

*Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church  
Gwinner, North Dakota*

# FEBRUARY 2023

## NEWSLETTER



### Lenten Series

## Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. If you are returning to church, you are probably returning with more questions and a critical lens. We hope this series will help us unpack some of those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: what am I seeking? What is God seeking? This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

### Ash Wednesday:

**February 22, Potluck, 5:15pm, Worship 6:45pm**

### Wednesday Lent Services:

**Potluck 5:15, Worship 6:45**

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# “God Pause”

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



## **Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Verse<sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: Verse<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Verse<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Verse<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Verse<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Verse<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Verse<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Verse<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Verse<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Verse<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Verse<sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## **Devotion**

Here in the season of Epiphany, we encounter the Beatitudes, which begin Jesus' Sermon on the Mount according to Matthew. Clearly well-loved, they teach the contrast between human nature and Christian principles. I have often referred to them as the "be-attitudes," how Jesus illumines our understanding of his message. Enlightenment is very much an Epiphany theme, and the Beatitudes are kind of an attitude-check that leads us to ask that burning question: "What is the secret to being 'blessed,' to finding true happiness?" Is it in fame, fortune, and material pursuits? No, claims Jesus; it comes through surrendering our spirit, griefs, and weaknesses to God's love and grace. It is found through extending mercy and peace to others, through living out a commitment to righteousness in the face of all obstacles. This counter-cultural message may seem difficult to grasp, but to those who have put their trust in Jesus, the reward is a sense of blessing and happiness, as well as confidence in the life to come. May you be blessed today!

## **Prayer**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your message of blessing that illumines our faith. Help us to do an attitude-check when necessary, so that as Christ-followers we may know the happiness that comes with putting our trust in you. Amen.

Richard Meier '83 D.Min.Retired, Rockford, IL

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

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



- Feb 01:** 5:15pm Wednesday Night Worship & Education
- Feb 05:** 9:30am Worship service, No Communion—Leader Joleen Hardy, Sunday School after Worship
- Feb 06:** Annual Report Deadline!
- Feb 08:** 5:15pm Wednesday Night Worship & Education
- Feb 09:** Ruth Circle 2:30pm
- Feb 12:** 9:30am Worship Service with Communion—Pastor Jaime, Sunday School Kids Sing during Service
- Feb 12:** Church Council Meeting After Worship
- Feb 15:** 5:15pm Wednesday Night Worship & Education
- Feb 19:** 9:30am Worship Service with Communion—Pastor Jaime, Sunday School After Worship
- Feb 19:** 2:00pm Cinema Sunday at GA
- Feb 20:** March Newsletter Deadline
- Feb 22:** Ash Wednesday—Potluck 5:15pm Worship 6:45pm
- Feb 22:** Altar Guild Meeting 5:30pm
- Feb 26:** 9:30am Worship Service with Communion—Pastor Jaime, Sunday School After Worship
- Feb 26:** 2:00pm Cinema Sunday at GA

**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!



**Bulletin Donation Sheet:** The bulletin donation sheet for the 2023 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.



**Leader Needed:** Pastor Jaime will be off on Sunday, **March 12th**. If you are interested in leading please let Carrili know. Thank you in advance for your help.



**Annual Report:** Happy New Year everyone, and with that brings the yearly Annual Meeting at GA. All financial reports, leader reports, council & pastoral reports must be in to Carrili by **February 6th**. Thank you in advance for getting them done in a timely manner.



**Annual Meeting for GA:** Will be held on Sunday, **March 5th** after worship service. Please plan to attend as we need to have enough members present to vote on items for the 2023 year at GA Church. Members of GA, if you would like any items put on the agenda for discussion at the meeting please let Carrili know.



**Rose Sales:** YOGA Kiddos are selling roses and balloons for Valentines Day, contact a YOGA member to order! —>

### YOGA ROSE FUNDRAISER

Spreading some LOVE around Gwinner

Option 1:	6 Red Roses wrapped	\$50
Option 2:	3 Red Roses wrapped	\$25
Option 3:	1 Red Rose with Balloon	\$10
Option 4:	Jar of Candy with Balloon	\$10

**YOGA students will be delivering on Sunday, Feb 12th- Tuesday, Feb 14th!**

All proceeds go to GA Youth activities.

**YOGA Officers:** President: Isabella Ferderer Vice President: Aidan Anderson Treasurer: Lily Walch  
**Secretary:** Braylyn Nelson Youth Representatives: Jakob Creech and Larissa Brouillard  
**YOGA Members:** Hunter Lien, Tristen Peterson, Payten Herman, Marshall Weigelt, Journey Sargent, Rayna Decker, Anthony Ferderer, Ethan Weigelt, Easton Johnson  
**YOGA Leaders:** Dawn Anderson, Austin Creech, Jessica Peterson

We will take online orders!

2-2-2023 last day to order



venmo


# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**Our Sympathies :** Go out to the family and friends of: Randall Hanson, Coleen Beaver, Mark Nelson. May God's loving embrace help you through this difficult time, and may the many happy memories ease your pain.



