

# MAY 2025

## NEWSLETTER



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## Events In May

### May 4:

Earth Day/Celebration of Creation Worship 9:30am

### May 04:

May 4th at 6:00pm Embodied Baptism Celebration:  
Confirmation students will be presenting their projects to the congregation. A celebration dinner will be held following the presentations.

### May 18:

High School Senior Sunday & Quilt Blessing during  
Worship 9:30am

# “God Pause”

## **ACTS 5:27-32 (NRSV)**

27When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, Verse28saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." Verse29But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. Verse30The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. Verse31God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. Verse32And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

## **DEVOTION**

The disciples have just had a spiritual awakening. Having witnessed the resurrection of Jesus, their lives have been transformed and they want others to know the truth—even if it means imprisonment or death. Celebrating the Easter event can be an experience of spiritual awakening and call that can change our life. Belief in God can be transformed into knowing. When we turn our will and our life over to God, we feel empowered. There is no turning back. Our fears are calmed and we are committed to follow Jesus. We feel motivated to face our limitations of mind and body. By God's grace we understand that we are a part of something greater than ourselves and need to get our ego out of the way, to discover our true self—created in God's image. For the disciples and for us, a spiritual awakening is only the beginning of a life-long journey of learning the depths of God's love for us and the many ways to manifest that love with one another.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for the life-changing events that transform our lives and cause us to grow in faith and commitment to God's will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Vernon J. Bittner '61 M.Th., Th.D. Retired, Chanhassen, MN

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

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**May 04:** 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime—Earth Day Service

**May 04:** 6:00pm Embodied Baptism Celebration & Dinner

**May 08:** Ruth Circle 2:30pm

**May 11:** 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime—Make A Change Sunday

**May 18:** 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime—High School Senior Sunday & Quilt Blessing

**May 19:** June Newsletter Deadline

**May 25:** 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime

**May 25:** Weigelt Graduation Reception in Fellowship hall

**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!



**Easter Lilies:** Three Easter Lilies were donated by Kirstin & Torey Kempel in Honor of their Grandchildren, An Easter Lilly was donated by David & Donna Hansen in Honor of their Parents, An Easter Lilly was donated by Lynn Anderson & Family in Honor of the Anderson Family, Two Easter Lilies were donated by Lori & Ken Wiederholt in Honor of their Grandchildren, Four Easter Lilies were donated by Nancy & Adam Wrage in Honor of their Parents, An Easter Lilly was donated by Diane & Elwood Odegard in Honor of Heidi, ElRoy & LaVelle Odegard, Two Easter Lilies were donated by Judy Tyler in Memory of Harold & Lorraine Tyler and Eugene & Emily Schmid, An Easter Lilly was donated by Dennis & Sharon Peterson in Honor of all their Loved Ones, An Easter Lilly was donated by Shirley Waloch in Honor of her Children, An Easter Lilly was donated by Mary Stroh in Memory of Alex & Ida Rotenberger, An Easter Lilly was donated by Mary Stroh in Memory of Ruth & Dave Rotenberger, An Easter Lilly was donated by Rachel & Jason Nelson in Memory of Loved Ones, An Easter Lilly was donated by Rachel & Jason Nelson in Honor of Loved Ones, Two Easter Lilies were donated by Jason & Rachel Nelson, "Happy Easter", Two Easter Lilies were donated by Large & Deb Johnson in Honor of all Family & Friends. Thank you to all who donated Lillies to make our worship space beautiful this Easter season.

**Thank You - Easter Breakfast:** On behalf of all of us at YOGA, we sincerely thank you for your generous support during the annual Easter Breakfast. Your presence and participation made the event unforgettable and continue to inspire and strengthen our youth ministry.

**Palm Sunday Dinner:** Palm Sunday Dinner was a success! Thank you so much to all who helped in any way. We served 80 plus people and \$1007.00 was donated. Alleluia!

**Lutefisk Supper Suggestions:** There is a suggestion box on the table in the Narthex, the Lutefisk committee is looking for suggestions/ideas on how to improve the Lutefisk meal and/or change the meal. Please feel free to leave a comment/idea. Thank you for your thoughts.

# 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.



**Food Pantry:** The Gwinner location of the Sargent County Food Pantry Top Needs: Prepared meals (hamburger helper, stuffing mix, etc.), Pasta (preferably no spaghetti) & pasta sauce, Flour, sugar, cooking oil, Pancake mix & syrup, Baked beans & pork 'n beans, Shelf stable juice, Cake & cookie mixes, Soups (preferably cream soups), Coffee, Household items (toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex, laundry soap, dish soap), Personal items (shampoo, body wash, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste). 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, butter, bread, cheese, fresh vegetables and fruits). 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.

**Newly Baptized:** GA Would like to welcome it's newest baptized member Hattie Kempel, daughter of Amber & Tanner Kempel. Baptized April 6th, 2024.

**Holy Communion Class:** Three learners completed the Holy Communion class on April 7th, and were recognized during Holy Communion at the Maundy Thursday service: Holt Larson, Liam Opdahl & Reid Opdahl.

**Mowing List:** The mowing list has been completed and emailed out to those who have volunteered to help. Thank you in advance for keeping the church looking great this spring and summer.

**High School Senior Sunday:** May 18th we will be honoring high school seniors with a special ceremony during worship service. Each senior will receive a quilt from the GA Bits N' Stitches quilters and a blessing from the GA Faith community. Please join us as we celebrate with the 2025 seniors. Cake will be served during a reception following the worship service.

**Church Finances:** For the Month of **March 2025:**

Beginning Balance: \$-----, Deposits: \$----- Payments: \$----- Ending Balance: \$-----

**2025 Year to Date Giving:**

**GA 2025 Budget:** \$232,550.00    **2025 Giving to Date:** \$ 44,424.36    **Giving Needed:** \$ 188,125.64

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!

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



venmo

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

## Looking Ahead:

**June 08:** Synod Assembly



**Bulletin Donation Sheet:** The bulletin donation sheet for the 2025 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 give your payments to Carrili. Bulletin donations are \$15.00 per Sunday. Thank you for your support.

**Thank You:** Once a month, we collect a "Make a Change" offering that our children collect in pails during the offering. The total amount we collected in 2024 was \$500. We also received a generous matching donation from an anonymous donor. That donor also supplied the funds for a well, which will supply clean water to 500 families. On Palm Sunday, our Sunday School kids, with the assistance of their youth leaders, chose the rest of the gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Each SS student was able to decide how to spend \$150 of the donations collected. The gifts these kids chose included: animals, gardening supplies, school supplies, honey bees, water filters, vaccinations, blankets, mosquito nets, and food for orphans and adults. Thanks to your generous donations, so many families in the US and abroad will be the recipients of these gifts. Thank you for supporting the "Make a Change" program.

## May-June WELCA Action Group

**Co-Chairs: Joan Peterson  
Donna Hansen**

Kari Gilje

Betty Melroe (Honorary)

Linda Johnson

Lynn Anderson

Shirley Fuss

Kyla Temple

Vanessa Beaver

Jeanie Stahl

Deb Thorsness

Denise Dahl

Peggy Erickson

Connie Kracht

Jericho Brockman

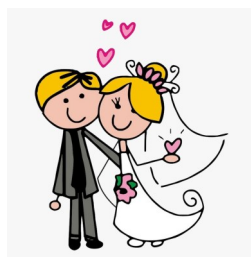




# May Birthdays

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- 1 Jeff Anderson  
Graeme Jacobson
- 2 Doug Hanson
- 3 Tristen Peterson
- 4 Kallie Decker
- 5 Joan Peterson
- 6 Paula M. Hansen  
Jaila LaTraille
- 7 Trudi Christensen
- 8 Dennis Decker  
Jessica Griggs
- 9 Joel Asche  
Nate Hansen  
Nick Hansen  
Jeanie Stahl
- 11 Riley Taliaferro  
James Goettle
- 14 Carrie Herberg  
Neairah Netterville
- 15 Peggy Olson  
Karen Euscher  
Justen Kleingartner
- 16 Jace Faber
- 18 Eric Beem  
Lily Walth
- 19 Dale Johnson  
Kendra Euscher  
Nikki Sims
- 20 Hudson Lien
- 21 Macy Mairs
- 22 Linda Johnson
- 23 Carter Gilje  
Jax Johnson



- 24 Mike Kleingartner  
Gloria Smith  
Karla Waloch
- 27 Nick Vincent  
Corey Jacobson
- 28 Samuel Waloch
- 29 Tanaya Crellin  
David McFarland  
Lennon Swanson
- 30 Raegyn Brockman
- 31 Dan McKeever

***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!***

## May Anniversaries

- 1 Brendan & Michelle Ciesynski
- 3 Chance & Katelyn Diegel
- 4 Chuck & Barb Klemetson  
Dan & Stacy McKeever
- 8 Mike & Jenny Kleingartner
- 9 Doug & Trudi Christensen
- 28 Tom & Robin Rehborg

# May 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

April 27-May 03	Mike Larson
May 4-10	Adam Wrage
May 11-17	Brian Gilje
May 18-24	Kent Johnson
May 25-31	Martin Potts
June 01-07	Walter Wrage
June 08-14	Kenwood Peterson
June 15-21	Shawn Beck
June 22-28	Martin Potts
June 29-July 05	Jerrod Sandness

## Readers

04	Joan Peterson
11	Julie Johnson
18	Nancy Wrage
25	Karla Waloch



## Greeters

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



## Ushers

### **Captain: Paul White**

Richard & Peggy Olson  
David & Linda McFarland  
Brian & Val Bjork  
Heidi Gleason



**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

MAY 2025 ISSUE 5

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**Council Meeting-March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025: Members Present:** Mike, Walter, Kirstin, Kris, Sharon, and Emma. Also present Pastor Jaime.

**Kris called the meeting to order at 6:36. Pastor Jaime opened with devotions and prayer.**

**Adopt the agenda:** Kirstin made a motion. Mike seconded it.

**Secretary's Report:** Kirstin read the report. Sharon made a motion to approve. Walter seconded it.

**Pastor's Report:** \*March 2<sup>nd</sup> was the annual meeting, \*March 3<sup>rd</sup> was the final book study session. Starting a new book-Midnight Library, and it will be discussed in one meeting on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm. All are welcome to join. \*March 5<sup>th</sup> -Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent and Wednesday evening services with the theme, "Unbroken: A Living Faith." The theme for Sundays is "Broken and Beloved: Stories of God's Steadfast Love." \*March 6<sup>th</sup> was the funeral service for Myrna Anderson \*March 11<sup>th</sup> is the Worship and Music Committee meeting \*March 12<sup>th</sup> is a YOGA meeting. \*GASP will continue until the end of April \*Confirmation students are working on service projects and devotion/reflections with their mentors. They meet 1-2 times/month with Pastor Jaime. \*Upcoming dates include Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>-Baptism of Hattie Kempel, Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>-last day of SS, Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>-Palm Sunday Dinner and start of Holy Week, Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday, and May 4<sup>th</sup>-Confirmation students present their projects to the congregation w/a meal. All are invited.

## **Church Work Groups:**

**Property and Grounds-(Mike and Martin)**-Light bulbs on west side were replaced. We need to get gutters on the west side of church. Mike will call to inquire on that. We are in the process of giving away the daycare supplies that we got free from the city years ago and are taking up storage space. We need to check on our geothermal system to see if it is turned on.

**WELCA-(Sharon)**-Palm Sunday Dinner is being planned.

**Men's Group-(Walter)**-Lutefisk Supper supplies are still in hallway. Walter and Mike will put them into the storage unit after meeting. Brat and Burger Feed needs to be discussed and scheduled.

**YOGA-(Emma)**-Krista Peterson and Auston Creech are leaders. YOGA plans on meeting every other Wednesday evening.

**Education-(Emma)**-GASP ends in April and SS ends on April 13<sup>th</sup>. SS will choose the way to spend the Make a Change Offering from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog.

**Altar Guild-(Kirstin)**-Meets the last Sun. of each month after worship. Polishing silver in March.

**Worship and Music-(Paul)**-No report

**New Business:** \*Lutefisk Supper was discussed at the annual meeting and will now be a church wide event. A committee is being formed, led by Walter, Sharon, and Mike with multigenerational and diverse members to discuss what change will take place.

\*GA Foundation Committee asked if there were church building repairs or plans. Kris suggested adding a bigger door and handicap accessible men's bathroom. This was tabled.

\*Make a Change Offering will be donated to ELCA Good Gifts. We have a family, who would like to remain anonymous, who would like to match the offering that's been collected.

\*Council Retreat to be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Pastor Jaime's home from 9:00am-3:00pm

**Old Business:** \*Wedding Policy needs an update: change "Pastor Compensation amount" to say, "to be determined by pastor".

\*Constitutional Updates: Remove treasurer because we have a paid staff treasurer, change the number of council members to 7, and change date of annual meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Feb. These constitutional changes require 2 congregational meetings before a vote.

**Election of Officers:** Kris will be going off council, but the remaining members would like her to continue helping Michelle Goettle with the budget and finances, entering offering totals into the computer. Nominations: Kirstin nominated Martin for president, Walter nominated Kirstin for Vice President, and Sharon nominated Emma for Secretary. Walter made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Emma seconded it. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Balance as of today: \$43,784.65

Dedicated Savings: \$26,612.43

Savings: \$28,129.92

Mike made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Kirstin seconded it. Motion carried.

Walter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

Ended in Lord's Prayer.



# MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				01 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	02 Jaime's Sabbath	03 Jaime's Sabbath
04 9:30 Worship w/ Communion  6pm Embodied Baptism Cele- bration	05 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	06	07	08 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon  Ruth Circle 2:30pm	09 Jaime's Sabbath	10 Jaime's Sabbath
11 9:30 Worship w/ Communion  Make-A-Change	12 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	13	14	15 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	16 Jaime's Sabbath	17 Jaime's Sabbath
18 9:30 Worship w/ Communion High School Senior Sunday & Quilt Blessing	19  June Newslet- ter Deadline  12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	20	21	22 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	23 Jaime's Sabbath	24 Jaime's Sabbath
25 9:30 Worship w/ Communion  Weigelt Gradua- tion Reception	26 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	27	28	29 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	30 Jaime's Sabbath	31 Jaime's Sabbath

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



2025 May 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.....AUSTON CREECH

**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), MARTIN POTTS ( VICE PRES.),  
EMMA WALOCH (SECRETARY) , MIKE LARSON,  
SHARON BECKSTROM, PAUL WHITE, WALTER WRAGE  
AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE