

JANUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER



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Happy New Year!

As we kick off a new year here at GA please keep in mind that our Annual Meeting will be held **March 5th** after worship service.

We need enough members present at the meeting to pass measures and vote on the future of GA so please plan to attend. See you There!

“God Pause”

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



Isaiah 63:7-9 (NRSV)

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. Verse⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior Verse⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Devotion

A panicked teenager burst into my office, "Pastor Tom, I need to talk to you! My Mom and Dad are going to Hell because they don't believe the right things." Lisa had grown up in the church and was a thoughtful young person. A high school Christian group had filled her with some dreadful ideas. For many, it is easier to believe in a condemning God than a gracious Lord. Lisa's Mom and Dad were people of faith, but, evidently, they had failed some theological test. Too many folks carry around an image of a vengeful God eager to cast them into the abyss, where there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth" rather than a loving God reaching to gather them up into the comforting arms of grace. One of the church's essential tasks is to paint a picture in people's hearts of the "gracious deeds of our Lord."

Prayer

Lord, gather us into your arms of grace. Amen.

Tim Stoa '81 M.Div. Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran, Fargo ND.

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

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



- Jan 01:** Worship 10am, Jammies & Jingles—No Sunday School
- Jan 04:** 5:15PM Wednesday Night Worship & Education
- Jan 08:** 9:30 AM Worship with Communion, Make-A-Change Sunday, Sunday School after Worship
- Jan 08:** Church Council Meeting after Worship
- Jan 11:** 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Worship & Education
- Jan 12:** 2:30 PM Ruth Circle
- Jan 15:** 9:30 AM Worship with Communion, Sunday School Sings, Sunday School after Worship
- Jan 15:** 5:00 PM Men's Group Meeting & Supper
- Jan 18:** 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Worship & Education
- Jan 22:** 9:30 AM Worship with Communion, Sunday School after Worship
- Jan 23:** February Newsletter Deadline
- Jan 25:** 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Worship & Education
- Jan 25:** 5:30 PM Altar Guild Meeting
- Jan 29:** 9:30 AM Worship with Communion, Sunday School after Worship



venmo

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!



Worship & Music Committee: The GA Worship and Music Committee is looking for a new member to join them. If interested or you have questions contact Julie Johnson, Barb Melroe or Pastor Jaime. Thank you.



New Members: In December we had 7 new members join our GA Family. Please welcome Emma Waloch, Amber Kempel, Krista Peterson, Parker Peterson, Tyson Porter, Gage Hansen, Calli Jacobson.



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.



Leaders Needed: Pastor Jaime will be off on Sunday, **February 5th** and Sunday, **March 12th**. If you are interested in leading either of those Sundays, please let Carrili know. Thank you in advance for your help.



Annual Reports: 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 March 5th. Members of GA, if you would like any items put on the agenda for discussion at the meeting please let Carrili know.

Snow Removal: Just a reminder that snow removal is done at the church on a voluntary basis. If you have the time and equipment, your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!


Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Our Sympathies : Go out to the family and friends of Jesse Utecht, Carol Holmstrom and Marjorie Fuss. 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 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 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 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.



Amazon Smile: As you do your ONLINE shopping don't forget GA Church is a selection you can donate to if you shop on Amazon. Just go to smile.amazon.com login as you normally do and choose GA Church as your donation choice and then just shop! Amazon.com will then donate 0.5% of any qualifying purchase to GA Church! There is no cost to sign up for this and it doesn't change how you shop, it's a very easy way to help support GA. GA Church has received **\$551.42** from Amazon smile purchases. Thank you!

Men's Group Meeting: Sunday, January 15th at 5:00 PM. Soup/Chili Supper and Annual men's group meeting. Please spread the word. All men that are members of GA are invited to attend.

Thank You: At the Free Thanksgiving Meal we Served about 90-95 people. It was a great turnout. Thanks to everyone who donated money, food and service. We couldn't do it without you! ~Steve and Barb~



Church Finances: For the month of November 2022: Thank you for all you do for Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church!
Starting: \$15,971.05 - Debts \$25,540.19 + Deposits \$30,672.97
= **End Balance \$ 21,103.83**

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 **2nd 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 2nd Sunday of the month. **ALL CHILDREN** ages 4 years thru 6th Grade are welcome to join us! For the 2022-2023 school year they will sing on the following Sundays: **January 15th, February 12th, March 12th, April 2nd, May 7th** 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 14th is the LAST DAY of Sunday School.** Also, the following Sundays there will not be Sunday school class for the 2022-2023 year: **January 1st, March 19th, April 9th.** Sincerely, Carrili Larson- Music Instructor.



Poinsettias: A Jingle Bell Poinsettia was donated by Rosi Odegard in Loving Memory of ElRoy Odegard, A Jingle Bell poinsettia was donated by Betty Melroe & Family in Loving Memory of Stan Melroe. A Jingle Bell poinsettia was donated by Shirley Waloch in Loving Memory of Debra and Gail. A Red Poinsettia was donated by Geneva Waswick in Memory of Corwin Waswick, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Tracey Waswick in Memory of Roger & Connie White, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Kent & Julie Johnson in Memory of Our Grandchildren, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Kent & Julie Johnson, "Merry Christmas From The Johnson's!", A Red Poinsettia was donated by Barb Melroe, "Merry Christmas From The Melroe's!", A Red Poinsettia was donated by Becky & Darrel Salberg, "Merry Christmas From The Salberg's!", White Poinsettia was donated by Kirstin & Torey Kempel in Honor of their Grandson Jack, A Jingle Bell Poinsettia was donated by the Christensen's in Memory of Donald & Cody Christensen, A Red Poinsettia was donated by the Christensen's in Memory of Lorraine, Elmer & Darrell Swanson, A Jingle Bell Poinsettia was donated by Chuck & Barb Klemetson in Memory of Their Parents, A Jingle Bell Poinsettia was donated by Jeannette Beckstrom & Family in Memory of Gerald Beckstrom, A Red Poinsettia was donated by the Odegard Children in memory of ElRoy & LaVelle Odegard, A Jingle Bell Poinsettia was donated by David & Linda McFarland in Memory of Karen McFarland and Dwight Hanson. Thank you to all who donated to make our worship space beautiful this Advent Season.

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 Stopplesworth

Tanya Walth

Laurie Lee

Karla Waloch

Janelle Mairs

Kristy Mairs

Sandra Nerison

Jessica Peterson



January Birthdays

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- 1 Bryan Christensen
Jackson Odegard
- 2 Kylie Anderson
- 3 Athena Erickson
Deb Johnson
Ashley Hansen
Peyton Vincent
- 4 Kent Johnson
Megan Enge
- 5 Austin Johnson
Matthew Stubbart
- 6 Ryan Holden
Jenna Johnson
- 8 Jan Melroe
- 9 Doug Anderson
Chloe Beck
- 11 Jason Bauer
TJ Johnson
- 12 Jan Bjork
Troy Jacobson
- 14 Masyn Stahl
- 15 Bret Buckingham
Morgan Temple
- 16 Angelica Olson
- 17 Karla Frederick
Elijah Hanson
- 18 Charles Klemetson
- 21 Logan Decker
Jaden Gilje
Della Teske
Jeremy Walth
- 22 Elizabeth Hardy
Scott Udem
- 23 Marissa Hanson
Victoria Sandness
- 24 Alyssa Tindell



- 26 Lucas Osier
Jessica Peterson
- 27 Shelley Anderson
Richard Jacobson
Karah Sandness
Helen Mairs
- 28 Skylar Peterson
- 29 Nicole Flannery
Karla Ulven
- 30 Payten Herman



January Anniversaries

- 3 Lynnae & Dennis Decker
- 12 Carolyn & Steve Jacobson
- 25 Lynn & Troy Jacobson
- 28 Peggy & Richard Olson

***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!

January Worship Assistants

Acolytes

- 01 Sawyer Toepke
Aleysha Sarith
08 Teagan Beck
Payten Herman
15 Kyle Potts
Cyprian Johnson
22 Ethan Weigelt
Jaylene Herman
29 Brooklyn Ponzer
Jace Faber



Communion Assistants

- 01 Kirstin Kempel
08 Joan Peterson
15 Auston Creech
22 Mike Larson
29 Becky Salberg



Sound System

Volunteers Needed
To Learn
The New System



Readers

- 01 Joan Peterson
08 Nancy Wrage
15 Steve Melroe
22 Karla Waloch
29 Carrili Larson



Greeters

- 01 Kent & Julie Johnson
08 Ryan Enge & Carter Gilje
15 Rosi Odegard
22 Jeremy & Jackie Meyer
29 Mike & Carrili Larson



Ushers

- Captain:** Steve & Barb Melroe
Dale & Coleen Beaver
Scott & Jan Melroe
Jerrod & Becky Sandness
Troy & Lynn Jacobson
2nd Sunday Carter Gilje
Nate Hansen
Lily Walth
Athena Erickson



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

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church Council Minutes

JANUARY 2023 ISSUE 1

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Council Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2022

In Attendance: Martin Potts, Mike Larsen, Kris Beck, Barb Melroe, Pastor Jaime Meeting called to order at 11 am

Opening prayer Approval of Meeting Agenda by Potts/Larsen. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report –Larsen/Potts. Motion carried to accept.

Pastor's Report – Advent theme is Generation to Generation. December 7 hosted Multi-community choir cantata. December 11 and 21 received new members.(7) December 18 and 21 Ugly Christmas sweater Sunday/Wednesday. Christmas Eve service to be held at 4pm with Christmas Day service at 10 am Jammies and Jingle worship.. December 31 will be Gabel/Kempel wedding. January 1 service also 10 am Jammies and Jingles worship.

Committee Reports

WELCA – Hosted lunch after cantata with free will offering going to food pantry. Also doing a raffle for monies to meet church budget.

Men's Group – Annual meeting set for January

Property and Grounds- Heat tape is up. Roof needs to be shoveled though. Thank you to all who helped with snow removal.

Altar Guild- No report

Education– Live Nativity went well even with other conflicting events happening.

YOGA – Poinsettia sales of over \$550. Did not get report on free will offering for soup and sandwich.

Music and Worship – Meeting in January to start planning for Lent.

Old Business

New Business

Church finances- where do we go from here? Some has come in since putting up thermometer in narthex. Updated today. Need to visit with members about giving and how funds are being used to fulfill mission of GA.

Wednesday night services going well but have had to cancel due to weather and cantata this month.

Pastor compensation will be discussed at next meeting along with entire budget.

Need to so Pastor review with ministry team. This entails what we would like to see from Pastor Jaime and what the congregation needs to do to support our mission and pastor.

Will continue with council meetings after church, second Sunday of the month at least through winter.

Council leadership retreat after election of new council in March, unless all outgoing members are eligible for re-election.

Piano in the Gathering Room does not fulfill the ministry of that room so we are looking for a new home for it. If no one else wants it Barb Melroe will take it.

Custodian duties are not being completed on a regular basis. Will bring this matter up at the annual meeting for suggestions on what course to take.

Treasures Report – Ending balance \$21,103.83 Melroe/Larsen. Motion carried.

Next Council Meeting January 8, 2023 after worship service.

Motion to adjourn Potts/Melroe

Lord's prayer

JANUARY 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 10:00 Worship No Sunday School	2	3	4 Wednesday Night Worship 5:15 PM	5 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	6 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	7
8 9:30 Worship w/Communion Make-A-Change Sunday School Council Meeting	9	10	11 Wednesday Night Worship 5:15 PM	12 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30 PM	13 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	14
15 9:30 Worship W/ Communion Sunday School Sunday School Sings 5:00PM Men's Group Meeting	16	17	18 Wednesday Night Worship 5:15 PM	19 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	20 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	21
22 9:30 Worship W/Communion Sunday School	23  February Newsletter Deadline	24	25 Wednesday Night Worship 5:15 PM 5:30 PM Altar Guild Meeting	26 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	27 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	28
29 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Sunday School	30 Jaime Off	31 Jaime Off				

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



2023 January 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.....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