

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church  
Gwinner, North Dakota

# JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



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## A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

"Eternal God, you gave us the greatest gift: the gift of life.  
In the coming year,  
help us use it wisely.  
May we grow in generosity,  
kindness and forgiveness, hope,  
faith, and love.  
Amen."

— Rabbi Evan Moffic

# “God Pause”

## Stewardship

*2 Corinthians 5:17* "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Thank you for your generosity shown to GA Church throughout 2023. Thank you for your faithful support shown through your offerings of time, talent, and treasure.

Your generosity has inspired ministries to be reimagined and brought new ministries to life. We have strengthened relationships and made new friends, worshiped in new ways, and examined how we can best follow Jesus into a loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with God. See, God is doing a new thing here at GA Church!

As we enter this new year, our hope is that we continue to be in Christ, sharing our stories and working together to build a culture of generosity that extends GA Church's mission from generation to generation.

With gratitude,  
GA Church Council & Stewardship Committee

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

## UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



- Jan 03:** 5:15 pm Confirmation
- Jan 07:** 9:30 am Worship Service with Communion, No Sunday School - Pastor Jaime
- Jan 10:** 5:15 pm Confirmation
- Jan 11:** 2:30 pm Ruth Circle
- Jan 14:** 9:30 am Worship Service: Make-A-Change, No Communion, No Sunday School - Leader Needed
- Jan 17:** 5:15 pm Confirmation
- Jan 21:** 9:30 am Worship Service with Communion, No Sunday School - Pastor Jaime
- Jan 22:** February Newsletter Deadline
- Jan 24:** 5:15 pm Confirmation
- Jan 28:** 9:30 am Worship Service with Communion, No Sunday School - Pastor Jaime
- Jan 31:** 5:15 pm Confirmation
- Jan 31:** 5:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting

**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 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.

**Thank You So Much** **Soup, Sandwich & Auction:** Thank you to everyone that donated items for the YOGA auction, helped out or were there enjoying soup and bidding! It was a VERY successful day with profits of \$3435 to go towards the youth of GA. Thank you again for supporting our Youth Of GA. YOGA is looking for 4-5 more families to help out throughout the year! Please contact Auston or Jessica if interested.

**Sunday School:** Reminder there will be no Sunday school or Wednesday Education for Pre-K to 6th held in the month of January. Sunday school will resume on February 11th and Wednesday Education on February 14th.



**Thank You:** The family of Jeannette Beckstrom would like to express their gratitude for the many phone calls and prayers while Jeannette was hospitalized. We appreciate your attendance at her Celebration of Life service, the church was packed, she would have loved that. Thanks to those who gave flowers, plants, and memorials in her memory. Thank you to WELCA for planning, preparing and serving lunch, to Kris Beck for running the sound system and playing her special music and slide show, and to Indy Husted for playing the piano, to Sharon, Caleb and Kelsey for the readings and the eulogy. Lastly to Pastor Jaime for your fond words of Jeannette, she loved her church family. She is missed, but she is now with her loved ones stirring up a little mischief and kicking up her heels.

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**Our Sympathies :** Go out to the family and friends of: Those who have lost a loved one. 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 **Givelify** 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.



**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.

**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.

**WELCA Booklets:** The 2024 WELCA Booklets are available on the table in the Narthex. Reminder all ladies that are members of GA are also members of WELCA. Thank you ladies for all that you do!

**Annual Meeting:** Yes, it's everyone's favorite time of year! The deadline for leader and financial reports from all church groups is **February 4th**, Thank you in advance for your cooperation. See you at the Meeting **March 3rd!**

## **Church Finances:**

For the Month of November 2023

Beginning Balance: \$18814.52 + Deposits: \$33501.60 - Expenses: \$24120.85 =

Ending Balance: \$28195.27

## **Year to Date Giving:**

GA 2023 Budget: \$195,310.00

Giving to Date: \$171,899.14

Giving Needed by 12-31-23: \$23,411.00



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

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

**Donated Poinsettias:** A Jingle Bell Poinsettia was donated by Rosi Odegard in Memory of ElRoy Odegard, A White Poinsettia was donated by Kirstin & Torey Kempel in Memory of their Grandparents, A Jingle Bell Poinsettia was donated by Kirstin & Torey Kempel in Honor of their Grandchild Jack, A White Poinsettia was donated by Joleen Hardy in Honor of all Anderson Family and in Memory of all Anderson Saints, A White Poinsettia was donated by Darrel & Becky Salberg in Honor of their Grandchildren and Great Grandson, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Sharon Beckstrom in Memory of Kim Beckstrom, Gerald & Jeannette Beckstrom, Lester & Alice Decker, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Geneva Waswick in Memory of Corwin Waswick, A White Poinsettia was donated by Julie Waswick in Memory of Mary Lou, A White Poinsettia was donated by Olivia Waswick in Memory of Harold Waswick, A Red poinsettia and Jingle Bell Poinsettia were donated by Barb & Steve Melroe in Memory of Stan Melroe and Kim Beckstrom, Three Red Poinsettias were donated by Lynn & Troy Jacobson in Memory of Wren Heinert & Bobby Schmit, in Memory of their Grandparents and in Memory of Ed & Rose Heinert, A Red Poinsettia was donated by Brendan & Michelle Ciesynski in Memory of their departed loved ones, A 3 Poinsettia Bouquet was donated by Dan & Stacy McKeever in Memory of Lorie McKeever. Thank You to all who donated Poinsettias/Plants to make our worship space beautiful this Advent Season.

## Looking Ahead! :

1. **February 4th:** Deadline For Annual Meeting Reports to be turned in!!
2. **February 11th:** Sunday School Resumes
3. **March 3rd:** 2024 Annual Meeting



## 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

- 1 Bryan Christensen  
Jackson Odegard
- 2 Kylie Anderson
- 3 Athena Erickson  
Deb Johnson  
Ashley Hansen
- 4 Kent Johnson  
Megan Enge
- 5 Austin Johnson  
Matthew Stubbert
- 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  
Heather Swanson



- 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

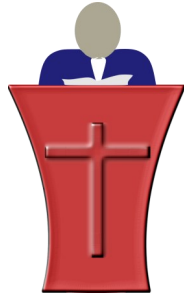
Have been removed from the schedule at this time

07  
14  
21  
28



## Readers

Joan Peterson  
Nancy Wrage  
Michelle Ciesynski  
Karla Waloch



## Communion Assistants

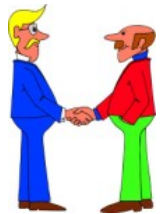
07 Kirstin Kempel  
14 Joan Peterson  
21 Auston Creech  
28 Mike Larson



Captain:

## Greeters

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



## Ushers

**Jerrold & Becky Sandness**  
Amber & Tanner Kempel  
Jan & Scott Melroe  
Steve & Barb Melroe  
Troy & Lynn Jacobson



## 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.



**December 12, 2023**

President Kris Beck, called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Council members present Kris Beck, Martin Potts, Auston Creech, Paul White, 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. Hardy/Larson. All in favor, motion carried.

**Church Work Group Reports:**

1. **Property and Grounds** – Martin finished cleaning up in the parsonage yard, rock was moved. Auston is going to meet with Dylan and Carson for an estimate on insurance claim work from roof leak. Auston is also working with Chris Ferderer to fix the cross mounts at the front of the sanctuary.
2. **WELCA** –
3. **Men's Group** –
4. **YOGA** – Sold poinsettias again. Raised about \$3500 on soup, sandwich, and auction.
5. **Education** – Xmas program Dec 10 during church was well attended.
6. **Altar Guild** – Looking at purchasing a new baptismal font.
7. **Worship and Music** –

**Old Business and New Business:**

Building a community of generosity campaign reached the 40 intent cards needed for the match and then we were very fortunate for someone else to match with we received 50, we did. Thank you everyone for your generosity for GA.

Pastor Jaime sent out a survey monkey for what things we can do to follow our mission, the results stated that people want to see more interactions with the youth and getting the youth to sing or play music during church and other times. So, we are discussing adding to our budget a afterschool program. The program will help kids with homework, and discussion of starting a children's choir or just music during church.

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

Put the thermometer up to show our budget and income. The budget for 2023 is \$195,310 and we have received \$180,165 so far this year. We need \$15,145 to meet the budget.

Still need to move the stuff from the storage unit which is in the altar guild room into the shed.

Meeting dates need to be discussed, what works best.

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.

Talked about changing the Annual Meeting back up to February. Makes more sense for the budget.

Pastor Jaime is on vacation January 7-17, 2024.

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

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

**Lord's Prayer**

**Next Meeting:** January meeting ???



# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	01	02	03	04	05	06
			Confirmation 5:15 pm	Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	
07 9:30 Worship with Comm No Sunday School	08	09	10	11	12	13
			Confirmation 5:15 pm	Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon <b>Ruth Circle 2:30PM</b>	12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	
14 9:30 Worship No Comm No Sunday School	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Make-A-Change Sunday Jaime Off</b>			Confirmation 5:15 pm	Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	
21 9:30 Worship With Com No Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>Baptism Waylon Wrage</b>	<b>February Newsletter Deadline</b> 		Confirmation 5:15 pm	Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	
28 9:30 Worship With Com No Sunday School	29	30	31			
	No Worship Offices Closed		Confirmation 5:15 pm <b>5:30 Altar Guild</b>			

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



2024 January 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.....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