

MARCH 2023

NEWSLETTER



Lenten Series

Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

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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.

Wednesday Lent Services:

Potluck 5:15pm, Worship 6:45pm

“God Pause”

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



Matthew 4:1–11 (NRSV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Verse²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. Verse³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." Verse⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Verse⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, Verse⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Verse⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Verse⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; Verse⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Verse¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Verse¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Devotion

Jesus is ready to take the stage of his ministry. At his baptism he has just heard the benediction of the voice from heaven, "This is my beloved Son. In him I am well pleased!" With a pedigree like that, what more does one need? No wonder, almost in the next breath, the devil appears to test this new preacher-prophet, as if to say, "You've got it all. Go for it. Just trust yourself!" But "what if?" What if that trust is misplaced? As John the Baptist will later press Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or do we look for another?" (11:3) But at each challenge, Jesus refuses the bait and reasserts his trust in God and God's word. Jesus' example is certainly a model for us to ponder in our journey of life. When all the "what ifs" come our way, in what or in whom will we place our trust?

Prayer

God of promise, when temptations come to place our trust in ourselves or in the world around us, teach us to follow our Lord's example and place our trust securely in the word and promise of God. Amen.

James L. Boyce '71 M.Div.

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

Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



March 01: 5:15pm Lent Potluck, 6:45pm Lent Worship.

March 05: 9:30am Worship with Communion, Sunday School after Worship

March 05: **ANNUAL MEETING** following worship

March 05: 2:00pm Cinema Sunday

March 08: 5:15pm Lent Potluck, 6:45pm Lent Worship.

March 09: 2:30pm Ruth Circle

March 12: 9:30am Worship No Communion, Sunday School Kiddos Sing, Sunday School After Worship

March 12: 2:00pm Cinema Sunday

March 10-18: Pastor Jaime Off

March 15: 5:15pm Lent Potluck, 6:45pm Lent Worship.

March 19: 9:30am Worship with Communion, NO Sunday School after Worship, Church Council Meeting

March 19: 2:00pm Cinema Sunday

March 20: April Newsletter Deadline

March 22: 5:15pm Lent Potluck, 6:45pm Lent Worship.

March 26: 9:30am Worship with Communion, Sunday School after Worship

March 26: Burger, Brat & Hotdog Feed 11-12:30—Open to all to attend

March 26: 2:00pm Cinema Sunday

March 29: 5:15pm Lent Potluck, 6:45pm Lent Worship.

March 29: 5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting



Annual Report **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. See you THERE!

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!



venmo

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.



Burger, Brat, Hotdog Feed: The Men's Group will be hosting a "Burger, Brat & Hotdog Feed" Sunday, March 26th from 11:00am – 12:30pm. Free-Will. Proceeds will go towards purchasing a new exterior door for the fellowship hall. Open to all to attend so please Spread The Word!



Daylight Savings: Don't forget on March 12th to adjust your clocks ahead to daylight savings time! See you all at 9:30am.

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 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.



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



Newly Baptized: Congratulations to the newest baptized member of GA Church, Kassidy Jo Opatz. Kassidy was baptized February 12th. We wish God's blessing on you as you start your faith journey here at GA Church.



Church Finances: For the month of January 2023: Thank you for all you do for Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church!
Starting: \$36,124.63- Debts \$27,966.32 + Deposits \$26,128.67
= End \$34,286.98

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: **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: **March 19th, April 9th.**
Sincerely, Carrili Larson- Music Instructor.



Thank You: THANK YOU for your support of the YOGA Rock-A-Thon. We raised \$685.00! Your support of the Youth of GA is greatly appreciated.

Thank You: THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON OUR FIRST TRY AT THE Y.O.G.A. ROSE FUNDRAISER! We raised \$1074.50! Your support of the Youth is greatly appreciated.

March/April 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

Patty Ulven

Shirley Waloch

Rhonda Weigelt

Kirstin Kempel

Kalea Johnson

Jackie Meyer



March Birthdays

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- 1 Nicki Erickson
- 2 Jolene Lauth
Brad Zetocha
- 3 Corey Odegard
MacKenna Sherman
- 4 Peggy Erickson
- 6 Dylan Goettle
- 7 Carter Anderson
- 8 Kim Beckstrom
- 9 Morgan Heger
- 10 Tyler Vincent
Blayne Jacobson
- 12 Bobby Beckstrom
Aaron Flannery
Richard Olson
- 13 Patricia Creech
- 14 Jonathon McFarland
- 15 Ashlee Lien
- 17 John Crandall
Samuel Crandall
Casey Flannery
Lucas Jacobson
- 18 Jeremy Berreth
Tracy Nicholson
Wendy Swanson
- 19 Arlin Sandstrom
- 20 Darby Swanson
Rodney Utecht
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 Jeremy Griggs
Ryan Johnson

March 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!

