

*Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
Gwinner, North Dakota*

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



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Coming Up In March

March 2:

Annual Meeting After Worship

March 5:

Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:15PM

March 12:

**Midweek Lent Services begin on
Wednesdays**

5:00-6:00PM Meal: Soup & Sandwich

6:15PM Worship

“God Pause”

Theme for the Season of Lent

“Broken and Beloved: Stories of God’s Steadfast Love.”

“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18

Throughout our lives, we often face the reality that two seemingly different or opposite things can be true at the same time. The sun can be shining, and the temperature can be freezing. Times can be hard, and we can be filled with optimism. A project may never be finished, and it can be done. We may feel like we are both making a lot of progress, and we are standing still, or maybe even going backwards. Different realities, both true.

The same can be said for our very selves. We are never just one thing, and oftentimes, the very essence of who we are can seem like opposites. Martin Luther said that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Two different things, opposites, both true at the same time.

Lent is an especially good time to reflect upon such things, to consider and wonder about what it means that within our very selves, we are more than one thing at any given time. This Lent, you are invited to reflect upon what this “simultaneous-ness” means for your life by dwelling in the theme “Broken and Beloved – Stories of God’s Steadfast Love.”

Under this theme, you will consider biblical characters who embody various experiences of brokenness and beloved-ness. You will wonder about how these characters speak to your own experiences. You will be invited to consider how brokenness and beloved-ness are a part of your own life experiences, and you will be reminded again and again that amid all the different things that can be true at the same time, one thing is a constant – the steadfast love of God.

Created by Rev. Dr. Char Rachuy Cox through the Nourishing Vocation with Children Project.

Our midweek Lenten Theme is “Unbroken: A Living Faith.”

When so many people identify themselves as Christian how can we spend some time thinking deeply about what we really believe? What is the what? What are the foundational beliefs and how are they living and moving with us as we change and grow?

Faith is passed down from generation to generation - it’s an unbroken line of ancestry that connects us all the way back to Jesus. The powers of the world wanted to break Jesus and yet this faith that we rest on is strong enough that they couldn’t do it. We are a part of this great tradition that will not and cannot be broken.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



- March 02:** 9:30am Worship service with Communion - Pastor Jaime - Sunday School After Worship
March 02: Annual Meeting after Worship
March 02: WELCA Meeting after Worship
March 05: Ash Wednesday Worship 6:15PM
March 05: No GASP
March 09: 9:30am Worship service with Communion - Pastor Jaime - No Sunday School
March 09: Make-A-Change Sunday
March 12: 3:30 PM GASP
March 12: Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00PM Meal 6:15PM Worship
March 13: 2:30 PM Ruth Circle
March 16: 9:30am Worship service with Communion - Pastor Jaime - Sunday School After Worship
March 19: No GASP
March 19: Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00PM Meal 6:15PM Worship
March 23: 9:30am Worship service with Communion - Pastor Jaime - No Sunday School
March 24: April Newsletter Deadline
March 26: 3:30 PM GASP
March 26: Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00PM Meal 6:15PM Worship
March 30: 9:30am Worship service with Communion - Pastor Jaime - Sunday School After Worship
March 30: Altar Guild Meeting After Worship

Annual Meeting: Yes, it's everyone's favorite time of year, Annual Meeting! Mark it down! The *Annual Meeting* will be held **March 2nd** after worship service. See you there!

Midweek Lenten Services: Holden Evening Prayer worship service will be held on Wednesdays beginning March 12th - April 9th. A soup and sandwich meal will be served from 5-6 PM followed by worship at 6:15 PM.

Thank You: The GA Foundation would like to express their gratitude for the generous memorial for Coleen Beaver.

Sunday School: Has resumed. **See page 4 of this newsletter** for more information. Sign up can be completed online at www.galutheranchurch.org or forms are available at the church.

Venmo: GA Church has Venmo! If you would like to use Venmo to place your Weekly, Monthly, and Annual Offerings or any other donations please do so!! Just scan the QR Code. Thank you!



Easter Lilies: The GA Altar Guild is looking for donations of 12 lily plants for this year's Easter service. We will be hanging the 2 wooden crosses made by Terry Urbach, and each cross holds six Easter lilies. If we receive more than 12 lilies, we will also be able to decorate the altar area in the sanctuary. For those willing to donate a lily, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Plants may be delivered to church the week before Easter so altar guild can prepare the sanctuary for our Easter service. Thank you.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Our Sympathies : Go out to the family and friends of: 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.

