

DECEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER



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Important December Dates

December 3rd: Family Funday Sunday
Stewardship Team "Reveal" Sunday

December 10th: Sunday School Christmas
Program during worship,
YOGA Soup, Sandwich & Auction after
worship.

December 24th: No 9:30 Service,
Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 PM.

December 25th: No Services

“God Pause”

Stewardship

GA's Council and Stewardship Team would like to thank everyone for their generosity shown to GA throughout the Fall Stewardship Drive. Thank you for your faithful support of GA Church shown through your offerings of time, talent, and treasure. We hope this experience encourages us to continue sharing our stories and working together to build a culture of generosity that extends GA's mission from generation to generation. Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

December 3 - "Reveal" Sunday!

Our Council and Stewardship Team will be revealing the number of intent cards returned from our fall stewardship drive, "Building a Culture of Generosity." Sunday, December 3rd they will reveal if we met our goal of 40 intent cards returned by November 26th. Come and find out if we will receive the generous \$6000 challenge gift donated by two GA families.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Dec 03: 9:30am Worship With Communion—Pastor Jaime, Sunday School Sings During Worship
Family Funday after Worship, Christmas Program Practice after Worship

Dec 06: Multi-Community Choir Cantata 7:30pm, No Wed Night Education

Dec 10: 9:30am Worship With Communion—Pastor Jaime, Sunday Christmas Program during worship
YOGA Soup, Sandwich & Auction after worship.

Dec 13: YOGA & Confirmation Only, No Wed Night Education

Dec 14: Ruth Circle 2:30pm

Dec 17: Ugly Sweater Sunday: 9:30am Worship With Communion—Pastor Jaime, No Sunday School

Dec 20: No Wed Night Classes

Dec 24: No 9:30am Worship Service and No Sunday School, 4:00PM Christmas Eve Worship

Dec 25: No Worship Services, Offices Closed - January Newsletter Deadline

Dec 27: Altar Guild Meeting 5:30pm, No Wed Night Classes

Dec 31: Jammies & Jingles: 9:30am Worship With Communion—Pastor Jaime, No Sunday School

Venmo: 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!



venmo

Bulletin Donation Sheet: The bulletin donation sheet for the 2024 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.

Leaders Needed: Leaders are needed for worship on the following Sunday, **January 14th**. If you are interested in leading, please let Carrili know. Thank you in advance for your help.

"Reveal" Sunday: Our Council and Stewardship Team will be revealing the number of intent cards returned from our fall stewardship drive, "Building a Culture of Generosity." This Sunday they will reveal if we met our goal of 40 intent cards returned by November 26th. Come and find out if we will receive the generous \$6000 challenge gift donated by two GA families.

December 3 - Family Funday Sunday: We invite you to join us for a fun day of making holiday crafts and decorating cookies as we kickoff the Advent Season and prepare ourselves for Christmas. Open to the public. Families and individuals are welcome to participate.

December 10 - Youth Christmas Play during 9:30 am worship service. **YOGA Soup & Sandwich** with Auction will follow the service. (Anyone who is interested in donating an item for the auction can drop their item(s) off at the church office by 9am Sunday, December 10th. All proceeds will be used to help our YOGA attend activities and events throughout the year.)

December 17 - Ugly Sweater Sunday: It's time to get out those ugly sweaters, vintage or new, Christmas or not, and wear them this Sunday for worship. Let the laughs begin!

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.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Our Sympathies : Go out to the family and friends of: DiAnna Johnson. May God's loving embrace help you through this difficult time, and may the many happy memories ease your pain.



The Gwinner location of the Sargent County Food Pantry **Top Needs: Canned fruits/veggies, Beans, Soups, Cereal, Paper Products, Hygiene Items, Juice, Condiments, Flour, Sugar, Oil, Pasta.** Monetary donations are also appreciated. Send them 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, potatoes, fresh vegetables and fruits). Drop off places in Gwinner for non-perishables are GA Lutheran Church, or Teals Market. You can also 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.

Online Giving: GA Church now has online giving available you can download the Givelify App or you can go to www.galutheranchurch.org and click on the Donate Now tab. As always your donations to GA are greatly appreciated! Thank you.



SNOW REMOVAL!!: Yes, that nasty White Stuff is back! Reminder that snow removal is done on a voluntary basis at GA Church. Thank you in advance, to ALL who take their time and volunteer their equipment to keep GA safe this winter season.

Thank Offering: \$529.88 was collected for the Thank Offering donations. These funds were sent to the Lutheran Disaster Response for the Middle East Crisis. Thank you to all. ~WELCA~

Teals Receipts: YOGA is once again collecting Teals Grocery receipts to turn in to help fund their educational trips & events. If you would like to help them out all you have to do is save your Teals receipts and turn them into the church office. Thank you in advance for your help.

Church Finances:

For the Month of October 2023

Beginning Balance: \$23988.00 + Deposits: \$24814.67 - Expenses: \$18690.09 =
Ending Balance: \$30112.58

Year to Date Giving:

GA 2023 Budget: \$195,310.00

Giving to Date: \$156,890.14

Giving Needed by 12-31-23: \$38,420.00



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

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

December 24: No 9:30 morning worship, 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship

December 25: no service. Office closed.

December 31 - Jammies and Jingles service: Are you needing a Sunday morning to relax in your pjs and sip on your morning cup of Joe? Are you needing some time to just chill and really soak up the season of Christmas? Then you won't want to miss this service! Come to worship wearing your pajamas, robes, slippers, or whatever comfortable clothes you prefer, and relax as we read the Christmas Story and sing songs of Christmas. Coffee and Christmas treats will be available.

