:30-5PM	30 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	31 Jaime's Sabbath	

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.
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2025 January Newsletter



CHURCH STAFF

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

PHONE NUMBERS

CHURCH.....(701) 678-2552
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