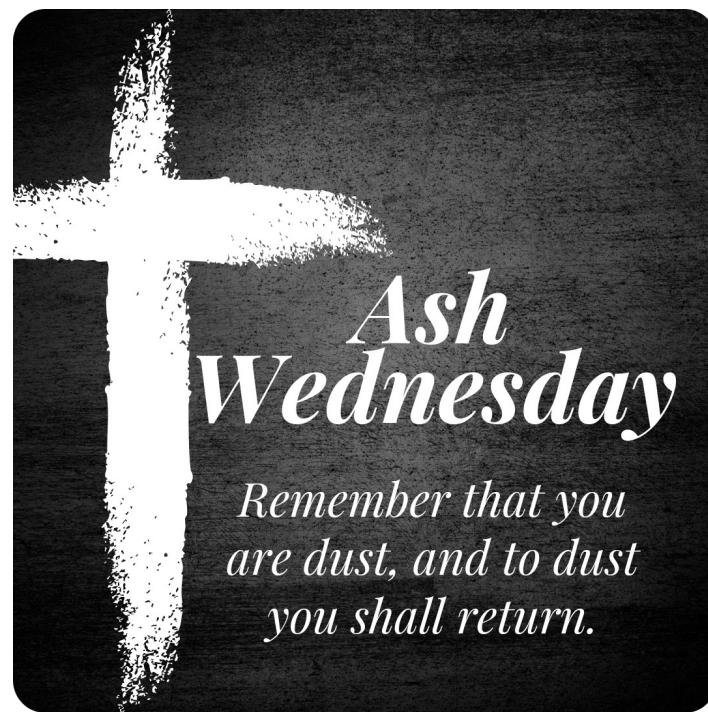


# FEBRUARY 2026

## NEWSLETTER



**February**



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## Lent Services

### Ash Wednesday

February 18th 6:30pm  
Led by Pastor Jaime

### Wednesday Evening Lent

#### "Beneath The Cross"

February 25th, March 4th, March 11th,  
March 18th, March 25th at 7:00pm  
Led by Julie Johnson

# “God Pause”



## God Pause

### **Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (NRSV)**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Verse<sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. Verse<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Verse<sup>6</sup>Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Verse<sup>7</sup>Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! Verse<sup>8</sup>“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. Verse<sup>9</sup>Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

### **Devotion**

Sometimes our “No, I can’t do that!” makes room for God’s “YES!” to break in. Earnestly motivated out of love for his wife, the husband and father entered my office on a mission. Three days earlier, diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer, his request was simple, “I have been given three months to live, please pray to God I die this week; I don’t want my family to go through all the drawn-out suffering.” “No, I am sorry I can’t do that.” What looked like an ending became a new beginning. “I can’t pray for your imminent death, but I can pray for your life to unfold in Christ’s peace.” Eighteen years later, physically altered, but stubbornly advocating for those living with cancer, the requestor chooses life unfalteringly, still living with the Big C. His faith echoes through the psalmist’s words, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” God’s ways are not our ways. In this, peace prevails.

### **Prayer**

God of Radiant Healing, when we walk through the shadows of death and see no way forward, shine your light of peace and hope to guide our path toward refuge in you. Enfold us with trust to choose life always in you. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Kate Schlechter '93 M.Div.

Senior Transition Pastor, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Los Alamos New Mexico

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



**Feb 01:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Pam Maloney (Pastor Jaime off Non-Contracted time)

**Feb 04:** Book Study 6:30pm

**Feb 08:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Pastor Jaime—Make-A-Change Sunday

**Feb 08:** **GA Church Annual Meeting** after worship, **Men's Group Meeting** to follow Annual meeting

**Feb 11:** Church Council 6:00pm

**Feb 12:** Ruth Circle 2:30pm

**Feb 15:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Pastor Jaime

**Feb 16:** March Newsletter Deadline

**Feb 18:** Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30pm: Pastor Jaime

**Feb 22:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Betty Maley

**Feb 22:** Pastor Jaime on Vacation thru Feb 28th

**Feb 22:** Altar Guild Meeting after worship

**Feb 25:** 7:00pm Wednesday Night Lent Worship: Julie Johnson

**Annual Meeting:** The 2026 GA Church Annual Meeting will be held **February 8th** after worship service. Please plan to attend, Your voice is important, as we make decisions for the 2026 church year at GA.

**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!



venmo

**Free-Piano:** GA Church has a piano to GIVE AWAY! The Piano is located in the Narthex (entryway). If you are interested, talk to Pastor Jaime or our secretary Carrili Larson. If you need assistance loading the piano, please let us know and arrangements will be made.

**Secretary Office Hours:** Carrili has moved her office hours to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-1:00pm. She will still be available by phone: 701-680-1190 and email: [galutheranchurch@outlook.com](mailto:galutheranchurch@outlook.com) as she has been in the past. Thank you.

**Men's Group Annual Meeting:** The GA Men's Group will hold their Annual Meeting directly after the Church Annual Meeting on February 8th. Please spread the word and see you there.

**Thrift Store:** GA continues to be a drop off site for Grace & Goods Thrift Store. However, the items must be placed in the designated Sunday school room here at church. The door has a sign with the thrift store name on it for your convenience. If you would prefer to drop it off at the church office, please contact Carrili so she is aware and can place it in the correct spot. We are experiencing many items being left around the church, leading us to wonder if they are thrift store items or someone else's property. Thank you for your help with this matter.

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



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

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, 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, 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!

**Snow Removal**: It's that time of year again! Just a reminder, snow removal at GA is done on a voluntary basis. If you have the equipment and the time your help with keeping the church safe this winter season is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your help!

**WELCA Booklets**: Booklet updated for 2026 will be Available on the table in the Narthex (front entry). Please feel free to grab a copy!

**Wednesday Evening Worship**: Services will be held at 7:00pm Wednesday evenings during Lent, there will not be an evening meal.

## **2025 Year to Date Giving:**

**GA 2025 Budget:** \$232,550.00

**2025 Giving to Date:** \$ 215,195.72

We met our budget. Thank you for your generous support of GA.

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.***



venmo

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

## Looking Ahead!

**Wednesdays in March** : Lent Evening Worship  
Services 7:00pm (No Meal)

**April 05:** Easter Worship



**Book Study:** Our next book we will be reading and discussing is “*A Pilgrimage into Letting Go*,” by Andrew Root and Kara K. Root. Our first meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th at 6:30 pm. We will discuss chapters 1&2. Please join me on this pilgrimage as we lean into what it looks like and what happens when we allow ourselves to let go of control. How does God show up in our letting go, and how does letting go change our encounters from aggression to resonance?

**Giving Hearts:** Giving Hearts Day: February 12, 2026 The EaND Synod encourages you to participate in this regional day of generosity! Donate before February 12th to DOUBLE your impact. Visit [www.givingheartsday.org](http://www.givingheartsday.org).

## January-February WELCA Action Group

Co-Chairs: Rachel Nelson

Dawn Anderson

Paula M Hansen

Carolyn Klemetson

Nicole Shockley

LaVon Stoppleworth

Tanya Walth

Laurie Lee

Karla Waloch

Janelle Mairs

Kristy Mairs

Sandra Nerison

Jessica Peterson

DeAnna Youle

Emma Waloch



# February Birthdays

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- 1 Paetyn Qualley
- 2 Kelsey Beckstrom  
Mike Larson
- 3 Janet Orn  
Sam Gebeke  
Marshall Weigelt
- 7 Clarmont Ulven
- 8 Kris Beck  
Tayler Hansen  
Sage Turchin
- 9 Chase McFarland  
Emma Waloch
- 10 Jasmine Sherlock
- 11 Kirstin Kempel
- 12 Katelyn Decker  
Dawson McKeever  
Justin Rodine
- 13 Betty Melroe  
Jennifer Kleingartner
- 14 Laura Thurston
- 16 Brian Tyler  
Galen Metz  
Kari Ulven
- 17 Lando Decker
- 18 Myrna Anderson
- 19 Michelle Ciesynski
- 20 Randy Holden  
Kenwood Peterson  
Jewel Jones-VanTassel  
Trista Weigelt
- 21 Preston Odegard
- 22 Dennis Peterson
- 23 James D. Johnson  
Lucas Lautt
- 24 Dennis Dahl  
Sierra Christensen  
Vanessa Beaver
- 25 Logan Peterson  
Chad Vincent



- 26 Kristy Hohnadel
- 27 Terry Beckstrom
- 28 Aidan Anderson
- 29 Dawson Peterson



## February Anniversaries

*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!*

# February 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.



## Sound System

Sound System is now  
A Paid Position.  
Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.



## Readers

01	Becky Salberg
08	Carrili Larson
15	Kirstin Kempel
18	Ash Wednesday—Youth
22	Julie Johnson
25	Evening Lent—Volunteer



## Greeters

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



## Ushers

**Captain: Sean & Dawn Anderson**  
Calli & Lucas Jacobson  
Heather Swanson  
Darrel & Becky Salberg  
Dan & Stacy McKeever



**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

FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE 02

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**Council Minutes 1-11-26:** Members present: Kirstin, Mike, Walter, Paul, Sharon was present via phone call and was on speaker. Meeting called to order: Pres. Kirstin called meeting to order at 5:29pm Devotions and Prayer: Kirstin led devotion and prayer to start the meeting. Adopt the agenda: Kirsten has 2 things to add: 1. Council needs to vote to approve the agenda for the annual meeting. 2. Discussion on purchasing a programmable thermostat to help reduce the energy bill and also improve the comfort during large events. Paul made a motion to approve the additions, Sharon seconded. Secretary Report: Kirstin called for a motion to approve the report, Mike made the motion, Paul seconded. Pastor Report: Dec 21: exchanged gifts for Blue Camel Gift exchange. Fun to see the gifts created and share the laughter, tears, and love among our members; had a few people decorate cookies and make ornaments for Family Fun during fellowship Dec 23: last session of Advent Devotional offered Dec 24: Christmas Eve traditional service at 4pm. Just under 200 people attended Dec 28: worship service canceled due to weather January 1: begin my call as pastor at 75% time. \*note: It still remains a "call" to the church and not a "contract." I'm using the language "non contracted" to help people understand which weeks are shown as the 25% decrease in my call as pastor, and to not be confused as "vacation." \*I have given Kirstin and Carrili the dates through April that I will be gone for designated time off due to "non contracted", vacation, or Cont. Ed., along with who will be leading worship on those Sundays. \*If there is a pastoral emergency while I am gone, please direct people to get a hold of Kirstin or Carrili and they will have names of pastors to contact. Jan 2: funeral service for Verna Anderson Jan 4: non contracted time off - W&M led Jan 5-12: gone for Continuing Ed with women in ministry. Focus on leadership for women and finding strength and community working together Jan 14: Worship & music meeting scheduled to plan Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 18th Jan 15: Anti-racism training in Hillsboro - required to take every 3 years Jan 18: Epiphany Sunday at GA. Celebrating with a potluck during fellowship. People will also be invited to draw a "Star Word" again during worship service. This is a word that helps you see where God is showing up in your life throughout the year, and a way to reflect on what God might be calling you to do. Jan 19 - Feb 1: non contracted time off Coming up: Feb 1: Sunday school starting back up? Feb 8: annual meeting Feb 18: Ash Wednesday

## Work group reports

Property and grounds: Mike fixed the facia on the south side of the church above the Sunday school windows, cleaned the sidewalks of ice for the funeral, and greased the west door. Paul saw that the sheet rock is fixed at the parsonage, and the chimney is cleaned out thanks to Jeremy.

Welca: The Christmas goodie bake sale had an ok turn out, lots of good donations. Will make adjustments for next year.

Men's Group: The men's group annual meeting is coming up, Walter will talk to Duane about the supper, Mike will talk to Dennis about the meeting date.

Yoga: No update. Education: Kirstin will talk about Sunday school starting up in February. Emma will be doing the VBS in August again. Sunday school students will decide what the Make a Change offering will be.

Alter Guild: No report.

Worship and Music: Will be meeting soon, talking about Lent on Jan. 14th.

**Old Business:** There will be a thank you letter for the all who donated/intend to donate during the stewardship drive. It will be mailed out with the year end statements. SAMS- 3 local lay ministers available and have the certification. 2 have offered to come in on a regular basis and give communion. Will need to work out a schedule. Will need 10 days prior to service to have synod approve the dates. Kirstin will send in dates to synod quarterly. Salary discussion with Kris: We had a long discussion with Kris and talked over all the options and decided on a recommendation. Paul approved the budget recommendation, Walter seconded.

Mike approved the Annual meeting agenda, Paul seconded.

**New Business:** -Kirstin brought up lowering the temp when the church is empty/not in use. -Custodian vacancies in the fall, she is going to college. -We were awarded the \$10,000 grant that Jamie had applied for. -Mike and Martin terms are up for church council. The nomination committee is working on replacements. Treasure's Report: NA Adjournment: Paul made the motion at 7:04pm to adjourn the meeting, Sharon seconded. Next meeting on Feb. 11 at 6pm. Lord's Prayer: Kirstin lead the prayer.

# FEBRUARY 2026

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>01</b> 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pam Maloney Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)	<b>02</b>	03	04 <b>Book Study 6:30 PM</b>	05 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	06 Jaime's Sabbath	07 Jaime's Sabbath
<b>08</b> 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime Make-A-Change <b>Annual Meeting</b> <b>Men's Group Mtg</b>	<b>09</b> 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	10 Pastor Jaime At Continuing Ed	11 <b>Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm</b>	12 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon <b>Ruth Circle 2:30PM</b>	13 Jaime's Sabbath	14 Jaime's Sabbath
<b>15</b> 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime	<b>16</b> 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline  <b>March Newsletter Deadline</b> 	17	18 <b>Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm</b>	19 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	20 Jaime's Sabbath	21 Jaime's Sabbath
<b>22</b> 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Betty Maley Pastor Jaime (On Vacation)	<b>23</b> 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Pastor Jaime (On Vacation)	24 Pastor Jaime (On Vacation)	25 <b>Lent Worship 7:00pm</b> Julie Johnson Pastor Jaime (On Vacation)	26 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Pastor Jaime (On Vacation)	27 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (On Vacation)	28 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (On Vacation)

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



2026 February Newsletter

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AND FACEBOOK!**

**WWW.GALUTHERANCHURCH.ORG**

**WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GALUTHERANCHURCH**

**CHURCH STAFF**

<b>PASTOR.....</b>	<b>JAIME DECKER</b>
<b>SECRETARY.....</b>	<b>CARRILI LARSON</b>
<b>TREASURER.....</b>	<b>MICHELLE GOETTLE</b>
<b>CUSTODIAN.....</b>	<b>ADALEE HILL</b>
<b>COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....</b>	<b>KIRSTIN KEMPEL</b>
<b>SCS SUPERINTENDENT.....</b>	
<b>YOGA LEADERS.....</b>	<b>MASYN STAHL &amp; CALEB ADAMS</b>

**PHONE NUMBERS**

<b>CHURCH.....</b>	<b>(701) 678-2552</b>
<b>JAIME CELL.....</b>	<b>(701) 680-2637</b>
<b>SECRETARY CELL.....</b>	<b>(701) 680-1190</b>

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

<b>PASTOR.....</b>	<b>JAIMEDECKER4@GMAIL.COM</b>
<b>CHURCH OFFICE.....</b>	<b>GALUTHERANCHURCH@OUTLOOK.COM</b>

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**KIRSTIN KEMPEL (PRESIDENT), MARTIN POTTS (VICE PRES.),  
WALTER WRAGE (SECRETARY), MIKE LARSON, LORI WIEDERHOLT,  
SHARON BECKSTROM, PAUL WHITE.**