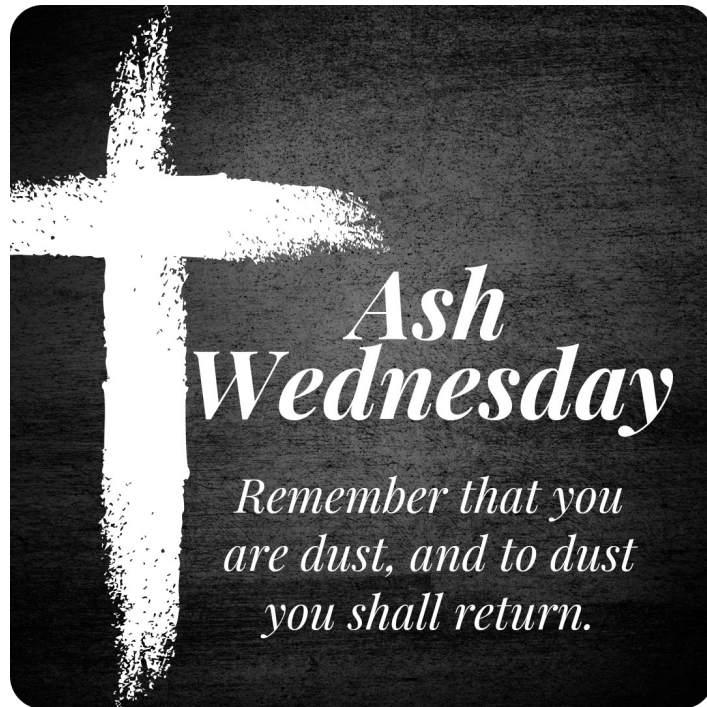


FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER



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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? Verse⁴One 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. Verse⁵For 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. Verse⁶Now 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. Verse⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! Verse⁸"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek. Verse⁹Do 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



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!



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 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, 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!

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.

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.

January-February WELCA Action Group

Co-Chairs: Rachel Nelson

Dawn Anderson

Paula M Hansen

Carolyn Klemetson

Nicole Shockley

LaVon Stopplesworth

Tanya Walth

Laurie Lee

Karla Waloch

Janelle Mairs

Kristy Mairs

Sandra Nerison

Jessica Peterson

DeAnna Youle

Emma Waloch



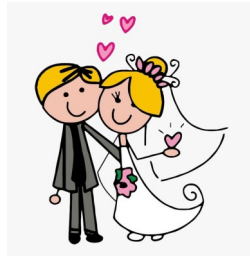
February Birthdays

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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 Lutt
- 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.



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.



Sound System

Sound System is now

A Paid Position.

Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.



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

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) 680-1 190

EMAIL ADDRESSES

PASTOR.....JAIMEDECKER4@GMAIL.COM
CHURCH OFFICE.....GALUTHERANCHURCH@OUTLOOK.COM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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