Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
PO Box 176
Gwinner, ND 58040

November Newsletter 2026





All Saints Sunday

November 1st we will honor and remember all those who have been baptized and those who have died since last year's All Saints Sunday.

The saints being honored/remembered: Arlo Wrage, Ginger Utecht, Rodney Utecht, Patricia Ulven, Verna Anderson, Kay Swanson, Arlin Sandstrom, Sara Hohne-Hajek, Betty Melroe, Betty Johnson. Photos of loved ones will be displayed on a table during worship service for us to remember our beloved saints.

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God Pause

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

Chapter5When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Verse2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
Verse3"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Verse4"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Verse5"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Verse6"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Verse7"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Verse8"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Verse9"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Verse10"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Verse11"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Verse12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Devotion

When Jesus heads up a mountain and sits you down, you know something is up. It's not surprising that what he has to say flips our script. Changes our perspectives. Goes against our norms. For those keeping track, this gospel text from Matthew was also included in the Revised Common Lectionary back in February of this year. I'm not sure how often this happens, but it seems like a good one to keep going back to. We need a constant reminder of Christ's mountaintop, topsy-turvy ways. Sometimes this means we need to step away as well. We need to be reminded of Christ's new way of living, a life of blessings that are not what the world gives, but a life where we are joined with Christ and with our neighbor. These are words we can keep coming back to time, and time again.

Prayer

Christ on the mountaintop, shift our perspectives so we see our blessings as you speak them into our lives. Return us to your words and upend the powers of this world. Send us forth, living in your promise of new life and a new way of encountering blessings. Amen.

Mara Stillson, '24 M.A.Deacon, Church on the Street, Sioux Falls, SD

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

Keeping You In The GA Loop



Nov 01: 9:30am Worship w/Comm – Pastor Jaime Decker, **All Saints Sunday**, **3rd Grade Bibles,** S.S after worship

Nov 02-08: Pastor Jaime Decker off Non-Contract Time

Nov 08: 9:30am Worship w/Comm – Leader Betty Maly: **Make-A-Change Sunday-** S.S after worship WELCA Meeting after Worship Service

Nov 12: Ruth Circle 2:30PM

Nov 14: Melroe Baby Shower 10am-Noon

Nov 15: 9:30am Peace of The Prairie Worship w/Comm – Pastor Jaime Decker – S.S after worship

Nov 17: Church Council Meeting 6:00PM

Nov 22: 9:30am Reign of Christ Sunday Worship w/Comm – Pastor Jaime Decker - **Last Day of S.S**

Nov 23: December Newsletter Deadline

Nov 23-29: Pastor Jaime Decker off on Vacation

Nov 29: 9:30am Worship w/Comm – Leader Pam Maloney - Altar Guild Meeting after worship

Nov 30: Pastor Jaime Decker off Non-Contract Time

venmo

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!

Congratulations: October 4th confirmands had their Affirmation of Baptism: Lando Decker, Elijah Hansen, Skylar Peterson, Tesloach Buor, Ava Ferderer, Jaylene Herman, Aleaha Wangler. We celebrate with these young adults as they affirm their baptismal promises and faith in Jesus the Christ.

3rd Grade Bibles: The 3rd grade Sunday school students will receive their bibles November 1st: Paetyn Qualley, Parker Peterson, Blayke Jacobson and Jaida Dux, Congratulations to you all on this milestone in your faith journey.

Thank You: A Big Thank You to Mike Larson and Kent & Julie Johnson for helping me refurbish and refinish the office desk. It turned out great! Much appreciated. ~Carrili L.~

Custodian: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Shonah Bonogofsky, our custodian, has had to resign from her position. We are now looking for a new custodian at GA Church. This is a paid position at $20/hr., if you or anyone you know are interested, please let Kirstin Kempel know.

Organist/Pianist: GA Church is looking for an Organist/Pianist. This too is a paid position, so if you or anyone you know may be interested, please contact Kirstin Kempel.

Keeping You In The GA Loop

Our Sympathies: Go out to the family and friends of: Betty Melroe and Betty Johnson. May God's loving embrace help you through this difficult time, and may the many happy memories ease your pain.

Thank You: Big thanks to all those who helped with the lawn mowing and flower care and upkeep at GA this spring/summer/fall, your efforts don't go unnoticed. GA looks great because of your time and efforts. Thanks again.

Baby Shower: Saturday November 14th 10am-Noon, a Baby shower will be held for Katie Melroe and Baby Halle. We'd love for you to bring a book and sign the inside with a note for baby to read someday. All are welcome to attend, they are registered at www.babylist.com.

Christian Women's Exchange: Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00pm, Zion Lutheran Church invites all women to join them for the annual Christian Women's Exchange. Dana Erickson has been asked to speak about the organization "Riding For Dreams". We hope you are able to make it for a night of sharing food, faith, and friendships.

Thank You: Our fundraiser was a hit! So much was going on…The WELCA Bake Sale made over $1600. Thanks to all who donated to and worked the sale. Kuddos to the lefsa and pie ladies, who donated 17 pies and over 200 sheets of lefse for the bake sale & dinner. The Brisket Dinner was a lot of work but we had a great crew working & serving. 153 meals were served. Thanks to all who volunteered. We sure made a "Great Team!" Ticket sales for the Side-by-Side were sold out! 500 Tickets sold by Oct 3rd. We want to thank everyone who sold tickets including our local businesses (Bobcat Of Gwinner, AW Diesel, CC's Suds, Elevated Grounds Coffee, Aunt B's Cajun Bakery & Coffee Shop, and Hansen Lumber.) Thanks to the El Zagal Viking Shriners for sponsoring us and to Nancy Wrage, Paul White, Jeff Anderson and Joleen Hardy for heading up the project. Thanks to everyone for everything you did to help with our roof project. The money made from the Brisket Dinner & Raffle will be donated to the roof fund. Now the moment of excitement…the Winner of the Side-by-Side is: Lucus Derdall from Volga, SD. He farms and works at Bobcat and lives in Forman. Congratulations and thanks again GA – We Did It!!

Thank You: Thank you doesn't seem adequate to say, for how grateful we are to our congregation here at GA. The lunch the ladies served was delicious and so appreciated. The church was clean and beautifully decorated. We had so many relatives and friends that mentioned how well cared for the church is. GA is a special place and Betty would've been so happy with all you did for her and us.
~The Family of Betty Melroe~

Keeping You In The GA Loop

Looking Ahead to December!



YOGA: Soup & Sandwich

December 9th: Christmas Cantata 7:30pm

Dec 13: Christmas Program

Dec 20: Blue Camel Gift Exchange

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Worship

Thrift Store Update: From Brenda Schreiner: Hello! Please thank your councils and congregations. Grace & Goods Thrift Store was able to donate $306.34 to the Kedish House (ARN) for the month of September. Grace & Goods has been open for one-year, Total donations for the past year is $6364.32, Thank you all for your continued support!

Blue Camel Gift Exchange: We will be doing Blue Camel gift exchange again this year. There will be a signup sheet in entry. We will draw names on Sunday, December 13th and exchange gifts on Sunday December 20th. If you'd like to participate please put your name on the signup list

Automatic Doors: The Automatic Door openers have all three been fixed. Please be patient with the automatic door openers and don't pull or push on them when they are trying to cycle. This came from the repair man who said they were broken from being pulled on when they were trying to open or close the doors. Thanks so much everyone.

- **Do You Know:** of any members that do not get our monthly newsletter, but would like to? If so, please contact Carrili at 701-678-2552 or e-mail her at galutheranchurch@outlook.com and let her know. Thank You.

November WELCA Action Group

Co-Chairs: Julie Johnson Lori Wiederholt

Trudi Christensen, Lynnae Decker, Carolyn R Jacobson

Trudy Peterson, Linde Zetocha, Carrili Larson

Megan Wrage, Joleen Hardy, Amber Kempel,

Heather Swanson, Calli Jacobson

Birthdays



Anniversaries

Birthdays	Anniversaries
1 Carrili Larson Becky Salberg	4 Vanessa & Keith Beaver 5 Karah & Jake Weinand
2 Nicole Shockley	8 Deb & Curt Tufty
3 Stacy McKeever Elliot Shockley Katelyn Binfet	14 Julie & Kent Johnson
5 Braylyn Nelson	
6 Braxtyn Hamann Easten Scholz	
7 Kirsten Daniels Dami Rasmussen	
8 Hunter Lautt	
9 Audrina Christensen Brodie Crandall	
10 Katy Decker , Derrick Hansen Jacob Hanson , Isaac Swanson	
11 Brayden Christensen Torey Kempel Emily Odegard	
16 Parker Peterson	
17 Barb Klemetson Waylon Wrage	
18 Darrin Teske	
19 Brian Bjork Tim Christensen Kennedi Faber	Please let us know if you Have been left out of the birthday and anniversary page? Or is the date always wrong?
21 Lori Flannery , Donna Hansen Joey Jacobson , Trudy Peterson Gene Sandstrom , Holt Larson	If you have noticed any mistakes in the monthly newsletters, please con tact the church office at 701-678-2552 or email us at : galutheranchurch@outlook.com Thanks!
22 Kassidy Opatz	
23 Brendan Ciesynski	
24 Doug Christensen . Kevin Hansen Tracy Pierce	
26 Kameryn Taliaferro	
27 Sally Johnson	
29 Auston Creech Dean Hanson	

November Worship Assistants

Readers: November 2026
01 Kirstin Kempel
08 Michelle Ciesynski
15 Nancy Wrage
22 Julie Johnson
29 Carrili Larson

Ushers: November 2026
Captain: Randy & Karla Waloch
Brendan & Michelle Ciesynski
Casey & Jaime Decker
Brian &Kari Gilje

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: The Sound System is now a Paid Position. Contact Kris Beck if you are Interested in learning how to operate it.

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

Mowing Schedule

November 01-07	Shawn Beck
November 08-14	Martin Potts
November 15-21	Jerrod Sandness



Reminder: If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled duties, please find a replacement. Thank you for all you do to help GA Church and Worship services run smoothly.

Council Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting Minutes 10/21/26: Written by Walter: Members present: Kirstin, Trudy, Keith, Sharon and Walter. Meeting called to order: Pres. Kirstin called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Devotions and Prayer: Pastor Jaime led devotion and prayer.

Adopt the agenda: Any additions: 1. None: Kirstin called for a motion to approve the agenda, Sharon made the motion and Trudy 2nd. Motion carried.

Secretary Report: Discussed report. Kirstin called for a motion to approve the report, Walter made the motion, Sharon 2nd. Motion Carried

Pastor Report: Sept. 25-27: Youth retreat at Castaways, Oct. 3: hospital visits, Oct 4: Affirmation of baptism- 7 kids confirmed, Oct. 7: confirmation class into meeting with students, parents, and mentors. October 10: Betty Melroe funeral, October 11: SS began, October 12-18: continuing Ed, October 17: 11 kids from YOGA, Masyn Stahl, Caleb Adams, and myself joined Bethel church in Wahpeton and headed to MSP. We left Gwinner at 4:50am, met at Bethel Church in Wahpeton, hopped on a coach bus, volunteered at Feed My Starving Children Organization to help pack food bags for 2 hours, and then headed to ValleyFair for the day, and ValleyScare for the evening. We left MSP around midnight, arrived in Wahpeton around 4am, and returned to Gwinner around 5am. Was a quick, long, and thrilling adventure. Great experience! October 19: Betty Johnson funeral, October 25: Reformation Sunday, wear Red. Brisket feed, November: 1st: bibles for preschoolers and 3rd graders, 2-8th: non contracted time

Work Group reports

Property and grounds: Utility drain issues, slow draining and sewer smell. Discussed options. Keith replaced the men's bathroom faucet with a manual unit. Will still need to replace the hot water shut off. Keith repaired the light in the Sunday school room. The roof progress is going well. Discussed progress, found no major repair issues so far. Will need to finish up the venting system once the roof is complete. Will have a write up on the entire project when it is complete.

Welca: lefsa is made for the supper and sale. Planning is complete for the supper and sale. More baking will happen and brisket supper potatoes have been started.

Men's Group: update on the brisket supper and flyer placement. More discussion on the brisket supper. Committees are set up and ready.

Yoga: Will do a few more fundraisers, looking into wreath/garland sales for Christmas. Discussed other options and pricing. Gift card fundraiser was discussed. Poinsettia fundraiser was discussed. Looking into another activity and inviting other youth.

Education: Sunday school is going well, we have had two in a row. Will take the next Sunday off, but then have 4 in a row. Discussed sending a postcard to the children inviting the kids to Sunday school.

Alter Guild: No report

Worship and Music: Updated the schedule and will meet again in November.

New Business-We have lost our pianist. We also have had no interest in the custodian position -Discussed options/people for cleaning our church.

Old Business:-Pew cushions, the tape has come loose. Discussed re-doing the tape and the time required to complete the task.-Update on the roof fund, we are close to having the entire project paid for. Update on the automatic doors, all the doors have been looked at and adjusted. Seems to still have some issues with opening and closing. Discussed options for fixing the issues/changing the system. -Council discussed sending thanks to individuals who have been helping out. Signed several cards for certain individuals. -Discussed Portico benefits and increase in price. Discussed the option going a different route with a broker/agent for benefits. -Will send out the GA Church Foundation to the council members for approval. **Treasure's Report:** Keith made a motion to approve, Trudy 2nd. Motion carried. Adjournment: Kirsten moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm, Trudy made the motion, Keith 2nd. Lord's Prayer: Kirstin lead the Lord's prayer. Next meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 @6pm

November 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Weds	Thurs	Friday	Sat
1 9:30am Worship w/Comm – Pastor Jaime Decker **All Saints Sunday** **3rd Grade Bibles** S.S after worship	**2** Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT	**3** Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT	**4** Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT	**5** Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT	**6** Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT	**7** Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT
8 9:30am Worship w/Comm – Leader Betty Maly **MAC Sunday** S.S after worship **WELCA Meeting** Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12** Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon **Ruth Circle 2:30PM**	**13**	**14** **Melroe Baby Shower 10am-Noon**
15 9:30am Peace of the Prairie Worship w/Comm – Pastor Jaime Decker S.S after worship	**16**	**17** **Church Council Meeting 6:00PM**	**18**	**19** Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	**20**	**21**
22 9:30am Reign of Christ Sunday Worship w/Comm – Pastor Jaime Decker **Last Day of S.S**	**23** Pastor Jaime Decker on Vacation **December Newsletter Deadline**	**24** Pastor Jaime Decker on Vacation	**25** Pastor Jaime Decker on Vacation	**26** Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Pastor Jaime Decker on Vacation	**27** Pastor Jaime Decker on Vacation	**28** Pastor Jaime Decker on Vacation
29 9:30am Worship w/Comm – Leader Pam Maloney **Altar Guild Meeting** Pastor Jaime Decker on Vacation	**30** Pastor Jaime Decker off NCT					

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2026 November 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.....
Council President.....Kirstin Kempel
SCS Superintendent.....
YOGA Leaders.....Masyn Stahl & Caleb Adams

Phone Numbers

Church.....(701) 678-2552
Pastor's 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