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.

Sunday School: "Following Jesus Through Luke" is the theme for our next six-week session of Sunday Elementary Faith Formation held **February 2 - March 16**. The Gospel of Luke is filled with inspiring stories and parables that help us remember what it looks like to follow Jesus. For six weeks we are going to read stories of Jesus' life and ministry and learn to follow Jesus in our life today. From Jesus' visit to Nazareth to calling the disciples, we will discover what it looks like to be called by Jesus and how when we follow in his footsteps, we can change the world around us. At Gustaf Adolf, our Sunday morning faith formation follows a workshop model created by Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke, VA. Kids get to pick an age-appropriate workshop to engage in for the six week session. Please register your child(ren) for ONE of the following workshops that they will attend for the entire six weeks: Gospel Games/Flag Football – Legos - Beads, String, & Jesus - Abstract Art. Registration is free and helps us prepare material for each workshop. Register online at www.galutheranchurch.org or pick up registration forms available at GA Church. Sunday morning faith formation is available for kids 3 years old - 6th grade. Contact Kirstin Kemple or Pastor Jaime for more information.

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

Beginning Balance: \$37485.17, Deposits: \$23,143.47, Payments: \$28784.79 Ending Balance: \$31843.85

2025 Year to Date Giving:

GA 2025 Budget: \$TBD Giving to Date: \$12,488.00 Giving Needed: \$TBD

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:

April 13: Palm Sunday

April 17: Maundy Thursday Service

April 18: Good Friday Service

April 20: Easter Worship Service



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.

March-April WELCA Action Group

Co-Chairs: Kris Beck

Nancy Wrage

Jackie Meyer

Michelle Ciesynski

Nicki Erickson

Betty Johnson

Barb Klemetson

Janae Sherlock

Della Teske

Judy Tyler

Kari Ulven

Karla Ulven

Patty Ulven

Shirley Waloch

Rhonda Weigelt

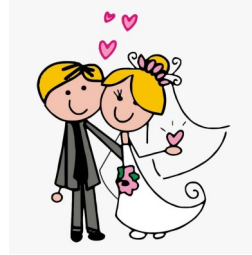
Kirstin Kempel

Kalea Johnson



March Birthdays

- 1 Nicki Erickson
- 2 Jolene Lauth
Brad Zetocha
- 3 Corey Odegard
MacKenna Sherman
- 4 Peggy Erickson
- 6 Dylan Goettle
- 7 Carter Anderson
- 9 Morgan Heger
- 10 Tyler Vincent
Blayke Jacobson
- 12 Bobby Beckstrom
Aaron Flannery
Richard Olson
- 13 Patricia Creech
- 14 Jonathon McFarland
Martin Potts
- 15 Ashlee Lien
- 17 John Crandall
Samuel Crandall
Casey Flannery
Lucas Jacobson
- 18 Jeremy Berreth
Tracy Nicholson
Wendy Swanson
- 19 Arlin Sandstrom
- 20 Darby Swanson
Rodney Utecht
Janelle Mairs
- 21 Hope Ciesynski
Allen Johnson
- 22 Daro Crandall
- 23 Emerson Beck
Addyson Hardy
Mike Richter
Hans Swanson
Vicki Osier



- 24 Shelly Beckstrom
- 25 Bridger Crandall
Diane Odegard
- 26 Charlene Smith
- 27 Samantha Kranzler
Scott Melroe
Lee Schwagel
Rhonda Weigelt
Natalie Otonichar
Beckett Hansen
- 28 Zasha Johnson
- 29 Bruce Holden
Kandyce Sandstrom
- 30 Keith Beaver
Michael Witkowski
Warren Seykora
- 31 Ryan Johnson

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 contact the church office at 678-2552 or email us at

galutheran-church@outlook.com

Thanks!

March Anniversaries

- 1 Ginger & Rodney Utecht
Anna & Bruce Holden
- 9 Kirstin & Torey Kempel
- 17 Timothy & Jessica Peterson
- 21 Becky & Darrel Salberg

March 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.



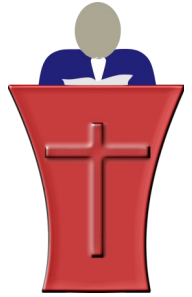
Sound System

Sound System is now
A Paid Position.

Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.

Readers

- 02 Megan Enge
- 09 Michelle Goettle
- 16 Becky Salberg
- 23 Michelle Ciesynski
- 30 Val Bjork



Greeters

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



Ushers

Captain: Torey & Kirstin Kempel

David & Donna Hansen

Terry & Karen Euscher

Miles & Lannae Johnson



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

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church Council Minutes

MARCH 2025 ISSUE 3

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Council Meeting- Jan 26, 2025 – 6:30pm Members present: Sharon, Mike, Kirstin, Martin, and Kris. Also present: Pastor Jaime

Kris called the meeting to order. Pastor Jaime opened with prayer.

Approve the agenda: Mike/Martin **Approve the secretary's report:** Sharon/Martin

Pastor's Report:

*Jan 4-12 Jaime attended continuing ed. in Turks and Caicos with 16 women from across the country. Focus was on Sabbath and discernment/reflection on their calls in ministry along with support, encouragement, and connection.

*Epiphany Sunday was celebrated Jan 19th and was an interactive, intergenerational service. It included a baptism and was followed by S.S. and a potluck meal.

*Jan. 24-26 Meta Herrick Carlson visited Gwinner to meet people from our community. Meta is with the pilot program "Renewing Reformation" through Church Anew, which Pastor Jaime was nominated to be part of by Bishop Tessa.

*Jan. 26 was the Baptism of our Lord and was celebrated with an interactive, intergenerational service involving thanksgiving for baptism liturgy along with aspersion (sprinkling of water on assembly).

*Jan. 26 - the foundation committee and the worship and music committee met after the service.

^GASP has continued to be held on Wednesdays throughout January, with 16-20 kids attending.

*Feb. 2nd - worship and music will finalize the Lenten material.

*Feb. 2nd SS workshops will resume for 6 wks.

*March 2nd - annual meeting

*March 5th - Ash Wednesday

Church Work Group Reports:

Property and Grounds-New light bulbs needed outside on west side. Discussion about heat tape and melting on roof. Should we put gutters on the west side to eliminate icy sidewalks? Also, we need to give away the cots and crib being stored in the shed.

WELCA-No Report

Men's Group-There are things that need to be cleaned up following the Lutefisk Supper and stored in proper place.

Altar Guild-Will meet with Dennis Dahl to discuss the next step with the baptismal font he is making.

Education-SS started on the 19th. The new spring SS theme is Following Jesus through Luke.

Worship and Music- Undergoing planning for Lent

Old and New Business:

*Staff evaluations were completed for 2024

*Constitutional updates- Need 2 meetings before a vote.

Remove treasurer since we have paid staff

Council member numbers

Date of annual meeting

Review of the constitution for other changes

^Chair rental discussion -tabled

*Job Descriptions were not changed

*Approval of Objectives and Resolutions. Kirstin/Mike

*Items to add to annual meeting agenda (date of annual meeting, roof/gutters)

Treasurer's Report:

*Balance of Jan. 26th is \$44,000.40


*Balance of dedicated savings is \$26,601.68

Approve Treasurer's Report: Martin/Kirstin

Motion to Adjourn: Mike/Sharon

Next Meeting- Feb. 9th after the church service.

MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						01 Jaime's Sabbath
02 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Sunday School Annual Meeting WELCA Meeting	03 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	04	05 No GASP Ash Wednes- day Service 6:15PM	06 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	07 Jaime's Sabbath	08 Jaime's Sabbath
09 9:30 Worship w/ Communion No Sunday School Make-A-Change	10 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	11	12 GASP 3:30-5PM Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00PM Meal 6:15PM Worship	13 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30pm	14 Jaime's Sabbath	15 Jaime's Sabbath
16 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Sunday School	17 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	18	19 No GASP Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00PM Meal 6:15PM Worship	20 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	21 Jaime's Sabbath	22 Jaime's Sabbath
23 9:30 Worship w/ Communion No S.S. 30 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Sunday School Altar Guild Meeting	24  April Newslet- ter Deadline 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline 31	25	26 GASP 3:30-5PM Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00PM Meal 6:15PM Worship	27 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	28 Jaime's Sabbath	29 Jaime's Sabbath

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.
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Gwinner, ND 58040-0176



2025 March 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.....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