

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
Gwinner, North Dakota

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Lent Services

Wednesday Evening Lent Worship

"Beneath The Cross"

March 4th, March 11th, March 18th,
March 25th at 7:00pm
Led by Julie Johnson

There will not be an evening meal

“God Pause”

2026 Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes February 8th, 2026

34 members of Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church were in attendance. Kirstin Kempel called the meeting to order at 10:35am. Pastor Jaime Decker led the congregation in devotions and prayer from the front cover of the annual report.

Secretary's report: Minutes were presented from 2025 Annual Meeting. Casey Decker made a motion to dismiss with the reading of the minutes and approve them, Judy Tyler made second, readings dismissed and minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Presented by Kris Beck & Michelle Goettle, Profit and Loss on page 23 and 24. Motion to approve profit and loss and changes was made by Joleen Hardy second by Joan Peterson, no opposed, finances approved. No Opposed. Report approved.

Tellers: Joleen Hardy, Lori Wiederholt, Nancy Wrage. Volunteered to be tellers.

Election: Kirstin Kempel explained the ballot. No Other volunteers for open positions. Dennis Dahl made motion to approve ballot, 2nd is Joleen Hardy. No Opposed. Ballot passed. Voting results are as follows.

Church Council: There were 2 open positions. Trudy Peterson and Keith Beaver ran as new candidates. Elected as such for a 3 year term.

Nominating Committee: Mike Larson, Martin Potts, Dan McKeever, Ashley Hansen were on the ballot for the 4 positions on the nomination committee and were Elected as such.

GA Foundation Directors: Jeff Anderson was up for re-election and chose to re-run. Elected as stated to the GA Foundation Directors for a term of 3 years.

Synod Assembly: June 5-7 this year. Michelle Goettle and Kris Beck were listed and they were elected to attend the Synod assembly to be GA Church's voting delegates. A 3rd member will be selected by March to attend.

Auditing Committee: Karla Waloch was up for re-election this year, she chose to re-run. Karla Waloch was elected to Auditing Committee.

Stewardship Committee: The Stewardship Committee had 2 up for re-election Kirstin Kempel and Julie Johnson, both chose not to re-run. Dawn Anderson and Shirley Waloch were on the ballot to fill those 2 positions, and were elected for 3 year term.

Election results: Motion made to pass a unanimous ballot by Dennis Dahl, second made by Joleen Hardy. Elected as stated above. No opposed. Motion carried to approve election results.

Presentation of Proposed Budget: Presented by Kris Beck. Budget on pages 21 & 22. Increases and changes in budget for 2026 were explained by each section. Make a change giving was explained and how it is spent, and that a match was given. Other mission support was explained that it was for a family in need. Pastor Pay was discussed, since Pastor Jaime is cutting down to 75% time. New line item of retirement was explained as a split of the health pension total just to better divide total amount paid. Synod recommends congregation pays Pastor Jaime's full health insurance. Pastor Jaime will be paying \$1,000 towards her health insurance plan to cover the increased expenses for the plan that works best for her and her family. All other benefits - pension, housing allowance, retirement, etc will be based off her call at 75% time. Her pay is at 8 years of experience and then calculated down to 75%. Increase in supply pastor was listed as we need more fill in with Pastor Jaime's decrease in hours. All other salaries were explained. Church and parsonage line items were discussed, and all other church expenses. The new line item of community outreach was discussed, it will be used for community outreach at the council's discretion. Carrili will forward all community outreach requests onto the council president. Venmo line item explained as transfer to the other church groups who used the Venmo for events. Motion to approve budget and changes made by, Joleen Hardy second by Joan Peterson. No opposed, budget approved.

Annual reports: No additions, comments or changes to reports. A motion was made to approve reports by Joleen Hardy second by Joan Peterson. No Opposed. Reports Approved.

Proposed resolutions: Resolutions page 26 were reviewed and discussed, no new resolutions for 2026 were noted, no changes were made. Moment of silence was taken for those that had passed this last year. Motion to approve made by Becky Salberg and second by Julie Johnson. No opposed. Resolutions Approved.

Business: Roof Committee: Discussion was held on the problem of the roof. Kirstin Kempel suggests that a committee be formed to move forward on the fixing of the church roof. Keith Beaver spoke on the information that Barry Fernow from North Star roofing gave them, on an increase in insulation and re-roofing. Barry does not suggest a tin roof. Volunteers for the committee: Walter Wrage, Mike Larson, Keith Beaver, Kent Johnson, Dennis Dahl, Duane Johnson. They will move forward and look into getting the roof fixed.

Pastor Budget: Was covered and explained in the budget section. Kirstin also spoke on how SAM's will be filling in when Pastor Jaime is on her non-contracted time and they can be approved to provide communion. During Pastor Jaime's non-contracted time if a church need/emergency arises there will be pastoral coverage from other churches in the area.

Special Mention: To Mike Larson and Martin Potts for their time on the Church Council, each served 6 years for GA Church.

Custodian: GA Will be in need of a custodian after Adalee Hill graduates this fall.

Painted Banners: Need to be hung rather than stored in the hallway, can be put in the fellowship hall in place of the red quilt on the west wall. The congregation agrees that this can be done.

Printing Report: Get annual report printed and out as soon as possible next year, so the congregation has time to review the reports. Aim for at least 1 Sunday prior to the annual meeting if all finances are approved. Potentially post an online version and update as reports come in.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Walter Wrage and second by Sharon Beckstrom. No Opposed. Meeting Adjourned at 11:50am. Meeting closed with the Lord's prayer led by Pastor Jaime Decker.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



- March 01:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Pam Maloney (Pastor Jaime off Non-Contracted time)
Sunday School After Worship
- March 01:** 11:00am YOGA Blanket Making Day
- March 04:** 7:00pm Wed Evening Lent Worship - Julie Johnson
- March 08:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Betty Maly (Pastor Jaime off Non-Contracted time)
Make-A-Change Sunday, Sunday School After Worship
- March 11:** 7:00pm Wed Evening Lent Worship - Julie Johnson
- March 12:** 2:30pm Ruth Circle
- March 15:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Pastor Jaime - Installation of Church Council Members
Sunday School After Worship
- March 18:** 7:00pm Wed Evening Lent Worship - Julie Johnson
- March 18:** 5:30pm Church Council Meeting
- March 22:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Pastor Jaime - Sunday School After Worship
- March 23:** April Newsletter Deadline
- March 23:** 6:30pm Holy Communion Class
- March 25:** 7:00pm Wed Evening Lent Worship - Julie Johnson
- March 29:** Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship w/ Communion: Pastor Jaime
Sunday School After Worship, Altar Guild Meeting after Worship
- March 20:** WELCA Palm Sunday Dinner 10:45-12:30 Open to all to Attend

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!



Sunday School: Sunday School has resumed at GA for the Spring session. This is open to all children in grades Pre-K thru 6th Grade. No registration needed, just come and join us after worship. Class will be held Feb 15th thru April 26th, No Class on April 5th Easter Sunday. Spread the word and see you there.

Annual Meeting Minutes: GA is trying something new; Council has requested that the Annual Meeting Minutes be printed so that the congregation can review them over the next few weeks. There is a copy included in this newsletter. If you notice any corrections and/or additions are needed, please contact Carrili so she can make those adjustments. Thank you.

Palm Sunday Dinner: WELCA is serving dinner Sunday March 29th, 10:45-12:30. Ham, Scaloped Potatoes, Bun, Corn, Coleslaw and Dessert. Free Will and all are welcome to attend, so please spread the word!

New Council Members: At the annual meeting Keith Beaver and Trudy Peterson were elected to the GA Church Council. We thank you for offering your time and talents to the council. Installation of Council Members will be held during worship service on March 15th.

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



Our Sympathies : Go out to the family and friends of: Steve Bopp. 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!

Book Study: We will be reading and discussing "A Pilgrimage into Letting Go," by Andrew Root and Kara K. Root. Our next meeting will be Monday, Feb 23rd at 6:30pm. We will discuss chapters 5&6. 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?

Easter Lillies: As we move towards the Easter Season, please remember to list your donated Easter Lillies and/or plants on the sheet by the office if you donated it in Honor or Memory of someone. Thank you in advance for helping make our worship space beautiful.

Holy Communion Class: Monday, March 23rd: Join us for Holy Communion class at 6:30pm! This class is for YOU - Young or old, who has never eaten this meal, who has come to this meal numerous times, and who is curious or just wants a reminder of the meaning of this special meal. Please let Pastor Jaime know if you would like to attend this event.

Hey YOGA: Join us Sunday, March 1st after church (around 11:00 AM) as we come together to make tie blankets for The Dwelling Church, where we'll be visiting on our summer trip. This is a great way for our youth to serve, have fun, and bless others! Lunch will be provided for all youth who attend. We are also planning lots of fundraisers to help cover the remaining trip cost! We're excited to serve together—hope to see everyone there! ~Masyn~

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

Looking Ahead!