- 1 Ginger & Rodney Utecht
Anna & Bruce Holden
Carolyn & Roger Klemetson
- 9 Kirstin & Torey Kempel
- 17 Timothy & Jessica Peterson
- 21 Becky & Darrel Salberg

March Worship Assistants

Acolytes

- 01 Youth
- 05 Payten Herman/Brooklyn Ponzer
- 08 Youth
- 12 Tristen Peterson/Emerson Beck
- 15 Youth
- 19 Kyle Potts/Cyprian Johnson
- 22 Youth
- 26 Ethan Weigelt/Payten Herman
- 29 Youth



Communion Assistants

- 01 Shirley Waloch
- 05 Barb Melroe
- 08 Kris Beck
- 12 Steve Melroe
- 15 Dennis Dahl
- 19 Auston Creech
- 22 Michelle Goettle
- 26 Becky Salberg
- 29 Mike Larson



Sound System

Volunteers Needed
To Learn
The New System



Readers

- 01 Youth
- 05 Joleen Hardy
- 08 Youth
- 12 Michelle Goettle
- 15 Youth
- 19 Kari Gilje
- 22 Youth
- 26 Michelle Ciesynski
- 29 Youth



Greeters

- 05 Mike & Carrili Larson
- 12 Nate Hansen/Easton Johnson
- 19 Brendan & Michelle Ciesynski
- 26 Randy & Karla Waloch



Ushers

- Captain:** David & Donna Hansen
- Torey & Kirstin Kempel
 - Miles & Lannae Johnson
 - Terry & Karen Euscher



2nd Sunday

- Sage Turchin
- Jack Mairs
- Aleysha Sarith
- Morgan Temple

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

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church Council Minutes

MARCH 2023 ISSUE 3

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Council Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2023

In Attendance: Martin Potts, Mike Larson, Jakob Creech, Auston Creech, Paul White, Kris Beck, Barb Melroe and Pastor Jaime Decker

Meeting called to order at 10:50 am

Approval of Meeting Agenda by Larson/A.Creech. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report –White/J.Creech. Motion carried to accept.

Pastor's Report- Baptism of Kassidy Jo and celebration of Betty Melroe's 96th birthday on February 12. Returned from continuing education in Egypt. Will be having youth faith building event on February 25. On vacation March 10 to March 18.

Committee Reports

WELCA – meeting next Sunday after service.

Men's Group – Holding burger and brat fry on March 26. Also decided to refresh yard at the parsonage this spring. Possibly the church yard also if enough help. Discuss repairing the wall in the fellowship hall near the door that will be replaced.

Property and Grounds- Discussion on roof leaking and ice on sidewalk. Pastor Jaime will contact Methodist church on Lisbon to see if they have had similar problems and if so, what they did to alleviate.

Altar Guild- No report

YOGA- Over \$1000 made on rose sale. Going to Sky Zone today and will return for Rock-a-thon and lock in tonight. Discussion on a trip for fun and mission work. Jakob will bring it up during lock in and see what some ideas they can come up with.

Education- Wednesday nights going well when weather permits. Small group continues to meet on Sundays also. Cinema Sunday starts today with "The Chosen" series.

Music and Worship – no report.

Old Business

Discussed in committee reports.

New Business-

Jessica Peterson has stepped down from council effective immediately. Megan Wrage has been asked to fill her term. She is considering it at this time.

Welcome Jakob Creech as youth representative to council.

Pastor Jaime has texted link for stewardship classes that council needs to watch. Decided to add stewardship committee to election at annual meeting.

Pastor Jaime will set up leadership meeting with Pastor Jule Ballinger. Will last about 4 hours.

Kris reports Venmo is working well.

Treasurer's report- Ending balance-\$34,286.98

Lord's Prayer and adjournment. Next meeting March 19,2023.

MARCH 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 5:15 Potluck 6:45 Lent Worship	2 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	3 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	4
5 9:30 Worship Sunday School Annual Meeting 2pm Cinema Sunday	6	7	8 5:15 Potluck 6:45 Lent Worship	9 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Ruth Circle 2:30 PM	10 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	11 Jaime Off
12 9:30 Worship Sunday School Sings Make-A-Change Sunday School 2pm Cinema Sunday	13 Jaime Off	14 Jaime Off	15 5:15 Potluck 6:45 Lent Worship Jaime Off	16 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Jaime Off	17 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	18
19 9:30 Worship W/Communion NO Sunday School Church Council Cinema Sunday 2pm	20 April Newsletter Deadline 	21	22 5:15 Potluck 6:45 Lent Worship	23 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	24 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	25
26 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Sunday School Burger Feed 11am-12:30 Cinema Sunday 2pm	27	28	29 5:15 Potluck 6:45 Lent Worship Altar Guild Meeting 5:30 PM	30 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	31 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Off	

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



2023 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.....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), (TREASURER),
PAUL WHITE, MIKE LARSON, AUSTON CREECH
AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE