

# SEPTEMBER 2025

## NEWSLETTER



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## YOGA Car Show

**The annual YOGA Car Show  
and**

**Burger/Hotdog Feed will be  
Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at GA.**

**Spread the word!**

# “God Pause”

## **HEBREWS 13:1-8, 15-16 (NRSV)**

Let mutual love continue. Verse<sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Verse<sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Verse<sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Verse<sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Verse<sup>6</sup>So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Verse<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Verse<sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Verse<sup>15</sup>Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Verse<sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## **DEVOTION**

Similar to yesterday's psalm, this passage begins with a series of guidelines for faithful living. Jesus' followers are to love one another, welcome strangers, visit prisoners, be faithful in marriage, be content with their financial resources, and finally remember and imitate their past leaders. While this list challenges and inspires us, it is God's attendant promise that gives us strength. Each time we fall short, we remember that God has told us: "I will never leave you or forsake you." We are able to share mutual affection with one another because we know that God is continually sharing that love with us. Yesterday, today, and forever will be just enough time to begin to appreciate the vastness of God's love for all humanity. Yesterday, today, and forever we are invited to praise the God whose name we confess, and honor God through lives well-lived.

## **PRAYER**

Gracious Lord, may our actions honor you, our words praise you, and our lives demonstrate the love you share so freely with us. Amen.

Pastor Mary Bauer '08 M.Div. Lead Pastor, First English Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**Sept 2:** Blood Drive 1-5:30pm

**Sept 07:** 9:30am Worship with No Communion—Michelle Watne

**Sept 07:** Pastor Jaime at Synod Conference thru Sept 10th.

**Sept 07:** WELCA Meeting after Worship

**Sept 11:** Ruth Circle 2:30 PM

**Sept 14:** 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime, Make-A-Change Sunday

**Sept 14:** Church Council Meeting 5:30pm

**Sept 21:** 9:30am Worship with Communion—Pastor Jaime

**Sept 22:** October Newsletter Deadline

**Sept 24:** YOGA Car Show and Burger/Hotdog Feed 6:00pm

**Sept 28:** 9:30am Worship with No Communion—Jim Wilson Pastor Jaime at Castaways



**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.

**Worship Assistants:** The updated 2025-2026 lists for Sunday Readers and Ushers have been emailed out and there are a few printed copies available at the church. Thank you to all who help with worship services at GA.

**Blood Drive:** GA will be hosting a blood drive Tuesday, September 2nd from 1:15pm to 5:30pm. If you want to donate go to [Vitalant.org](https://Vitalant.org) to register.

**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. 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:** There will be a WELCA meeting Sept 7th following church service. All women of GA are members and are invited to attend. Please join us to discuss all of the events that are coming up this fall.

**No-Bake Sale:** Summer is ending and our fall programs are ramping up at GA Church. This is just a reminder that WELCA (Women of the ELCA) collects a \$10 "No Bake, Bake Sale" due from each woman. With these dues, we are able to support programs at GA and donate to our selected charities. WELCA co-chairs will be contacting members throughout the year to collect these dues. Thank you for your participation in this, as it allows us to fulfill our mission of serving our community and the world.

# Keeping You in the G.A. Loop



**Our Sympathies :** Go out to the family and friends of: John Husted.

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 (vegetables, fruit, meat -tuna or chicken, beans, soup), 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, 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, 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.

**Attention Kitchen Workers:** There is a list posted on the refrigerator at church that details where kitchen supplies (and a few other things) are located. So, please consult that list if you cannot find certain items or if certain items are running low. There is a person to contact, if you feel those items need replenishing. Thanks Val!

**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 July 2025:

Beginning Balance: \$30,074.67 Deposits: \$ 11,044.26 Payments: \$13164.88 Ending Balance: \$27,954.05

**2025 Year to Date Giving:**

**GA 2025 Budget: \$232,550.00**

**2025 Giving to Date: \$ 119,815.07**

**Giving Needed: \$112,734.93**

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:**

**October 5:** Return to Live Stream

**October 5:** Sunday School Resumes

**October 31:** Trunk or Treat



**Thank You:** A huge thank you goes out to Emma Waloch & Sam Opdahl for planning, organizing, and overseeing VBS at GA Church. We appreciate all their time and effort that went into making VBS a wonderful experience for all the children who attended.