**The Sargent County Food Pantry:** The Gwinner location of the Sargent County Food Pantry is in need of the following items at this time: **Top Needs: Canned fruits/veggies, Cereal, Paper products, Juice, Condiments.** As always, monetary donations are always appreciated. Please 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, fresh vegetables and fruits). At Christmas and Easter, we purchase and distribute food boxes to many residents of Sargent County. Drop off in Gwinner at GA Lutheran Church. You can also drop off items at the Food Pantry, located in the Gwinner Community Center, every Tuesday, 1:00-4:00. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!! Check out their Facebook page too! <http://www.facebook.com/scfpnd>

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



**Church Services:** If you would like to watch church service live from home you can do so on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) just search for GA Lutheran Church on YouTube, a link is also available on the church website on the page with the bulletins. The bulletin for each Sunday will be posted on the church website [www.galutheranchurch.org](http://www.galutheranchurch.org) if you would like to view it while you listen to the service. If you miss the live service a recording will also be posted on the church website which you can view at anytime.



**GIVING HEARTS DAY**

**Giving Hearts Day 2023:** February 9th, Giving Hearts Day continues to grow as a vital way to support synod ministry. We are STRONGER TOGETHER as congregations, parishes, and ministries. We hope that you will participate in this year's Giving Hearts Day. Our goal is to raise \$80,000! We have already raised \$40,000 in match dollars. Be a part of the work that we do across the Eastern North Dakota Synod. Together, we are able to serve neighbors near and far. You can donate at [givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org)



**Cinema Sundays** - Starting Sunday, **February 19<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm** we will begin watching the Amazon Prime Miniseries "The Chosen" with discussion to follow. We will watch one episode every Sunday. Each episode is about an hour long. All ages are welcome and invited to join us. Any questions please contact Pastor Jaime.



**Church Finances:** For the month of December 2022: Thank you for all you do for Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church!  
Starting: \$23,325.42- Debts \$33,121.22 + Deposits \$38,863.94  
= End \$29,068.14



# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



This year for Sunday School music we are going to be singing **1 Sunday a month**. We will try and sing on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** of each month as that is the "youth" Sunday, as long as the schedule allows. There are a few Sundays that will not be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. **ALL CHILDREN** ages 4 years thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade are welcome to join us! For the 2022-2023 school year they will sing on the following Sundays: **February 12<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>** Please try and have your child/children here as many Sundays as possible thru the year to practice, so that come the performance days we actually know the words. I understand that not every Sunday everyone can be here, but please try and come to as many as possible. **May 14<sup>th</sup> is the LAST DAY of Sunday School.** Also, the following Sundays there will not be Sunday school class for the 2022-2023 year: **March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup>.** Sincerely, Carrili Larson- Music Instructor.



**Amazon Smile:** In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin. We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023.



**Worship & Music Committee:** We Would like to Welcome Nancy Wrage who has decided to join us on the committee. We look forward to working with you and thank you for your time.

**A HUGE THANK YOU:** to those who came and scooped the roof off, and to those who donated their equipment, your efforts are greatly appreciated!



## January/February Action Group

**Co-Chairs: Rachel Nelson**

DeAnna Youle

Emma Waloch

Dawn Anderson

Karen Anderson

Paula M. Hansen

Carolyn Klemetson

Jaime Decker

Nicole Shockley

LaVon Stoppeworth

Tanya Walth

Laurie Lee

Karla Waloch

Janelle Mairs

Kristy Mairs

Sandra Nerison

Jessica Peterson



# February Birthdays

PAGE 6

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 Sylvan Anderson  
Lando Decker

18 Myrna Anderson

19 Michelle Ciesynski

20 Randy Holden  
Kenwood Peterson  
Jewel Jones-VanTassel  
Trista Weigelt

21 Shirley Christensen  
Preston Odegard

22 Dennis Peterson

23 James D. Johnson  
Lucas Lutt

24 Dennis Dahl  
Sierra McKeever

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 contact the church  
office at 678-2552 or***

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

***Thanks!***

# February Worship Assistants

## Acolytes

05 Hunter Lien  
Jaela Nerison  
12 Volunteer Needed  
Athena Erickson  
19 Maddilyn Faber  
Lando Decker  
22 Ash Wednesday  
Youth  
26 Braylyn Nelson  
Elijah Hanson



## Communion Assistants

05 Steve Melroe  
12 Jessica Peterson  
19 Shirley Waloch  
22 Ash Wed-Michelle Ciesynski  
26 Kris Beck



## Sound System

Volunteers Needed  
To Learn  
The New System



## Readers

05 Joleen Hardy  
12 Carrili Larson  
19 Kirstin Kempel  
22 Ash Wed –Julie Johnson  
26 Michelle Ciesynski



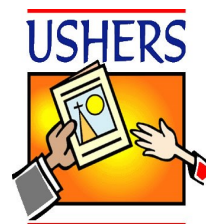
## Greeters

05 Shirley Waloch/Betty Melroe  
12 Brea Johnson/Jakob Creech  
19 Casey & Jaime Decker Family  
22 Ash Wednesday-Youth  
26 Dennis & Denise Dahl



## Ushers

**Captain:** Sean & Dawn Anderson  
Darrel & Becky Salberg  
Chris McFarland  
Jon & Wendy McFarland  
Dan & Stacy McKeever



**2nd Sunday** Ryan Enge  
Nick Hansen  
Kennedi Faber  
MaKennzie Stubbett

**Reminder:** You are responsible to find your own replacement if you can't fulfill your duties. Thanks!

**Council Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2023**

In Attendance: Pastor Jaime, Kris Beck, Martin Potts, Auston Creech, Jessica Peterson, Mike Larsen, Barb Melroe

Meeting called to order at 10:45 am

Opening prayer and devotion on by Pastor Jaime

Approval of Meeting Agenda by Peterson/Potts. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Had Christmas Eve service at 4pm and Christmas Day and New Years Day services at 10 am. Gabel/Kempel wedding on December 31, 2022. First call meeting on January 5 and food pantry meeting January 10. Funeral for Carol Holmstrom on January 12. Pastor will be gone January 30 to February 9 for continuing education. Pastors Ella and Julie will be on call for her. Rachel and Kirstin will bowver Wednesday services and still looking for someone to cover Sunday February 5.

**Committee Reports**

WELCA – No report

Men's Group – Annual meeting tonight.

Property and grounds- Roof is leaking again. Mike will get a group together to shovel snow off as soon as possible. Noticed outlet cover box is missing from pillar on the drive through. Probably buried under snow so will wait until spring to address.

Education- Wednesday holding at about 30 attending. Sunday school kids sang in church today.

YOGA – They still need to meet to elect someone to church council.

Altar Guild- Got the Christmas decorations down and will meet the last Wednesday of the month.

Worship and music- Nancy Wrage has joined the group. Scheduled to meet January 17.

**Old Business**

Keeping an eye on sump at parsonage. No excess water noted on street at this time.

Mike will add more heat tape to the roof this spring. Unable to now with snow.

Wedding policy just needs to be typed up so Carrili can make copies.

Council leadership retreat discussed. If later in February, it will work for council to participate.

**New Business**

Budget for 2023- Kris and Michelle made out budget with council going over it line by line. Peterson/Creech moved to make changes as discussed and present it to congregation at annual meeting. Also discussed option of more time off for Pastor Jaime vs a raise. This also will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Deacon Erin at the synod is offering a 6 session seminar on "Building a Culture of Generosity." \$250 to participate. Pastor will get more information on it.

Treasurers Report – Ending balance- \$29,068.14 Kris also reported no funds were transferred from savings at this time.

Next Council Meeting- February 12, 2023 at 10:45 am.

Motion to adjourn – Creech/Larsen



# FEBRUARY 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Wednesday Night Worship 5:15 PM <b>Jaime Off</b>	2 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon <b>Jaime Off</b>	3 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline <b>Jaime Off</b>	4 <b>Jaime Off</b>
5 9:30 Worship Sunday School <b>Jaime Off</b>	6 <b>ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE</b> <b>Jaime Off</b>	7 <b>Jaime Off</b>	8 Wednesday Night Worship 5:15 PM <b>Jaime Off</b>	9 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon <b>Ruth Circle 2:30 PM</b>	10 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline <b>Jaime Off</b>	11
12 9:30 Worship W/ Communion Sunday School Make-A-Change <b>Council Meeting</b> <b>Sunday School Sings</b>	13	14	15 Wednesday Night Worship 5:15 PM	16 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	17 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline <b>Jaime Off</b>	18
19 9:30 Worship W/Communion Sunday School <b>Cinema Sunday 2pm</b>	20  <b>March Newsletter Deadline</b>	21	22 <b>Ash Wed</b> <b>Potluck 5:15</b> <b>Service 6:45</b> 5:30 PM Altar Guild Meeting	23 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	24 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline  <b>Jaime Off</b>	25
26 9:30 Worship w/ Communion  Sunday School  <b>Cinema Sunday 2pm</b>	27 <b>Jaime Off</b>	28 <b>Jaime Off</b>				

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.  
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2023 February Newsletter

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AND FACEBOOK!**  
[WWW.GALUTHERANCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.GALUTHERANCHURCH.ORG)  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GALUTHERANCHURCH](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GALUTHERANCHURCH)

**CHURCH STAFF**

PASTOR.....JAIME DECKER  
SECRETARY.....CARRILI LARSON  
TREASURER.....MICHELLE GOETTLE  
CUSTODIAN.....RICK GRIEGER  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT.....KRIS BECK  
SCS SUPERINTENDENT.....MARKIE TOSO & RACHEL NELSON  
YOGA LEADERS.....

**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), JESSICA PETERSON (TREASURER),  
PAUL WHITE, MIKE LARSON, AUSTON CREECH  
AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE