

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church  
Gwinner, North Dakota

# JULY 2026

## NEWSLETTER



### Independence Day Prayer

On this Independence Day, I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that a very high price was paid for my freedom. My freedom cost others their very lives. Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty, meet their needs and watch over their families. Dear Father, I am so thankful for this nation. For all the sacrifices others have made to build and defend this country, I am grateful. Thank you for the opportunities and freedoms we have in the United States of America. Help me never to take these blessings for granted.

Amen.

Excerpt from: <https://www.learnreligions.com/independence-day-prayers-699929>

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# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**July 01-July 5:** Pastor Jaime off Non-Contracted Time

**July 01-03:** Carrili on Vacation

**July 05:** Worship Service, No Communion - Leader Jill Baldwin

**July 07-14:** Pastor Jaime off—YOGA Trip

**July 09:** Ruth Circle 2:30pm

**July 12:** Worship Service, No Communion - Leader Pam Maloney

**July 19:** Worship Service with Communion - Pastor Jaime Decker

**July 20:** August Newsletter Deadline

**July 20-26:** Pastor Jaime Off—Vacation

**July 26:** Worship Service, No Communion - Leader Jill Baldwin, Christmas In July

**July 27-31:** Pastor Jaime off Non-Contracted Time

**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!



**Mowing List:** The list had been completed and emailed out to those who are on it. There are also printed copies available on the table by the secretary's office. Thank you in advance for all of your time and effort in keeping the church lawn looking great this Summer!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** GA Lutheran Church invites children in PreK through 6th Grade to join us for *Rainforest Falls* VBS, August 3–5 from 6:00–7:30 PM. During this three-night adventure, children will explore God's love through Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and fun rainforest-themed activities. Registration information will be shared soon. Watch for the registration link and reserve your spot for this exciting event! If you would like to help by volunteering or donating supplies to help make VBS a success, please contact Emma Waloch or Samantha Opdahl. We look forward to welcoming your family to *Rainforest Falls* VBS! We will journey deep into the rainforest and discover that God's love is always flowing, always growing, and always with us!

**LOOKING FOR HELP:** GA Church will be looking for a new Janitor come August, as our current one will be headed to college. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position please contact Kirstin Kempel.

**Summer Live Stream:** May 17th was the last day of Live Stream services for the summer season. Live stream services will resume September 13th. Please spread the word to those who view our livestream services.

# 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



**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!

**Thrift Store Update:** From Brenda Schreiner: Hello! Please thank your councils and congregations! Grace and Goods Thrift Store was able to donate \$380.40 to the Kedish House for the month of May!

**Thrivent Members:** If you are a Thrivent member, don't forget that you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team. All you need to do is have a purpose for spending \$250 that will either impact a family, the community, or the church. You need to log into your Thrivent account, fill out the action form, and wait to see if you have been approved. If your project gets approved, you will receive a \$250 action card that may be used towards your service project. Each Thrivent member may receive two of these cards per year. Some great ideas to use them for are fundraisers, community projects, and benefits for families in need. Any questions ask Kirstin Kempel.

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

## Looking Ahead!

**Aug 3-5:** Vacation Bible School

**September 1:** Blood Drive



**Senior Meals:** Gwinner now hosts a Senior Meal at Noon at the Community Center on Main Street, Monday –Friday. Call 701-678-3815 to sign up.

**Sunday Worship Service Assistant Lists:** If you would like to be added and or removed from any of the worship assistant lists: Ushering, Reading, Mowing for the 2026-2027 Worship Season, please let Carrili know by **August 1st**. Thank you in advance for all you do to help GA Church operate smoothly.

## July-August WELCA Action Group

**Co-Chairs: Kandyce Sandstrom  
Lynn Jacobson**

Donna Anderson

Marsha Murphy

Deb Tufty

Shalon Benneweis

Courtney Koepke

Lannae Johnson

Becky Sandness

Robbin Witkowski

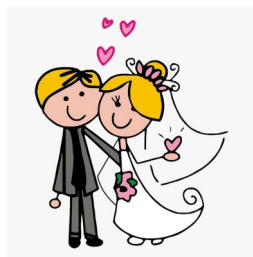
Krista Peterson

Kristin Witkowski



# July Birthdays

- 1 Lucas Melroe  
Heather Dienstmann  
Hunter Lien
- 2 Janice Buchholz
- 3 Gaye Udem
- 4 Halle Lien
- 5 Kim Bauer
- 7 Colton Decker  
Glenn Comegys  
Mercedes Orth
- 8 Judy Berg  
Lee Allan Smith  
Jaela Nerison
- 9 Alex Jacobson  
Gail Krause
- 10 Shon Jacobson  
Louden Koepke
- 11 Ramzy Olson  
Gage Hansen
- 15 Annie Waloch
- 16 LaLonnie Bautz  
Brooksley Seykora
- 18 Arlo Wrage
- 19 Brian Gilje  
Heather Hamann
- 20 Anissah Carlblom
- 21 Roger Asche  
Jetter Berg
- 22 Lory Bock
- 23 Chris McFarland
- 25 Justin Berg  
Aryanna Nerison
- 28 Alexander Koepke
- 29 Anna Holden
- 30 Trevor Christensen
- 31 Deb Tufty



# July 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!***

- 3 Joan & Kenwood Peterson
- 9 Becky & Mike Sitz
- 13 Alex & Jesse Jacobson
- 17 Denise & Dennis Dahl
- 19 Lindy & Marvin Zetocha
- 21 Della & Calvin Teske  
Lori & Kenny Wiederholt
- 22 Gaye & Scott Udem
- 23 Becky & Jerrod Sandness  
Elisha & Corey Otonichar  
Sandra & Gerad Nerison
- 29 Emma & Taylor Waloch

# July Worship Assistants

## Communion Assistants

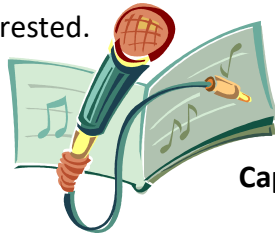
If you feel called to help offer God's gift of Holy Communion to God's people, please let Pastor Jaime or the ushers know before worship service or come forward when Pastor Jaime asks for communion assistants. All ages are welcome to assist with Holy Communion.



## Sound System

Sound System is now  
A Paid Position.

Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested.



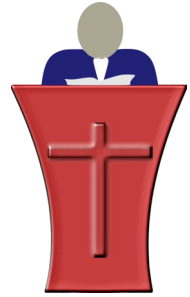
## Mowing Schedule

June 28-July 04	Jerrold Sandness
July 05-11	Adam Wrage
July 12-18	Brian Gilje
July 19-25	Walter Wrage
July 26- August 01	Kenwood Peterson



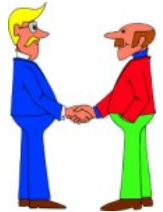
## Readers

- 05 Val Bjork
- 12 Julie Johnson
- 19 Barb Melroe
- 26 Joan Peterson



## Greeters

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



## Ushers

- Captain:** Shirley Waloch
- Auston Creech
  - Kenwood & Joan Peterson
  - Krista & Logan Peterson
  - Courtney & Alex Koepke



**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

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Council Meeting Minutes 6/17/26: Written by Walter

Members present: Kirstin, Trudy, Lori, Keith, Sharon, Walter and Pastor Jaime.

Meeting called to order: Pres. Kirstin called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Devotions and Prayer: Pastor Jaime led devotion and prayer to start the meeting. Scripture was read from the story of Moses in the book of Exodus. Adopt the agenda: Any additions: parade float with Nancy. Kirstin called for a motion to approve the agenda, Sharon made the motion and Lori 2nd.

**Secretary Report:** Discussed report. Kirstin called for a motion to approve the report, Keith made the motion, Lori seconded.

**Pastor Report:** May 23: Burial for Sara Hone Hajek at Gwinner Cemetery, June 1-4: non contracted time, June 5-7: synod assembly - Bishop election - presiding bishop Tessa moon Leiseth was re-elected for another 6 year term. Theme for assembly was Water of Baptism, Waters of Promise. June 10: worship and music - planned services through Sep. 6th. Stewardship finalized stewardship letter to go to faith community addressing roof and donations for the remaining funds. June 17: YOGA meeting to finalize NC trip info - trip is July 7-14 and going with Campus Ministry team and other churches in our synod. June 20-28: pastoral care coverage for Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisbon. Coming up: June 29-July 5: non-contracted time. July 7-14: youth trip

**Work group reports:** Property and grounds: Sunday school side was not cooling, sanctuary was cooling. The blower motor was locked up, repairs were made. Checked freon, found everything was ok. Tested, found the system was working as it should after repairs. Removed and replaced both filters. Talked to Dennis about the tiles, he has volunteered to repair them. The drain in the utility room was backed up, Kirstin had looked at it, found no issue. Walter removed the heat tape and cleaned the gutters on the west and east side.

**Welca:** No report.

**Men's Group:** No report.

**Yoga:** YOGA is meeting 6/17 about the road trip.

**Education:** VBS August 3-5 6pm to 7:30.

**Alter Guild:** No report.

**Worship and Music:** No report.

**New Business:** Visual board for the Roof Fund. Discussed visual ideas, Kirstin will head this up. Heather Vincent brought up the geothermal sink holes. Discussed options.

**Old Business:** letter requesting donation for the roof fund has been written and is in the process of being sent out. There is also a "memory of GA" page that will be placed in a scrapbook. Discussed the possibility of taking out a loan for the roof and how much would be needed. Donations have been received from the altar guild and Welca for the roof. GA foundation has found out they can give a maximum of \$7,500 to the roof fund. Remember to tell contractors about the geothermal on the south side of the church. Dennis Dahl delivered the tiles. He has volunteered to do the work. Joleen Hardy has a fundraiser idea for Gwinner Days weekend. Volunteers will be needed. Review procedure for the chair and table rental.

**Treasure's Report:** Walter made a motion to approve, Lori 2nd.

Adjournment: Kirstin moved to adjourn the meeting, Sharon made the motion, Keith 2nd. Time: 7:49

Lord's Prayer: Kirstin lead the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting: July meeting TBA, Aug 19th, 6:00p

# JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			01 Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time Carrili Off Vacation	02 Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time Carrili Off Vacation	03 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time Carrili Off Vacation	04 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time
05 9:30 Worship no Communion Leader Jill Baldwin  Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time	06 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	07 Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip	08 Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip	09 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon <b>Ruth Circle 2:30PM</b> Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip	10 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip	11 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip
12 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pam Maloney  Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip	13 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline  Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip	14 Pastor Jaime off YOGA Trip	15	16 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	17 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath	18 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath
19 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime	20 <b>August Newsletter Deadline</b>   Pastor Jaime off Vacation	21 Pastor Jaime off Vacation	22 Pastor Jaime off Vacation	23 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Pastor Jaime off Vacation	24 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime off Vacation	25 Pastor Jaime's Sabbath  Pastor Jaime off Vacation
26 9:30 Worship no Communion Leader Jill Baldwin  Pastor Jaime off Vacation	27 Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time	28 Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time	29 Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time	30 Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time	31 Pastor Jaime off Non-contracted time	

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



2026 July 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) 680-1190

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

KIRSTIN KEMPEL (PRESIDENT), PAUL WHITE ( VICE PRES.),  
WALTER WRAGE (SECRETARY), LORI WIEDERHOLT,  
SHARON BECKSTROM, TRUDY PETERSON, KEITH BEAVER