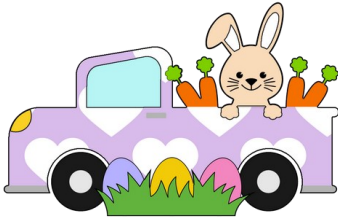


*Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
Gwinner, North Dakota*

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Holy Week Services

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm

April 3rd: Good Friday Service 6:30pm

April 5th: Easter Sunrise Service 7:00am

YOGA Breakfast: between services

Easter Traditional Worship Service: 9:30am

“God Pause”



God Pause

A daily devotion brought to you by the alumni of Luther Seminary

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 (NRSV)

Verse¹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Verse²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Verse¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

Verse²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

Verse²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Verse²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Verse²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Verse²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Verse²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Verse²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

Verse²⁷The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

Verse²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

Verse²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Devotion

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." The call-and-response children's song echoes through my head as I ponder the psalm that bookends Holy Week. We sing Psalm 118 to celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and then, after his arrest, torture, and death, we'll sing some of the same verses again to celebrate Christ's resurrection. As 21st century Christians, it's impossible for us to enter into Holy Week with the naivety of the disciples. Unlike those followers who sat with Jesus at the Last Supper, we know the conclusion of next week's drama before the table is set. We know that because God's steadfast love endures forever, the tomb will be empty at the end. This story—the whole story—is in our hearts and on our lips, year after year, passed down through generations. We also know the suffering that Jesus must endure before he is raised, and so we go with the disciples to the Mount of Olives, singing "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Prayer

Oh God, you have suffered for us, with us, and because of us. God of steadfast love, I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. Amen.

Sally Messner '07 M.S.M. Minister of Worship and the Arts, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church;
Director of Worship, Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause>

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



- April 02:** 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service- Pastor Jaime Decker
April 03: 6:30pm Good Friday Service - Pastor Jaime Decker
April 05: 7:00am Sunrise Easter Worship Service - Pastor Jaime Decker
April 05: Easter Breakfast served between worship services
April 05: 9:30am Traditional Easter Worship Service - Pastor Jaime Decker
 No Sunday School
April 06: Pastor Jaime off - Non-Contracted time thru April 13th
April 09: Ruth Circle 2:30pm
April 12: 9:30 AM Holy Humor Worship Service – Kirstin Kempel - Make-A-Change Sunday
 Sunday School after Worship
April 15: 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting
April 19: 9:30am Worship Service with Communion - Pastor Jaime Decker
 Sunday School after Worship
April 20: May Newsletter Deadline
April 26: 9:30am Worship Service with Communion - Pastor Jaime Decker
 Sunday School after Worship (last day), Altar Guild Meeting after Worship
April 26: 11:00 - 12:30 Men's Group Hamburger & Hotdog Feed

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 Breakfast: YOGA (Youth of GA) will be serving their Annual Easter Breakfast between the Sunrise Worship service and the Traditional Worship service on April 5th. The meal is Free-Will. We invite you to join us for a delicious breakfast and to help support the Youth of GA. All are welcome.

Easter Lily Donations: In preparation for Easter Sunday services, the GA Altar Guild will be hanging up the crosses that hold 6 lilies in each cross. We welcome any donations of lilies or other plants to beautify the sanctuary. Lilies will not be placed in the sanctuary until the Saturday before Easter. You may place your flower donation on the table under the coat hangers in the Narthex (entry). If you donate an Easter Lily/Plant to help decorate our worship service this Easter Season please write your name on the Lily Donation sheet on the table by the secretary office and please include who the plant is in Memory/Honor of. Thank you for helping our worship space look beautiful this Easter Season.

Office Desk: Carrili is looking for a new/gently used desk for the office. If you have any at your home or work that you would be willing to donate please contact her and send her a picture to see if it would be a good fit, it does need to have 2 file hanging drawers. Or, if anyone would like to offer their skills to refinish the top of her current desk that would be a great option also (it has water damage from the roof leaking). Contact Carrili with any questions. Thanks!

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Our Sympathies : Go out to the family and friends of: Gary Myers and Kay Swanson. 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 Ongoing Needs: Any shelf-stable, non-perishable Items are needed. Suggested items: Canned items, ready-meals (hamburger helper, mac-n-cheese, stuffing mix), pasta & pasta sauce, pancake mix & syrup, shelf-stable juice, cereal, peanut butter. We also can use household items (toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex, laundry soap, dish soap) and personal items (shampoo, body wash, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, tooth-paste). 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, bread, potatoes, fresh vegetables and fruit). 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.

Bulletin Donations: The bulletin donation sheet for the 2026 Church year is available on the table in the narthex. Bulletins cost \$15.00 per worship service to sponsor, please give payments to Carrili. Thank you!