April 02: Maundy Thursday Worship

April 03: Good Friday Worship

April 05: Easter Worship & YOGA Easter Breakfast

Thank You: GA Church, Rudy & I thank you so much for thinking of us at the time of the fire. We appreciate it so much, but especially the kindness you showed us. We plan to “Pay It Forward.” God Bless All Of You, Rudy & Karen Rarthert.

YOGA Easter Breakfast: Don’t forget to come join us Easter Sunday April 5th, for the Annual Easter Breakfast. It will be served by our youth between the Sunrise Service and the 9:30am Traditional Service. Open to anyone to attend. Spread the word and come and enjoy some delicious food and fellowship.

Senior Meals: Gwinner will now host a Senior Meal at Noon at the Community Center on Main Street, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Call 701-678-3815 to sign up. See flier in entry for more information.

March-April WELCA Action Group

**Co-Chairs: Kris Beck
Nancy Wrage**

Michelle Ciesynski

Nicki Erickson

Betty Johnson

Barb Klemetson

Janae Sherlock

Della Teske

Judy Tyler

Kari Ulven

Karla Ulven

Shirley Waloch

Kirstin Kempel

Kalea Johnson

Jackie Meyer



March Birthdays

- 1 Nicki Erickson
- 2 Jolene Lauth
Brad Zetocha
- 3 Corey Odegard
MacKenna Sherman
- 4 Peggy Erickson
- 6 Dylan Goettle
- 7 Carter Anderson
- 9 Morgan Heger
- 10 Tyler Vincent
Blayke Jacobson
- 12 Bobby Beckstrom
Aaron Flannery
Richard Olson
- 13 Patricia Creech
- 14 Jonathon McFarland
Martin Potts
- 15 Ashlee Lien
- 17 John Crandall
Samuel Crandall
Casey Flannery
Lucas Jacobson
- 18 Jeremy Berreth
Tracy Nicholson
Wendy Swanson
- 19 Arlin Sandstrom
- 20 Darby Mittag
Janelle Mairs
- 21 Hope Ciesynski
Allen Johnson
- 22 Daro Crandall
- 23 Emerson Beck
Addyson Hardy
Mike Richter
Hans Swanson
Vicki Osier



- 24 Shelly Beckstrom
- 25 Bridger Crandall
Diane Odegard
- 26 Charlene Smith
- 27 Samantha Kranzler
Scott Melroe
Lee Schwagel
Rhonda Weigelt
Natalie Otonichar
Beckett Hansen
- 28 Zasha Johnson
- 29 Bruce Holden
Kandyce Sandstrom
- 30 Keith Beaver
Michael Witkowski
Warren Seykora
- 31 Ryan Johnson

***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!

March Anniversaries

- 1 Anna & Bruce Holden
- 9 Kirstin & Torey Kempel
- 17 Timothy & Jessica Peterson
- 21 Becky & Darrel Salberg

March 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.



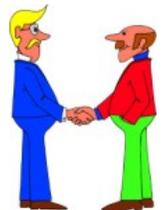
Readers

- 01 Michelle Ciesynski
- 08 Sharon Beckstrom
- 15 Becky Salberg
- 22 Kirstin Kempel
- 29 Val Bjork



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: David & Donna Hansen

Torey & Kirstin Kempel

Miles & Lannae Johnson



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

MARCH 2026 ISSUE 03

PAGE 8

Church Council Meeting Minutes 2/11/26 Written by Walter Wrage Members present: Kirstin, Walter, Trudy, Lori, Paul, Sharon, Keith and Pastor Jaime. Meeting called to order: Pres. Kirstin called meeting to order at 6:00pm Devotions and Prayer: Pastor Jaime led devotion and prayer to start the meeting. A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Adopt the agenda: Any additions: 1. Pastor Jaime would like to add the installation of the entire council. 2. Would like to add unapproved minutes from this year's annual meeting. Kirsten called for a motion to approve the agenda, Paul made the motion and Walter 2nd.

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

Pastor Report: February 2026 Pastor Report Feb 1: non contracted Feb 8: annual meeting Feb 8: confirmation meeting Feb 9: book study - discussion over chapters 1&2 of the book, "A Pilgrimage into Letting Go," by Andrew Root and Kara Root Feb 12: Ruth Circle in Lisbon at hospital nursing home Feb 15: confirmation meeting Feb 16: text study and spiritual coaching in Fargo Feb 16: book study to discuss chapters 3&4 Feb 18: Ash Wednesday Feb 19: monthly Wahpeton Pastor Conference in Milnor Feb 22-28: vacation, Pastor Julie Johnson is covering for emergencies Feb 25: begin midweek Lenten services led by Julie Johnson - no meal served

Work group reports

Property and grounds: Paul and Keith will be reporting. Discussed roofing committee goals and scope. Keith reported on the status of the insulation. The committee will be meeting in the future to make a plan. Will also be checking into the programmable thermostat settings. **Welca:** No report **Men's Group:** Walter will be reporting on this. The men's group had the annual meeting on Sunday after the church annual meeting. The men's group will be re-waxing the narthex and fellowship hall floors. Measurements have been taken and wax has been ordered. Dates will likely be decided in the future with help from Jaime. Discussion was held about serving a meal in the fall in place of the lutefisk supper. Mens group would be looking for help from the youth and WELCA. **Yoga:** Masyn started a sign-up for a North Carolina trip, also had a fundraiser during the basketball games. We were granted \$10,000 from church anew, to be used for youth activities. Must come to the council to approve use/scope of funds. At the first meeting, approximately 10 kids were present. **Education:** No report **Altar Guild:** No report **Worship and Music:** Trudy took this up. Met previously for a meeting about Lent.

Old 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 Jaime had applied for. -Mike and Martin terms are up for church council. The nomination committee is working on replacements.

New Business: Executive Elections: President: Lori made a motion for Kirstin, Sharon 2nd. Paul made a motion for unanimous vote, Lori 2nd. Vice Pres. Lori nominates Paul. Trudy second. Motion carried. Secretary: Paul made a motion to nominate Walter to continue being the secretary. Trudy second. Motion carried.

-**Non-contracted time**, need to be aware of Jaime's hours and dates. Talked over the protocol for contacting a pastor during a crisis, death or other emergency. We have a list of pastors to contact. Jamie would still like to be in the loop with anything that happens, but asks that we respect her time off and non-contracted time. Talked over situations with Jaime, decided to have a council member contact the pastor at the time of request. Discussed posting an emergency phone number, decided against due to privacy concerns. Discussed non-contracted time. -

There is a need for a new desk. Will be looking into this issue.

-**Future Sunday school.** Would like to keep doing Sunday school, discussing future options. Will be meeting in a committee to decide specifics. -Discussed a new handheld microphone. Paul made a motion to purchase a new headset. Keith second, motion carried. -

discussed the budget and talked about accounts. Paul made a motion to move \$5,000 into the foundation, and \$15,000 into the savings account. Sharon seconded. Motion carried.

-March 15 to install council members during the church service.

Treasure's Report: discussed balance sheet. Discussed publishing the financial information in the bulletin once a month. Lori made a motion to approve treasurer report, Paul second. Motion carried. Adjournment: Sharon made the motion at 7:18 to adjourn the meeting, Trudy seconded. Lord's Prayer: Kirstin lead the Lord's prayer. Next meeting: March 18th at 5:30

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>01 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pam Maloney Sunday School YOGA Workday Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>02 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>03 Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>04 7:00pm Lent Worship Julie Johnson Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>05 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>06 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>07 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>
<p>08 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Betty Maly Make-A-Change Sunday School Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>09 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>10 Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>11 7:00pm Lent Worship Julie Johnson Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>12 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30PM Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>13 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>	<p>14 Jaime's Sabbath Pastor Jaime (Non-Contracted Time)</p>
<p>15 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime Sunday School</p>	<p>16 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 5:00pm Church Council Meeting 7:00pm Lent Worship Julie Johnson</p>	<p>19 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon</p>	<p>20 Jaime's Sabbath</p>	<p>21 Jaime's Sabbath</p>
<p>22 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime Sunday School</p>	<p>23 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline 6:30 PM Holy Communion Class April Newsletter Deadline </p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Lent Worship 7:00pm Julie Johnson</p>	<p>26 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon</p>	<p>27 Jaime's Sabbath</p>	<p>28 Jaime's Sabbath</p>
<p>29 9:30 Palm Sunday Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime Sunday School Altar Guild Meeting Palm Sunday Dinner 10:45-12:30</p>	<p>30 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>31</p>				

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.
207 1st St SE
PO Box 176
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2026 March 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

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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