**VBS Thank You:** We had an incredible time at VBS. Thank-you to everyone who made it such a special event! To all the kids who came - we had around 25 attend each night, we're so glad you joined us "On the Go with God!" Your energy and joy made each night so much fun for everyone. A heartfelt thank you to our team of volunteers: Izabelle, Carrili, Mackenzie, Dakotah, Ava, Aleaha, Walter, Trudy, Michael, Ashley, Brea, Kalea, Karla, Nancy, Kirstin, Duane, Kent. Whether you helped plan, decorate, run games and crafts, lead music, make or serve snacks, or simply showed up with a smile, your presence made a lasting impact. Thank you for helping share God's love in such a fun and meaningful way! ~Emma Waloch & Samantha Opdahl~



**Spread the word!** The fall Sunday School Session will begin on October 5th and will run for six Sundays. We will not hold Sunday School on the long weekends when there is no school on Fridays. Our last day of Sunday School will be November 23rd. We will be offering workshops again this year led by our high school students. Registration will open soon. We look forward to experiencing the energy and joy that children add to our congregation's life!

## **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



# September Birthdays

PAGE 6

- 1 Troy Olson
- 4 Dean Anderson  
Zoey Bauer  
Terry Euscher
- 6 Kristy Mairs
- 7 Courtney Steichen  
Adam Wrage  
Sofya Herman
- 10 Eugene Hajek  
Elisha Otonichar
- 11 Donna Anderson  
Bryer Crandall  
Mara Edman  
David Hansen
- 15 Kyle Potts
- 16 Parker Melroe
- 17 Shirley Fuss  
Barb Melroe
- 18 Dylan Frederick
- 19 Karlie Shockley
- 20 Susan Geidt  
Kaylee Otonichar
- 21 Robin Rehborg
- 22 Alannah Beck  
Jace Dux
- 23 April Johnson  
Darren Benneweis
- 24 Taylor Goettle
- 25 Denise Dahl  
Sharon Peterson  
Janae Sherlock  
Becky Sitz
- 27 Lynnae Decker  
Brian Johnson  
Kyle Johnson  
Nick Witchey  
Linde Zetocho



***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!***

- 28 Carolyn J. Jacobson  
Larry Johnson  
Amy McGuire  
Jack Mairs
- 29 Heidi Gleason
- 30 Paetyn Hamann  
Sarah Bleecker  
Mason Nicholson  
Robbin Witkowski  
Timothy Peterson  
Amber Kempel

## September Anniversaries

- 4 Linda & David McFarland
- 6 Sara & Zachary Anderson
- 7 Ashley & Gage Hansen
- 8 Karla & Randy Waloch
- 10 Megan & Walter Wrage
- 14 Kari & Brian Gilje  
Kandyce & Gene Sandstrom
- 20 Janelle & Robbie Mairs
- 26 Amanda & Jesse Anderson
- 29 Brandi & Sam French
- 30 Barb & Steve Melroe

# September 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.

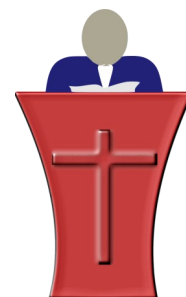


## Mowing Schedule

September 07-13	Mike Larson
September 14-20	Adam Wrage
September 21-27	Brian Gilje
Sept 28 – October 04	Walter Wrage

## Readers

- 07 Val Bjork
- 14 Joan Peterson
- 21 Nancy Wrage
- 28 Kirstin Kempel



## Greeters

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



## Ushers

**Captain: Rodney & Ginger Utecht**

Kaleb & Jericho Brockman

Jackie Meyer

Gage & Ashley Hansen

Ashlee Lien



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

**GA Church Council Meeting**

August 18, 2025: Members Present: Kirstin, Sharon, Mike, Martin, Walter, Paul, Emma Also Present: Pastor Jaime

Call to Order: Kirstin called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda: Martin made a motion to approve the agenda. Walter seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was emailed out prior to the meeting. No changes were needed. Paul made a motion to approve. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

- "Christmas in July" service held on July 27
- YOGA Ottertail tubing trip on July 31
- Officiated wedding on August 2

- Vacation: August 4-17
- Upcoming vacation: August 25th through September 7th

**Church Work Groups:**

Property & Grounds (Mike, Martin): ○ Old fridge: found someone to take it; Martin will transport

○ Fellowship hall light fixed ○ Light not working in first Sunday school room; Walter will check

○ Water leakage in fellowship hall/hallway (same areas as before); roof replacement will be the needed fix

WELCA (Sharon): ○ Around 20 women attended meeting - discussed alternatives to WELCA Bake

Sale and brainstormed ideas ○ Planning support for Dakota Oyate Lutheran Church's Christmas project

Men's Group (Walter): ○ No report

YOGA (Paul): ○ Lisbon Car Club event at GA on September 24

Education (Emma): ○ VBS was a success, thanks to kids and volunteers ○ Planning for a fall Sunday school

Altar Guild (Kirstin): ○ No report

Worship & Music (Paul): ○ No report

**Old Business**

- Discussion on an alternative to the Lutefisk Supper: the Lutefisk Supper Committee will decide on a possible fundraiser.

- Parsonage plumbing work: Walter will call to check whether the work has been completed.

- Roof replacement: conversation will be held at a special congregational meeting this fall. The date of the annual meeting will also be set at this meeting.

**New Business**

- Job descriptions for paid staff were updated by executive members of the council. Paul made a motion to approve. Sharon seconded. Motion carried.

- Grace and Goods Thrift Store (Forman) requested that GA become a drop-off location for donations. Items will be collected weekly. Large items will not be stored at the church; only small items, and items can be dropped off only during office hours. Emma made a motion to approve. Martin seconded. Motion carried.

- Sunday School: Fall session only, 6 weeks, beginning October 5. Breaks will be taken during school long weekends. Four returning high school students will be hired as teachers. Martin made a motion to approve. Walter seconded. Motion carried.

- Metal roof: Best to hold a congregational meeting on October 12. More legwork needed beforehand regarding funding options and logistics.

- Church Anew will help cover the cost of a stewardship consultant regarding one of the funding options for the roof.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Balance as of today: \$27,954.05

- Paul made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Walter seconded. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

- Mike made a motion to adjourn. Emma seconded. Motion carried. • Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting** • Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.



# SEPTEMBER 2025

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	01 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime Vacation	02 Jaime Vacation <b>Blood Drive 1-6pm</b>	03 Jaime Vacation	04 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon Jaime Vacation	05 Jaime Vacation  Jaime's Sabbath	06 Jaime Vacation  Jaime's Sabbath
07 9:30 Indoor Worship No Communion Michelle Watne <b>WELCA Meeting after worship</b> Jaime at Conference	08 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline Jaime at Conference	09 Jaime at Conference	10 Jaime at Conference	11 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon <b>Ruth Circle 2:30PM</b>	12 Jaime's Sabbath	13 Jaime's Sabbath
14 9:30 Worship w/communion Pastor Jaime Make-A-Change  <b>Council Meeting 5:30pm</b>	15 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	16	17	18 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	19 Jaime's Sabbath	20 Jaime's Sabbath
21 9:30 Worship w/communion Pastor Jaime	22 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline <b>October Newsletter Deadline</b> 	23	24 <b>YOGA Car Show &amp; Burger/ Hotdog Feed 6pm</b>	25 Bits 'N Stitches Quilting 9am to Noon	26 Jaime's Sabbath	27 Jaime's Sabbath
28 9:30 Indoor Worship No Communion Jim Wilson  Pastor Jaime at Castaways	29 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	30				

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



2025 September 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