Thank You: A Big Thanks goes out to all those who donated their time and equipment this winter to keep GA cleared out and safe to access. Your efforts don't go unnoticed.

Mowing List: Spring will soon be upon us!! If you would like to be added to the mowing list, and or removed, please let Carrili know by April 10th. Thank you in advance to all who donate their time and equipment to help keep the church lawn looking great!

Book Study: We will be reading and discussing "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Anna Johnston. Next meeting date TBD.

Make-A-Change: On April 12th, we would like to have the Sunday School kids help us share with the congregation the gifts that were chosen for the "Make-A-Change". Thanks to all who donated loose change throughout the year. GA's "Make a Change" donations truly make a positive impact on people in so many other countries around the world.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

Looking Ahead!

Senior Graduate Sunday

Confirmation Project Presentations: Sunday May 3rd



Senior Meals: Gwinner will now host a Senior Meal at Noon at the Community Center on Main Street, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Call 701-678-3815 to sign up. See flier in entry for more information.

Burger & Hotdog Feed: The GA Men’s Group will be hosting their Annual Burger & Hotdog feed Sunday, April 26th from 11:00am - 12:30pm. Open to the public to attend, please spread the word.

March-April WELCA Action Group

**Co-Chairs: Kris Beck
Nancy Wrage**

Michelle Ciesynski

Nicki Erickson

Betty Johnson

Barb Klemetson

Janae Sherlock

Della Teske

Judy Tyler

Kari Ulven

Karla Ulven

Shirley Waloch

Kirstin Kempel

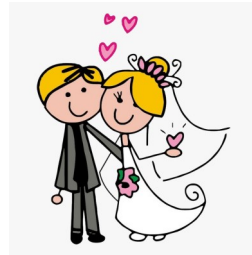
Kalea Johnson

Jackie Meyer



April Birthdays

- 1 Karson Beckstrom
Kari Gilje
Paul White
- 2 Ethan Weigelt
- 3 Nancy Comegys
Tysen Hansen
Benjamin Odegard
- 4 Ginny Margolis
- 5 Jaylene Herman
- 6 Kristin Witkowski
- 7 Kris Nerison
- 8 Dawn Anderson
- 9 Jerry Fuss
- 10 Lynn Anderson
- 11 Marah Wittenburg
Shalon Benneweis
Benett Brintnell
- 12 Chelsey Anderson
Chad Crandall
- 13 Tyler Beckstrom
Lynn Jacobson
Maeve Lesmeister
- 14 Shawn Beck
Treana Berreth
Olivia Waswick
Ken Wiederholt
- 15 La Von Stopplesworth
Sawyer Toepke
- 17 Joshua Crellin
Brandon Holden
James Johnson
Sheridan McKeever
- 19 Randy Christensen
Jason Nelson
- 20 Jared Crellin
Emma Osier
Cody Huffar
- 21 Chris Tufty
- 22 Marsha Murphy
Nancy Wrage



- 23 Steve Johnson
Kyle Sanchez
Dalton Melroe
- 25 Rodney Hansen
Carolyn Klemetson
- 26 Val Bjork
Joey McGuire
Max Schroeder
- 27 Kaitlyn Diegel
- 28 Kristi Beaver
Jaxyn Christensen
- 30 Richard Olson
Karlie Shockley Odegard

***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!

April Anniversaries

- 02 Rachel & Jason Nelson
- 08 Karla Ulven & Craig Beedy
- 09 Shalon & Darren Benneweis
- 12 Val & Brian Bjork
- 18 Jolene & Tim Christensen
- 19 Darci & Roger Asche
Karen & Terry Euscher
- 28 Carolyn & Richard Jacobson

April 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.



Readers

- 05 Barb Melroe 9:30 Service
- 12 Michelle Ciesynski
- 19 Kirstin Kempel
- 26 Nancy Wrage



Greeters

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



Sound System

Sound System is now A Paid Position.

Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.



Ushers

Captain: Shawn & Kris Beck

Pete & Janae Sherlock

Dennis & Denise Dahl

Timothy & Jessica Peterson



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

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Council Meeting Minutes 3/18/26 Written by Walter Wrage. **Members present:** Kirstin, Walter, Trudy, Lori, Sharon, Keith and Pastor Jaime. Meeting called to order: Pres. Kirstin called meeting to order at 5:32pm Devotions and Prayer: Pastor Jaime led devotion and prayer to start the meeting. The Ezekiel passage was read. God gives breath was the theme.

Adopt the agenda: Any additions: 1. Discussion on possible desk update/repair Kirstin called for a motion to approve the agenda, Lori made the motion and Sharon 2nd.

Secretary Report: Discussed report. Kirstin called for a motion to approve the report, Lori made the motion, Keith seconded.

Pastor Report: -Pastor has been meeting with the confirmation kids once a month. Will present projects on May 3rd. - Discussed sending thank you cards to a member of the church who has stood out or been available when needed.

March 1-14: non contracted March 15: install of council members March 16: book study - finished our book and will begin a new book, The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife, by Anna Johnston. We will discuss ch. 1&2 on Monday, March 30 at 6:30 pm. March 21: Kay Swanson funeral March 25: W&M meeting to plan Holy Week and spring schedule March 26: Wahpeton Conference meeting in Milnor - informational meeting about Bishop Election during Synod Assembly Holy Week: Palm Sunday - March 29, Easter Sunday: April 5 April 6-12: noncontracted time

Work group reports

Property and grounds: A church member smelled sewer in the custodian room. Keith will look into the issue. The flooring threshold is missing going to the library, Keith will handle it. Parsonage extra recycling can, Kirstin will look into.

Welca: Palm sunday dinner, after church starting at 10:45. Nancy is in charge of posting events and getting food ready. Last year served 70, only a few outside of the church. Looking to build the event up.

Men's Group: Burger/Hotdog feed April 26. Floor waxing has been postponed due to Kay Swanson's funeral. Will choose a new date soon, all the supplies are ready for the project.

Yoga: Hosting a march madness fundraiser. 7 or 8 kids lined up for the North Carolina trip.

Education: 3 girls teaching Sunday school. Looking at ending the program in May due to declining summer attendance. Will also be deciding what the "Make a Change" donations will be.

Alter Guild: Two new members, Jolene Hardy and Donna Hanson. Shirley Fuss will no longer be a member due to moving out of the area. Worship and Music: Nothing new, will reach out for the next meeting.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Possible update dahlstrom funeral terms: -Discussed suggested donation to the foundation account if memorials are given by the family. Talked about making a pamphlet for the GA Foundation with information about donations and what the purpose is. -Shingle discussion: Keith and Dennis will discuss. The roofing expert will not quote the tin due to issues with layout of the roof. He was not comfortable even talking about tin due to the shape of the roof and he thinks we will have more issues with the tin on the transition from the sanctuary to the Sunday school rooms. They have advised on doing a high quality shingle with extra repairs underneath if needed. Extra cost if more work is required. Discussed adding a layer of faced insulation under the blown in. The vapor barrier is the part of the insulation that is missing. This vapor barrier is what keeps the moisture out of the attic. Total quote with the insulation \$74,378.70. We would like to do both the shingles and insulation at the same time. Also we would like to double the amount of ice and water protection in the valleys and eaves. 2 issues are present, heat getting into the attic, and leaking water through the shingles. Will need a congregational meeting with an approval, need to have the meeting in the bulletin 2 number of times. Will be getting 3 quotes for due diligence. Discussed fundraising efforts and how to fund the project. Desk discussion: Keith will look into repair, still looking for options. It needs two large drawers.

Money transfer: decided \$2,500 into foundation, \$2,500 into a CD. Reason being if we needed the funds they are available.

Treasure's Report: Walter made a motion to approve, Lori seconded.

Adjournment: Sharon made the motion at 6:47 to adjourn the meeting, Trudy seconded. Lord's Prayer: Kirstin lead the Lord's prayer. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00pm

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			01	02 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Maundy Thursday Service 6:30PM	03 Jaime's Sabbath Good Friday Service 6:30PM	04 Jaime's Sabbath
05 7:00am Sun- rise Service— Pastor Jaime Easter Break- fast 9:30am Tradi- tional Worship No Sunday School	06 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	07 Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	08 Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	09 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30PM Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	10 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	11 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)
12 9:30 Worship— Kirstin Kempel Make-A-Change Sunday School Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	13 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	14	15 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	16 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	17 Jaime's Sabbath	18 Jaime's Sabbath
19 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime Sunday School	20 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline May Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	24 Jaime's Sabbath	25 Jaime's Sabbath
26 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime Sunday School Altar Guild Meet- ing Burger & Hotdog Feed 11:00 - 12:30	27 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30		

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



2026 April 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.....KIRSTIN KEMPEL
SCS SUPERINTENDENT.....
YOGA LEADERS.....MASYN STAHL & CALEB ADAMS

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

KIRSTIN KEMPEL (PRESIDENT), PAUL WHITE (VICE PRES.),
WALTER WRAGE (SECRETARY), LORI WIEDERHOLT,
SHARON BECKSTROM, TRUDY PETERSON, KEITH BEAVER