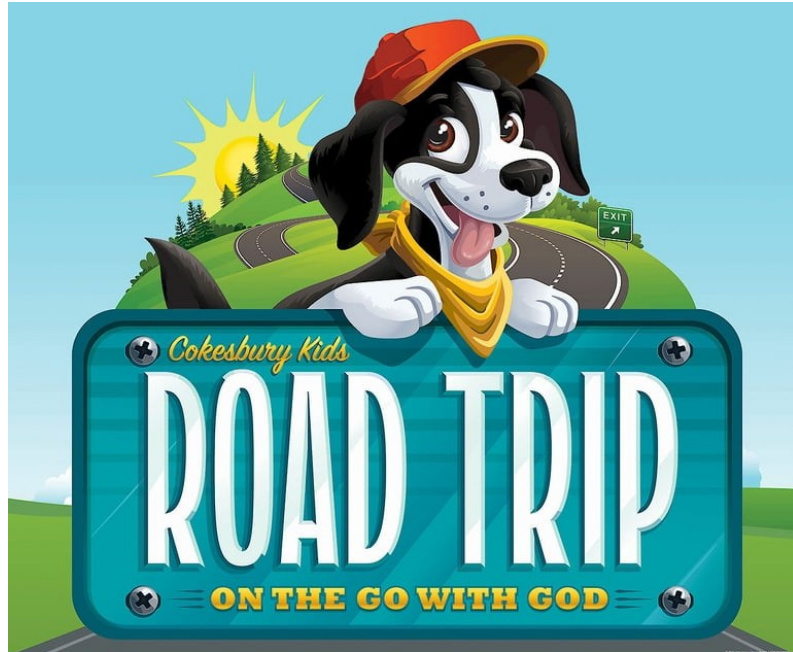


# OCTOBER 2025

## NEWSLETTER



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FRONT COVER	1
GOD PAUSE	2
KEEPING YOU IN THE GA LOOP	3
KEEPING YOU IN THE GA LOOP	4
KEEPING YOU IN THE GA LOOP	5
OCT BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES	6
OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	7
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES	8
OCTOBER CALENDAR	9
G.A. CONTACT INFORMATION PAGE	10

## Sunday School

Begins October 5th and will run for six Sundays. October: 5, 12, 26 and November: 2, 16, 23.

The theme is: On the Go With God, and we will be offering workshops again this year: Board Games, Bingo and Art led by our high school students.

Registration is available online, ages PreK-6th  
[www.galutheranchurch.org](http://www.galutheranchurch.org)

We look forward to experiencing the energy and joy that children add to our congregation's life!

# “God Pause”

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

From the words of The Rev. Tim Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship Support, "Do you remember?"

Do you remember that moment in this past year when you were filled with pure joy in worship?

Do you remember when you witnessed the youth share their faith out loud and how it inspired your own faith?

Do you remember that feeling of belonging and connection as you participated in worship surrounded by your faith community of all ages?

Do you remember that moment in this past year when you were moved to tears in worship?

Do you remember when heartache struck and your faith community rallied around you not with just support but food and tears of solidarity?

Do you remember?

The Rev. Tim Brown asks us to remember those moments which remind us *WHY* our faith community matters. Remember how your life has been changed by your church, and how you change the lives of others through your church.

This fall the G.A. Council and myself invite you to remember why G.A. Church matters to you. We invite you to reflect on this past year and share with us those moments you remember *WHY* your faith community matters. Share these memories face to face, over a phone call or text, or write us a letter. However you choose to share your memories, we are excited to hear about them.

We also invite you to reflect on and pray over the following questions as we prepare to discuss fixing the church roof and what is the future of G.A. As you reflect on these questions also consider where might God be leading us as the body of Christ?

1. What is your connection to GA Church, and what impact has GA had in your life?
2. Other than being connected to GA through family ties (such as raised up in this church, being a significant other to a member of this church) why do you choose to be connected to GA?
3. What are your thoughts around an \$80,000 appeal and a \$200,000 appeal to fix the church roof?
4. If we are able to fix the roof, what other activities might the building be used for outside of current use, are there any community space needs?

Is our physical space (the church building) necessary for us to live out our mission which is "To share the Good News of God's Word and to serve our community and the world." Why or why not?

We look forward to hearing your memories from this past year as to why G.A. Church matters. May these memories ground us in our faith in our God of resurrection who brings forth new life. May we allow ourselves to be transformed by the Holy Spirit to continue risking something big for something good.

In Christ,

~ Pastor Jaime Decker

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**Oct 05:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion-Pastor Jaime, Sunday School and WELCA Meeting after worship.

**Oct 05:** Church Council Meeting 5:30pm

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

**Oct 12:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion-Pastor Jaime, Make-A-Change Sunday  
Sunday School and Congregational Meeting after worship

**Oct 13:** Book Study 6:30pm

**Oct 13:** Pastor Jaime at Continuing Education thru October 19th

**Oct 19:** 9:30 Worship no Communion-Kirstin Kempel, No Sunday School

**Oct 20:** November Newsletter Deadline

**Oct 26:** 9:30 Worship w/ Communion-Pastor Jaime, Baptism: Hudson Lien,  
Sunday School and Altar Guild Meeting after worship

**Oct 31:** Trunk or Treat 5:30pm

**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!



**Live Stream:** We will resume Live Streaming of Worship Service October 5th.

**Congregational Meeting:** Attention: Congregational Meeting on **October 12th, 2025** to discuss replacing the roof. The GA Church roof has been leaking water for a few years in various areas of the church. Along with the Sunday School rooms and the kitchen, we are now experiencing leaks in the Fellowship Hall and above the southeast sanctuary door. After checking with various roofing companies, the GA Church council invites all members to a congregational meeting following the church service on October 12th. At this meeting, we will discuss the possibility of replacing the church roof and the necessary funding to pay for it. This is a substantial, but necessary undertaking if we want to prevent further damage to the church building. For over 100 years, GA has served as an integral place in Gwinner for people to gather to worship, fellowship, learn, serve, and grow. We will also have the 2nd vote to move the annual meeting to the second Sunday in February with the reports due on the last Sunday in January. It is our hope that you will join us on October 12th to help us decide how we can best serve our church and our community.

**WELCA Meeting:** will have a short meeting after the church service on October 5th. We will be discussing the November and December bake sales. We will decide on the dates for making pies and lefse. If you have apples, we'd appreciate donations of seasoned and frozen apples for the pies, which will be made. We will also discuss the Christian Women's Exchange, which we are hosting this year, and the speaker we have selected.

**Book Study:** Have you ever wondered about the mental health and development of our youth and how it is affected by the world of cell phones and social media? Join us this October as we read and discuss the book, "The Anxious Generation - How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness," by Jonathan Haidt. Grab a copy of this book and read Parts 1 & 2 for our first meeting Monday, October 13th at 6:30 pm at GA Church. Contact Pastor Jaime for more information.

**Trunk or Treat:** The 11th Annual Trunk-or-Treat will take place at the GA Parking lot on Friday October 31st from 5:30-6:30pm. Open to ALL children to attend. If you are interested in providing a "trunk" please contact Carrili 701-680-1190. Thank you!

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**Our Sympathies :** Go out to the family and friends of: All those who have lost loved ones. May God's loving embrace help you through this difficult time, and may the many happy memories ease your pain.



**Food Pantry: Food Pantry Blitz:** We are inviting Sargent County residents to participate in the "Fill the Pantry Blitz". Please bring donations to any of the drop-off locations (GA is a drop-off), starting October 1st. All donations will be picked up and delivered to the food pantry locations on November 2, 2025. **Items especially needed:** Flour and Sugar, Baked Beans, Pasta, Soups, Boxed Meals, Canned Meals, Household & Toiletry Items. **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.

**Lutefisk:** A committee was formed of Steve & Barb Melroe, Dennis Dahl, Betty & Duane Johnson, Joleen Hardy, Walter Wrage, Kris Beck, Sharon Beckstrom and Mike Larson to discuss the future of our annual Lutefisk Supper. After much discussion it was decided to table the supper this year. Attendance has gone down, price of fish and lack of workers. Our main issue is workers and someone to be willing to head up this event. This also effects the WELCA bake sale. We need to get creative and find a way to raise funds. We welcome any ideas. If many come forward and request we have the lutefisk supper and would be willing to commit, the committee would revisit this decision. Our sincere thank you to everyone who has worked and provided for this supper which is over 86 years old. ~Sharon B.

**Thrift Items:** Grace and Goods Thrift Store in Forman has asked GA Church if we'd be willing to be a drop off location for donations. Proceeds from their store fund services with the Kedish House and the Abuse Resource Network. Council voted on and approved this request, so if anyone has small items that you would like to donate to the thrift store, you may drop the items off at church during the secretary's hours, which are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 and Fridays from 11:00-3:00. Carrili will let you know where the items are stored. The donations will be picked up weekly, which will reduce accumulation at church. If you have a large item you'd like to donate, call Brenda Schreiner at (701)678-4469 or let Carrili know, and an arrangement will be made to have the donation picked up.

## **Church Finances:** For the Month of **August 2025:**

Beginning Balance: \$27,954.05 Deposits: \$ 9,608.82 Payments: \$11,034.29 Ending Balance: \$26,528.58

## **2025 Year to Date Giving:**

**GA 2025 Budget: \$232,550.00      2025 Giving to Date: \$ 126,914.89      Giving Needed: \$ 105,635.11**

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.**



# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop

## **Looking Ahead:**

**November 02:** All Saints Sunday

**November 23:** WELCA Thanksgiving Bake Sale



**Thank You:** Thank you to all who donated at the blood drive on September 2nd. We were able to collect 13 units of blood product which will potentially be able to help up to 26 people. Thank you also to Becky Salberg for helping at the check-in desk, and to my family for helping fold up all the tables & chairs to prepare the space!! ~Carrili L.~

**Bake-Sale:** WELCA will have a bake sale November 23rd. We are only asking for pies and lefsa, as this is a "Thanksgiving" bake sale. We will be asking for donations of apples for our pie making days at church. Please have the apples peeled, seasoned and frozen. If anyone is able to help make pies or lefsa at church we'd appreciate your help. These dates will be announced at a future time. If you have any questions please contact Barb Melroe or Kirstin Kempel. Thank you!

**YOGA Thanks:** we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to our car show. Your presence and support made the day a success. We were blessed with an incredible turnout and had the privilege of serving over 110 hamburgers to friends, family, and community members who joined in the fun. The laughter, fellowship, and beautiful display of cars created memories we won't soon forget. Events like this remind us how special our church family and community truly are. Thank you for showing up, bringing your energy, and helping us make this event meaningful for our youth. We look forward to seeing you at future gatherings, and we are deeply grateful for your continued encouragement and support.

## September-October WELCA Action Group

**Co-Chairs: Becky Salberg  
Barb Melroe**

Sharon Beckstrom

Traci Hanson

Melinda Morlock

Sharon Peterson

Ginger Utecht

Ashley Hansen

Michelle Goettle

Linda McFarland

Peggy Olson

Mary Rotenberger

Ashlee Lien



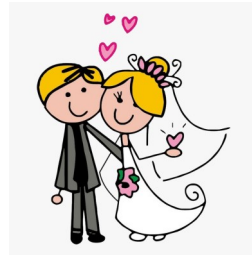
# October Birthdays

PAGE 6

- 2 Teagan Beck  
Jaime Decker  
Ellie Schroeder
- 3 Shane Johnson  
Larry Swanson
- 4 Sasha Jensen
- 5 Courtney D. Koepke  
Dewey Johnson  
Chance Noonan
- 11 Izabelle Beck
- 12 Duane M. Johnson
- 13 Melinda Morlock  
Raymond Stahl
- 14 Kaleb Brockman
- 15 Brea Frederick
- 16 Eric Johnson  
Riddik Berg
- 17 Riley Christensen  
Marie Odegard
- 18 Dillon Morlock
- 19 Drew Krause  
Aleysha Sarith
- 20 Sara Anderson  
Lee Falk  
Brittney Hansen  
Darrel Swanson  
Gerad Nerison
- 22 Betty Johnson
- 25 Pete Sherlock  
Hailey Peterson  
Harper Peterson
- 26 Cole Turchin
- 27 Hailey Decker  
Carolyn R. Jacobson



- 29 Zander Bauer  
Ryan Enge  
Cyprian Johnson  
Steve Melroe  
Kay Swanson  
DeAnna Youle
- 30 Maggie Rasmussen  
Chris Johnson
- 31 Avery McFarland



# October Anniversaries

- 08 Courtney & Alex Koepke
- 18 Riley & Justan Taliafero
- 19 Paula & Derrick Hansen
- 21 Deb & Steve Johnson
- 22 Wendy & Darrel Swanson

***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***

***[galutharan-  
church@outlook.com](mailto:galutharan-church@outlook.com)***

***Thanks!***

# October 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.



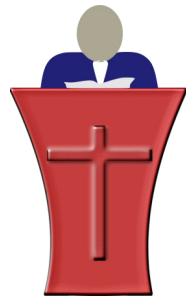
## Mowing Schedule

Sept 28 – October 04	Walter Wrage
October 5-11	Mike Larson
October 12-18	Kent Johnson
October 19-25	Dennis Dahl
October 26-Nov 01	Kenwood Peterson
November 02-08	Shawn Beck



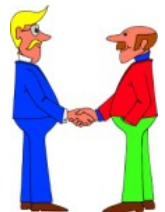
## Readers

- 05 Michelle Ciesynski
- 12 Karla Waloch
- 19 Barb Melroe
- 26 Becky Salberg



## Greeters

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



## Ushers

**Captain: Jeff & Donna Anderson**

Duane & Betty Johnson

Scott & Jan Melroe



**Reminder:** If you are unable to fulfill your duties it is up to you to find a replacement. Thank you!

**GA Church Council Meeting**

September 14, 2025: Members Present: Kirstin, Sharon, Mike, Martin, Emma Also Present: Pastor Jaime  
Call to Order: Kirstin called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda: Emma moved to approve the agenda. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was texted to council members. Edits were made before sending to the church secretary. Motion by Martin to approve. Seconded by Mike. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: • Vacation during the first week of September • Officiated daughter's wedding  
• Attended Fair Hills Fall Conference (Sept 8–10) — theme: Living Interconnected • YOGA meeting (Sept 14, evening) • YOGA Car Show (Sept 24) • Sunday School begins October 5 • Congregational Meeting scheduled for October 12

**Work Group Reports**

Property & Grounds (Mike, Martin): • Investigated water seepage under furnace — appears to be condensation, no major issues • Altar Guild refrigerator removed • Piece of tin still needs to be installed in the Sunday School wing

WELCA (Sharon): • Met last Sunday and brainstormed fundraising ideas • Apple pie/lefse bake sale planned for Nov 23 (Sunday before Thanksgiving) • Christmas bake sale planned for December • Sunday School wing cleaned and complete

Men's Group (Walter): • No report

YOGA (Emma): • Car Show on Sept 24 • Meeting on Sept 14 (evening)

Education (Emma): • Sunday School begins Oct 5; workshop format with 6 sessions; long school weekends off

Altar Guild (Kirstin): • No report

Worship & Music (Paul): • Met recently; worship and music planned through November

**Old Business**

- Lutefisk Supper Committee continues to brainstorm alternatives for this year. Fundraising is especially important due to the upcoming roof project. Sharon will lead discussion.
- Congregational Meeting on Oct 12: ○ Second vote to move annual meeting to 2nd Sunday in February (reports due last Sunday in January). ○ Discussion on replacing church roof. ○ Both votes must be advertised.
- Thrift Store items will be stored in the Sunday School room. A sign will be posted on the door. Donations should be made when Carrili is in the office. • Sunday School registration is open.

**New Business**


- Capital Campaign Consultant meeting to be scheduled; Foundation and Stewardship Committees should attend. Date will be advertised. • Walter spoke with Jeff Anderson about possibility of a church loan if needed. • Council discussed fundraising goals and loan repayment capacity. • Request from Barb Melroe: Narthex needs repainting. Church will cover paint cost; Barb and others will paint. Color will match Fireside/Gathering Room.

**Treasurer's Report:** • Balance as of Sept 14: \$26,528.58 • Motion by Martin to approve. Seconded by Sharon. Motion carried.

Adjournment: • Motion by Emma to adjourn. Seconded by Mike. Motion carried. • Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m. • Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next Meeting: Sunday, October 5 at 5:30 p.m



# OCTOBER 2025

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			01	02 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	03  Jaime's Sabbath	04  Jaime's Sabbath
05 9:30 Worship w/ Communion Pastor Jaime Sunday School <b>WELCA Meeting after worship</b> <b>Church Council 5:30pm</b>	06 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	07	08	09 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon <b>Ruth Circle 2:30PM</b>	10  Jaime's Sabbath	11  Jaime's Sabbath
12 9:30 Worship w/communion Pastor Jaime Sunday School Make-A-Change <b>Congregational Meeting After Worship</b>	13 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline <b>Book Study 6:30 PM</b> Jaime at Continu- ing Education	14  Jaime at Continu- ing Education	15  Jaime at Continu- ing Education	16 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Jaime at Continu- ing Education	17 Jaime's Sabbath Jaime at Continu- ing Education	18 Jaime's Sabbath Jaime at Continu- ing Education
19 9:30 Worship no communion Kirstin Kempel No Sunday School Jaime at Continu- ing Education	20 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline <b>November Newsletter Deadline</b> 	21	22	23 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	24  Jaime's Sabbath	25  Jaime's Sabbath
26 9:30 Worship w/communion Pastor Jaime <b>Baptism: Lien</b> Sunday School <b>Altar Guild Meeting after Worship</b>	27 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30	31 <b>Trunk or Treat 5:30PM</b>	

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



2025 October 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) 680-1 190

**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