Thank You: This year's lutefisk meal served 239 people. The Men's Group would like to thank the youth for waiting tables. A huge thank you to the women who provided lefsa, coleslaw, cranberry relish, and those who made meatballs and gravy. Thank you to the men who 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 ~

Looking Ahead! :

1. **February 4th:** Deadline For Annual Meeting Reports to be turned in!!
2. **March 3rd:** 2024 Annual Meeting



December Action Group

Co-Chairs: Val Bjork

Bonnie Beem

Heidi Johnson

Karen Euscher

Joan Johnson

Stacy McKeever

Diane Odegard

Heidi Gleason

Judy Berg

Denise Dahl

Deb Johnson

Wendy McFarland

Jan Melroe

Julie Waswick

Calli Jacobson



December Birthdays

PAGE 6

- 2 Darci Asche
Paula Hansen
- 3 Jesse Anderson
- 4 Michelle Goettle
Walter Wrage
- 5 Kolby Berreth
Jessa Berg
Tyson Porter
- 6 Zachary Johnson
MaKennzie Stubbett
- 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 Potts
- 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 contact the
church office at
678-2552 or***

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

Thanks!

December Worship Assistants

Acolytes

Have been removed from the
schedule at this time

03

10

17

24

31



Readers

Julie Johnson

Becky Salberg

Michelle Goettle

Michelle Ciesynski

Val Bjork



Communion Assistants

03

Auston Creech

10

Mike Larson

17

Michelle Ciesynski

24

Kris Beck

31

Paul White



Captain:

Greeters

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



Ushers

Walter & Megan Wrage

Martin & Julie Potts

Raymond & Jeanie Stahl

Mike & Carrili Larson

Kent & Julie Johnson



Snow Removal

Yes, that nasty White Stuff is back!
Reminder that snow removal is done on a
voluntary basis at GA Church.
Thank you in advance, to ALL who take
their time and volunteer their equipment
to keep GA safe this winter season.

Sound System

Sound System is now

A Paid Position.

Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.



November 5, 2023

President Kris Beck, called the regular meeting to order at 11:00 am. Council members present Kris Beck, Martin Potts, Auston Creech, Jakob Creech, Barb Melroe, Mike Larson, and Joleen Hardy. Also present, Pastor Jaime Decker.

Devotion and prayer led by: Pastor Jaime Decker

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** – Need to finish cleaning up in the parsonage yard, rock needs to be spread. Mike got the heat tape installed, Dennis Dahl cleaned the gutters, we need to do some fixing on the gutters and painting all the trim in the spring.
2. **WELCA** – Bake sale raised \$1709.
3. **Men's Group** – Lutefisk Supper served 239.
4. **YOGA** – Selling poinsettias again. Planning a trip for next summer. Need to start fundraising.
5. **Education** – Doing Wednesday and Sunday School for the kids. Xmas program Dec 10 during church with soup, sandwich, & auction to follow.
6. **Altar Guild** – Looking at purchasing a new baptismal font
7. **Worship and Music** – Need to meet with advent season starts December 3rd.

Old Business and New Business:

An insurance claim was made to Church Mutual for all the damage in the church for the ice dams. We need to have an estimate done by a contractor. Creech is going to met with Chris Ferderer and he will give a quote and do the work this winter.

Building a community of generosity campaign has begun. Asking members and friends to share stories of generosity. Inserts are being placed in the bulletin and letters have been sent out and more to come before December. The council filled out intent cards today during the meeting.

Pastor Jaime is going to be creating a survey monkey for what things we can do to follow our mission which will go out today.

We paid the insurance for the year but will be holding off paying the synod for awhile.

Put the thermometer up to show our budget and income. The budget for 2023 is \$195,310 and we have received \$152,864.14 so far this year. We need \$42,446 to meet budget.

Meeting dates need to be discussed, what works best around Wednesday services.

Time and talent sheets need to be updated.

Christmas Eve service - only 4:00 pm service.

Need to have someone come and look at the geothermal wells to see if there is a problem because of all the sink holes around the parking lot area.

There will be a new tv installed in the fellowship hall to display the power point during services.


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

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

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: December meeting ???

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					01 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	02
03 9:30 Worship with Comm Sunday School SS Sings Family Funday	04	05	06 Cantata 7:30pm No Wed Night Classes	07 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	08 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	09
10 9:30 Worship With Comm, Sunday School Program Make-A-Change Sunday Soup Sandwich & Auction	11	12	13 YOGA & Conformation No Education	14 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30PM	15 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	16
17 9:30 Worship With Com No Sunday School Ugly Sweater Sunday	18	19	20 No Education	21 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	22 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	23
24 9:30 No Worship 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 No Worship Offices Closed January Newsletter Deadline	26	27 5:30 Altar Guild No Wed Night Classes	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship With Com Jammies Day						

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



2023 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.....TRUDY PETERSON
COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....KRIS BECK
SCS SUPERINTENDENT.....MARKIE TOSO & RACHEL NELSON
YOGA LEADERS...JESSICA PETERSON, AUSTON CREECH, DAWN ANDERSON

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.),
BARB MELROE (SECRETARY), MIKE LARSON (TREASURER), JOLEEN HARDY
PAUL WHITE, AUSTON CREECH
AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE