

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

2008–2011 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

Resource Guide for Member Congregations
Information for Prospective Association Members

ABOUT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

“Gustavus Adolphus College is a church-related, residential liberal arts college firmly rooted in its Swedish and Lutheran heritage. The College



aspires to be a community of persons from diverse backgrounds who respect and affirm the dignity of all people. It is a community where a mature understanding of the Christian faith and lives of service are nurtured and students are encouraged to work toward a just and peaceful world.” — *from the Gustavus mission statement*

FOUNDED:	1862 by Swedish Lutheran immigrant pastor Eric Norelius. The college was named to honor Swedish king Gustav II Adolf (1594–1632) and is the oldest Lutheran college in Minnesota.
AFFILIATION:	Lutheran (ELCA)
DEGREES OFFERED:	Bachelor of Arts
ACADEMICS:	75 majors in 24 academic departments and 3 interdisciplinary programs Average Class Size, 15 Student/Faculty Ratio, 12:1
STUDENT BODY:	2,575 students (all undergraduates) 52% Lutheran 46 states and 16 countries represented

WORSHIP ON CAMPUS

Join us for worship!

Two ordained chaplains serve the College. During the academic year we offer numerous opportunities for worship:

- Daily Chapel; 10 a.m.,
Christ Chapel
(no classes during Chapel)
- Sunday Morning
Communion Service at
10:30 a.m., Christ Chapel
- Evening services, weekly
or bi-monthly, may include
Holden evening service,
Taizé worship, or evening
prayer service. *(Check
college calendar on-line.)*
- Proclaim! A student led
contemporary worship
service Tuesdays at
9 p.m., Alumni Hall,
Johnson Student Union



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WELCOME

Dear Friend,

As a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gustavus seeks to share its resources with our ministry partners through the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. We are pleased to offer this 2008-2011 resource handbook for our Association of Congregation member congregations. Please take time to read through this whole booklet and share it with the appropriate leaders in your congregation. For additional copies of this booklet, please contact the Office of Church Relations.

If you would like to make use of the resources in this booklet but your congregation is not currently a member of the Association of Congregations, we invite you to consider becoming a part of this meaningful outreach for Lutheran higher education. For a current list of member congregations of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations, visit **gustavus.edu/churchrelations**. For information on the Association of Congregations and how your congregation can become a member, please see pages 4-7.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about these programs as well as other ways in which Gustavus Adolphus College can be of assistance to your congregation. You are always welcome at Gustavus events, especially at worship with our campus community!

Thank you for being our partners in faith and learning!



Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Grady St. Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Grady St. Dennis
Director of Church Relations

INTRODUCTION TO GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

“The mission of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations is to strengthen the presence of the Church in the College and the presence of the College in the Church.”

—*Association of Congregations Mission Statement*

WHAT IS THE ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS?

The ELCA merger of 1988 brought together nearly 30 Lutheran colleges and universities previously governed by the ALC and LCA under a variety of arrangements. Lutheran colleges had historically granted the Church a role in their governance by involving them in the selection of their governing boards. When the ELCA was formed, each college was asked to choose one of three groups to approve their trustees: the national Churchwide assembly, a regional Synod assembly, or an Association of Congregations convention.

Gustavus chose the third option, and in 1989 the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations was formed. Currently more than 500 congregations are members of this Association, the largest of its kind in the ELCA. The congregations’ pastors and lay delegates are voting members of the Association. The Association of Congregations elects the College’s Board of Trustees at its annual convention each spring, and its congregations serve as the College’s primary connection to the Church.

To view the Association of Congregations Covenant Statement, which further defines the Association’s relationship with Gustavus Adolphus College, please consult the College’s website: gustavus.edu/churchrelations.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Association is an important partnership that depends upon mutual participation above all else. There are commitments involved in membership, but in no way are these commitments exclusive or restrictive.

- There are no financial commitments for membership in the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations.

- Any congregation of the ELCA may join the Association.
- Participation in the Association does not limit your congregation's relationship with other colleges.

DELEGATE & CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The guidelines for how a congregation manages its Association membership status are adaptable. In some congregations, a pastor will be assigned to ensure that the congregation is meeting the commitments of membership; in others, a lay person or other professional staff will assume that role. Please clarify the arrangement with other representatives of your congregation if you haven't done so recently.

Following is a listing of the basic commitments for membership.

1. Designate delegates for the annual Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations spring convention, typically held in April. All pastors of Association congregations are granted delegate status; the number of lay delegates is determined by the following criteria:

BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER OF LAY DELEGATES
1 – 750	1
751 – 1250	2
1251 – 1750	3
* Larger congregations are asked to add one delegate for each additional 500 members	

Often, delegates are selected because of a connection to Gustavus (alum, parent, friend, etc.), but any member of your congregation who supports Lutheran higher education is eligible to serve as a congregation delegate.

2. Attend the annual association of Congregations Convention.
3. Inform our office of staffing and delegate changes in your congregation as soon as possible, by phone, mail, or e-mail.
4. Support Gustavus by serving as a goodwill ambassador for the College and Lutheran higher education in your congregation.

THE BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Member congregations are entitled to any of the resources listed in this booklet including:

- Scholarships
- On-Campus Retreats
- Partners in Education
- Partners in Music
- Gustavus Youth Outreach
- Pulpit Supply



THE SPIRE
OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS

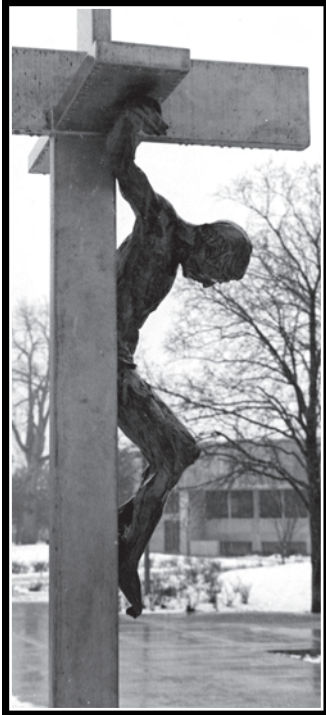
The Spire is the newsletter of the Office of Church Relations and the Association of Congregations. Published three times during the school year, it contains information about campus events, news, and other items of interest. Look for your copy!

Listed below is a timeline of important events in the life of the Association.

<i>AUGUST</i>	Early bookings for Confirmation Retreats and Gustavus Youth Outreach
<i>SEPTEMBER</i>	<i>The Spire</i> Newsletter – Fall Issue
<i>NOVEMBER</i>	Service Award presented
<i>DECEMBER</i>	Church Relations Annual Report and Request for Congregational and Delegate Information Updates
<i>JANUARY</i>	<i>The Spire</i> Newsletter – Winter Issue
<i>FEBRUARY</i>	Convention invitations and RSVPs
<i>APRIL</i>	Application deadlines for Lutheran Leadership
<i>MAY</i>	<i>The Spire</i> Newsletter – Spring Issue

ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP IN THE GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

To establish membership for your congregation in the Association of Congregations, please return the application form (see center of book) to the Office of Church Relations.



- Membership may be established either by decision of the pastor or vote of the congregation.
- Simply return the attached application by mail to become a member.
- There is no financial obligation for membership, nor will it affect relationships you may have with other colleges.
- We encourage you to designate a representative from your congregation who will serve as the shepherd for the congregation's Association membership. This is separate from being a delegate, although one person may fill both roles. (See page 8.) Please complete the Three Crowns Ambassador volunteer form and return with membership application.

If you have questions regarding the Association that have not been answered in this handbook, please contact the Gustavus Office of Church Relations at:

Phone: **507/933-7001** or **800/726-6194**

Fax: **507/933-6337**

E-mail: **church-relations@gustavus.edu**

WHAT IS THE THREE CROWNS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM?

The Three Crowns Ambassador Program is a program established so that every Association member congregation might have a designated congregation representative to shepherd their congregation's relationship with Gustavus. As a delegate of the Association of Congregations, your role is to support Gustavus by serving as a goodwill ambassador for the College and Lutheran higher education in your congregation. The Three Crowns Ambassador Program provides a clear structure for these efforts.

The mission of Gustavus (as well as the other Lutheran colleges) complements congregational ministry. Gustavus makes numerous resources available for congregations because we consider ourselves your partner in ministry. The challenge we face, however, is in effectively communicating the availability of these resources to the congregations. As an Ambassador volunteer, you will help your congregation to be informed of the resources available and help keep Gustavus connected to the Church.

The real power of the Church-College connection is in our personal relationship. The church-relatedness of Gustavus is not only intentional; it is considered a key part of the college's foundation! The connection of College and Church is embodied in real individual relationships and actual College-Church events.

Being a Three Crowns Ambassador involves three core responsibilities:

- **ADVOCATE for Lutheran higher education in general and Gustavus in particular.**
- **MAINTAIN the clergy and delegate list for your congregation and personally ENCOURAGE attendance at the annual convention.**
- **PROMOTE participation of other key Gustavus community events.**

BECOMING A THREE CROWNS AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEER

If you would like to serve your congregation as a Three Crowns Ambassador to Gustavus, please return the volunteer form (see center of book) to the Office of Church Relations.

RESOURCE GUIDE

We are pleased to share the resources of Gustavus Adolphus College with our ministry partners through the Association of Congregations. This resource guide has been created to provide a listing of the resources that are available for your congregation.

If you would like to make use of the resources in this guide but your congregation is not currently a member of the Association of Congregations, we invite you to consider becoming a part of this meaningful outreach for Lutheran higher education. Refer to pages 3-6 for details regarding Association membership.

To make reservations or receive further information regarding any of these resources, please contact the Gustavus Office of Church Relations at:

Phone: **507/933-7001** or **800/726-6194**

Fax: **507/933-6337**

E-mail: **church-relations@gustavus.edu**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships available for students from member congregations

Gustavus provides education in the liberal arts and sciences within a spiritual context that has grown through the years and continues today in the College's strong relationship with the ELCA. In recognition of the valuable work done by parishes of the Association and their support of Lutheran higher education, Gustavus provides renewable scholarships to students who are active in their home congregations.

- **Matching of Congregation Scholarships:** Established scholarship funds awarded by a student's home congregation—regardless of a church's denomination—will be matched by Gustavus up to \$1,000. Written notification from the congregation indicating the dollar amount must be received by May 1.
- **Lutheran Leadership Award:** Renewable awards of \$250–\$2,000 are given to Lutheran students who are active in a member congregation of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations and are nominated by their pastor or an Association delegate. Applications and nominations must be received by March 1.

For more information on these scholarships and any other financial aid questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office at **800-GUSTAVUS** or online at **admission.gustavus.edu/admissions/financialaid/scholarships.asp**.

ON CAMPUS RESOURCES

GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL RETREATS

We welcome our Association ministry partners to campus to enjoy overnight and day retreats. We have programs for teenagers, young adults, and older adults. Information on each program is listed below. To see pictures of the Retreat Center and Southwest Hall Youth Hostel, visit: gustavus.edu/churchrelations/retreats/retreatcenter.cfm

RETREATS FOR ADULTS

The Association of Congregations Retreat Center
(for reservations, contact: retreat-center@gustavus.edu)

The Association of Congregations Retreat Center has comfortable space for group discussions and meetings, a small kitchen for light refreshments, and a conference room equipped with overhead, easel, and TV/VCR/DVD. Slide projector and a multi-media projector are also available upon request. The Retreat Center has seven bedrooms and can accommodate up to 20 overnight guests. Meals are not included in the retreat cost but are available through the campus Dining Service. Our staff is available to help you with accommodations and arrangements for your retreat. The following rates apply:



- **Group Overnight Retreats:**
\$20/person per night for groups from Association congregations. Day-only participants \$15/person per day.
- **Group Day Retreats:**
\$35 group flat rate charge for groups from Association congregations.
- **Individual Clergy Sabbath:**
Free for Association pastors. Advanced booking is necessary. Personal retreats are not available when group retreats are scheduled in the Retreat Center.

Note: A \$75 non-refundable deposit is required for all adult retreats. Deposit will be applied to the retreat final bill. Meal costs are not included in retreat rates. Retreats may be booked up to one year in advance.

CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH RETREATS

Confirmation Retreat Programs

(for reservations contact: confirmation-retreats@gustavus.edu)

Gustavus welcomes confirmation classes and youth groups to hold one-day retreats on campus. On-campus meeting space, use of the athletic facilities, and programming through Gustavus Youth Outreach are usually available for reservations made 6–8 weeks in advance. Meals in the cafeteria are the group's responsibility. Meal tickets are available upon request with billing sent after the retreat. The flat rate for group retreats is \$30.

Note: A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your requested date. Deposit is applied to retreat final bill. Meal costs are not included in retreat rates. Retreats may be booked up to one year in advance.



A WEEKDAY AT GUSTAVUS FOR OLDER ADULTS

(for reservations contact: church-relations@gustavus.edu)

This program is intended to allow groups of retired adults an opportunity to experience a day on campus at Gustavus. Programming is determined by group planners, and possible highlights might include a presentation by a Gustavus faculty member, daily Chapel (during the school year), interaction with current students, and lunch. The cost per person is \$15.00.

OTHER MINISTRY RESOURCES

PULPIT SUPPLY

Gustavus has a limited number of pastors and lay preachers available for pulpit supply in congregations. Normal honorarium and mileage are acceptable compensation. Most successful requests are made at least three weeks in advance. Please contact the Office of Church Relations with your request. Be sure to indicate the service times and whether an ordained person is required for the assignment.

GUSTAVUS YOUTH OUTREACH

Gustavus Youth Outreach (GYO) is a student-led ministry at Gustavus dedicated to sharing the gospel with young Christians. The group is divided into approximately ten teams of 8-10 members that meet weekly on campus. On weekends they travel to area congregations for overnight bookings with youth groups or with retreat groups on campus. Teams can plan lock-ins, family nights, retreats for young adults, and worship assistance. Teams utilize a variety of skills including:

- Camp Music
- Bible Studies
- Skits and Games

The congregation is asked to cover expenses of the team: mileage (60 cents/mile for van transportation), meals and housing (if necessary), cost of special materials required, and other expenses of the team while they are visiting. To defray the miscellaneous expenses of this outreach ministry, an offering is appreciated. An on-line reservation form is available at the GYO website. GYO bookings are available October, November, and January–April (except during spring break, and limited availability during January Interim).

For more information on GYO, contact:
E-mail: youthoutreach@gustavus.edu

PARTNERS IN MUSIC PROGRAM

MUSICAL RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP

Our student musicians are enthusiastic about sharing their talents in worship services or on special occasions. Some of the available ensembles include:

- **Vocal Groups:**

The Gustavus Choir, The Choir of Christ Chapel, and several smaller ensembles.

- **Instrumental Groups:**

The Gustavus Wind Orchestra; brass, flute, and woodwind choirs.

Several string quartets and the Gustavus String Orchestra.



- **Organists, Instrumental and Vocal Soloists**

- **Taizé Worship Experience.** Taizé worship services, are contemplative in nature. The services use music, silence, and prayer to provide space for people to worship together in the simple, ecumenical tradition of the Taizé community in France. Partners in Music can provide a Taizé worship experience for your congregation or work with your musicians to create one.

Note: Please keep in mind that these musicians are college students, so availability is limited. Congregations are responsible for travel costs associated with performances, and honoraria are appreciated.

- **Choral Music Clinics:** Dr. Gregory Aune, associate professor of music and director of the Gustavus Choir, and Dr. Patricia Kazarow, professor of music and director of the Choir of Christ Chapel, are available for choral clinics with congregational choirs and/or church music consultations with parish worship committees. For Association member congregations, the Office of Church Relations will cover the fee for this one- to two-hour clinic. The only cost for member congregations is the mileage costs for the presenters.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

PRESENTATIONS FOR ADULT EDUCATION GROUPS

Presentations are available for adult forums, adult education classes, workshops, and seminars. Congregations can schedule as many presentations as they desire and as many as the speakers' schedules can accommodate.

PRESENTATIONS FOR YOUTH GROUPS

The resources available to adult education groups are also available to the youth leaders of your congregation. Most of the topics featured in our education list can be adapted for a high school-age audience.

We are pleased to present a list of speakers and topics for use by congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In an effort to make the Partners in Education Program accessible to Association congregations, the Office of Church Relations will cover the speaker honorarium (\$150) for the first presentation in the congregation each academic year. Congregations are responsible for the mileage reimbursement of the speaker (at the current IRS rate per mile), to be payable directly to the speaker the day of the presentation.

To take advantage of this payment arrangement, congregations must contact the Office of Church Relations in advance. We are pleased to make available to your congregation the options that follow.

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR OTHER TOPICS OR INTEREST IN PLANNING A DAY LONG WORKSHOP?

If there are topics or presentations that you are interested in, but do not see listed in the resource guide, please contact the Office of Church Relations. We are happy to assist you in planning for the educational needs of your congregation.

To schedule a presentation, please contact the Office of Church Relations at **507-933-7001** or **800-726-6194**. The most current listing of speakers and presentations is available on-line at **gustavus.edu/churchrelations**

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS

(BY CATEGORY)

Categories Include: Art and Literature; Bible, Lutheran Studies, and Religion; Especially for Youth; Health Issues; National and Global Issues; Relationships and Skills for Living; Spirituality; Scandinavia and Scandinavians; Worship and Music.

ART AND LITERATURE

“Little Red Riding Hood”: What has happened to fairy tales???

Using slides to provide examples of illustrations in recent versions of Little Red Riding Hood, this talk is both humorous and somewhat shocking. Where did fairy tales come from? How have they changed over the centuries? What kinds of editions are being published today? Are fairy tales good for children, or harmful: what do the psychologists and literary critics say? How are fairy tales being rewritten for adult books? Bring your favorite memory of fairy tales for our discussion!

Elizabeth Baer

BIBLE, LUTHERAN STUDIES AND RELIGION

An Introduction to Rabbinic Judaism

Rabbinic Judaism became the dominant form of Judaism by 200 A.D. and remains so today. How does it differ from biblical Judaism? Within Judaism, how is “torah” understood, and what is its role? What do the covenant, the community, and the hope for a messianic age mean for humans? How does contemporary Judaism see its relation to Christianity? What are its four main branches?

Darrell Jodock

Apocalyptic Movements in Antiquity and Today

This presentation focuses upon the phenomenon of apocalypticism in both its ancient and modern expressions. The presenter will address Biblical apocalypses and examples from the Dead Sea Scrolls, and move on to more contemporary examples, such as Branch Davidians, Bible prophecy movements, and recent end-time popular literature and film.

Casey Elledge

The Buddhist Religion: Philosophy and Practice

As the world continues to “shrink” through advances in communication technologies and increased migration between various countries, the need arises for more understanding among the cultures of the world. For the past several decades, Christian and Buddhist theologians have been engaged in serious dialogue concerning such topics as God, Buddha, nature, the problem of evil, ethics, salvation, and a host of other issues pertaining to spirituality and social justice. As Buddhist thought and practice is becoming more mainstream in the U.S., a clear understanding of Buddhism’s doctrinal foundation is necessary for more thoughtful dialogue among the general populace. In this presentation, some of the doctrinal and meditative foundations of Buddhism will be discussed.

John Y. Cha

Cults and New Religious Movements

We will look at Jonestown and the Branch Davidians as two examples of controversial religious groups. What were they like? Who was attracted to them? How much did these groups differ from one another and from other similar groups? How do we assess their importance?

Darrell Jodock

Dead Sea Scrolls

Despite their epoch-making fame and sensational controversy, most people today still have never read a Dead Sea Scroll. This presentation provides a basic introduction to the Scrolls and leads participants in a reading of some passages of the Scrolls. Reading the Scrolls further illustrates why the discovery is significant for those who seek to understand more fully the religious environment in which Christianity was born.

Casey Elledge

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Ethical Responsibility and Resistance to Tyranny

The German resistance to Adolf Hitler and National Socialism during WWII is a story of extraordinary conviction and courage. It is a story made even more exceptional by the participation and death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian and Lutheran pastor. Nevertheless, to this day a residue of moral discomfort with his martyrdom remains. Is it ethically or theologically possible for a pastor to be involved in political assassination? Did Bonhoeffer exceed his call as a minister of God? Did he go too far? Bonhoeffer’s ethics, his notions of ethical responsibility, and moral skepticism will be the focus of this discussion.

Douglas Huff

The Emphatic Christian Center: A Call to Political Responsibility

The effectiveness of the New Christian Right has grown so great that many Americans now think that Christianity is a form of political conservatism. Meanwhile, the Christian Left is splintered, disorganized, and largely ineffective. And the Christian Center, to the extent there even is one, is mostly vacuous, practicing an unprincipled tolerance without any content or reasoned basis. But there can be an emphatic Christian Center which is both self-critical and critical of the Left and the Right and their excesses and contradictions. This presentation, based on the book *Forming an Emphatic Christian Center*, offers a constructive theological and political alternative to our present vacuous center.

Garrett Paul

The End of the World—An Alternative Vision

The Prophets looked forward to a time of shalom, of peace and wholeness. Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of God is among you. The book of Revelation foresees a heavenly city coming down to earth, proclaiming that God's dwelling is on earth and that God makes all things new. These and other biblical passages suggest a vision of the future quite different from the one that seems commonplace in public discourse. The vision is corporate rather than individualistic, is hopeful rather than pessimistic, invites engagement and "being with" others rather than escape, foresees peace rather than conflict, and includes not only humans but all of creation.

Darrell Jodock

First-Century Judaism and the New Testament

In Jesus' day, there were multiple schools of thought and practice within Judaism. By the end of the first century, only two had survived. Where do Paul, the Synoptic Gospels, and the Gospel of John fit within that development, and how does their placement affect the way we read and understand those books?

Darrell Jodock

From Jesus to Christology: The Early Development of Christian Doctrine

How did we get from Jesus to Christology, theological reflection on the meaning of Jesus Christ? Christian doctrine emerged from fierce debates and deep convictions about who Jesus of Nazareth was and what his life, death, and resurrection meant. This presentation will explore the early development of theological doctrine regarding Jesus Christ.

Mary Solberg

Issues in Science and Religion

The age-old debates between science and religion have taken new and interesting twists and turns in the last century and promise to do more in the future. Beyond the headline-grabbing conflicts over evolution and creation, there are also promising areas for dialogue and integration in theoretical physics, biology, and cognitive science. This presentation will be devoted to an overview of some of the main issues in science and religion today and some of the ways to engage and overcome conflict.

Garrett Paul

Liberation Theology

Liberation theology emerges from the recognition of injustice and oppression and the commitment to transform the systems that create them. All over the world, liberation theologians do their work alongside and on behalf of those who are economically, socially, and politically marginalized. For liberation theologians, acting on behalf of justice and reflection in community in light of God's word constitute true Christian discipleship. In a world shaped increasingly by economic and cultural globalization, liberation theology's concern for those who are being left out expresses a powerful challenge to "comfortable Christianity."

Mary Solberg

Luther and Liberation

What do liberation theology and Martin Luther's theology have to say to each other? Do they have anything in common? Liberation theology emerges from the recognition of injustice and oppression and the commitment to transform the systems that create them. This presentation will explore the basic approach of liberation theology and ask how Luther's theology might respond to liberation theology's concern about economic, social, and political oppression.

Mary Solberg

Luther's Down-to-Earth Image of God

Most know that Martin Luther affirmed justification by grace through faith. But Luther coupled that insight with another that is less well known—namely, a portrait of God as down-to-earth, deeply involved in the conflicts of human life. This God is at work behind the scenes in all areas of life, creating enough order to sustain life and working actively for justice. Christians are freed to be the arms and feet of this down-to-earth God.

Darrell Jodock

The Purpose of a Lutheran Church-Related College

The Lutheran tradition began in a university. Education has been central to its life. Yet many find Lutheran higher education puzzling, because they expect it be either “sectarian” or “non-sectarian” and are puzzled when it fits neither model. Instead it follows a third path of being both rooted in the Christian tradition and open to other insights. It encourages a profound sense of vocation (a calling to serve the community), regards wisdom to be the goal of learning, and prizes careful deliberation in a community as the best pathway to that goal.

Darrell Jodock or Grady St. Dennis

Resurrection, Immortality, and Eternal Life

Recent discoveries have shed new light on one of the most shocking claims in the history of religions: God supernaturally raises dead bodies from the grave and restores them to life again. This presentation provides an introductory survey of some of our most interesting evidence for early beliefs about resurrection and concludes with some reflections on how these materials help us better appreciate the resurrection theology of the apostle Paul and his successors.

Casey Elledge

The Mystery of God

For Christians, God has been revealed in Jesus Christ. Believers can know all they need to know about the character and purpose of God. But this does not mean that they can know everything about God. God remains a mystery. This mystery is the basis for wonder, and a sense of wonder influences worship, music, art, science, and all learning. Acknowledging God’s mystery helps us understand the nature and limits of beliefs. Recognizing the mystery of other human beings and of nature informs Christian ethics. All of this helps us understand our co-creatorship.

Darrell Jodock

Topics in American Religion

Religion in America is a vibrant, chaotic, and often confusing swirl of ideas, groups, and individuals. New religious groups are appearing every day, religious issues are seen constantly in the media and the courts, and questions of diversity and pluralism abound. The presenter will be glad to work with you to tailor the presentation(s) for your congregation to address the questions that are alive in your community, or to explore specific groups and movements about which your congregation has questions.

Sarah Johnson

Understanding Christian Identity Amid Religious Pluralism

Increasingly, Christians in the United States have neighbors from another world religion. How does a Christian understand and explain one's own religion in a way that is respectful of the neighbor? What does one say about the relationship between Christianity and other religions?

Darrell Jodock

Understanding Islam

Islam is the second largest religion in the world, and the fastest growing religion in America. Despite the fact that the media in this country make almost daily references to "Islam" or "Muslims," Americans by and large know very little about Islam and the beliefs and practices of its followers. This presentation is designed to give a basic overview of Islam, its history and context, its sources of authority, and the beliefs and practices of Muslims.

Steve Mellema

Understanding Judaism—Why Is It Important for Christians?

One result of inter-religious dialogue is a deeper understanding of and a new appreciation for the richness of one's own tradition. What does Jewish-Christian dialogue teach us about Christianity and the Lutheran tradition? Some topics will include co-creatorship, challenging God, the priority of community, and the importance of deliberation.

Darrell Jodock

Understanding Pentecostalism

Now in the early 21st century, we are able to see that the Pentecostal-Charismatic phenomenon has provided the most prolific new religious movement in the West during the 20th century. This presentation looks at the origins and development of Pentecostalism, as well as the constantly changing dynamics of Pentecostal worship and spirituality.

Casey Elledge

Whatever Happened to Martin Luther? A Fresh Look at Luther and His Works

Martin Luther's challenge to the only church in town had unexpected consequences for him and the time in which he lived. This presentation will explore some of what made Luther's life (1483–1546) and work so significant—his emphasis on the importance of lived experience and his conviction that justified sinners really do live differently; and the implications his thought might have for us today.

Mary Solberg

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH

Basics of the College Admission Process

Selecting a post-secondary school has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. Here's an opportunity to speak with a college representative and gain some insights for navigating the college admission process. This presentation will give an overview of the admission process, offer practical suggestions for making your application, and provide an opportunity to ask questions. To arrange for this presentation contact the Office of Church Relations.

Financing a College Education

Kirk Carlson, associate director of student financial assistance at Gustavus Adolphus College, will facilitate an interactive discussion that offers parents and prospective college students the opportunity to learn about and ask questions regarding need-based and scholarship assistance. He will also cover issues regarding filing the FAFSA, and opportunities for financing the family's portion of the college bill.

Kirk Carlson

The Inside Scoop on Being Ready for College

This upbeat presentation designed especially for high school youth features Gustavus students sharing their insights on academic preparation, what the road to getting to college is like, and practical suggestions on how to get the most out of the academic experience.

Debra Pitton

HEALTH ISSUES

Basics in Stress Management

This seminar focuses on the body's reaction to stress, the fallout from that reaction, and the myriad of ways used to address daily stress. Particular attention is paid to the influence of personal outlook and perspective as a protective factor against stress.

Karl Larson

Listening to Your Body

In American society today, we tend to overlook and override the messages of our body's own innate wisdom. We rely on outside forces (primarily pharmaceutical interventions) to help us regain our balance and, therefore, our health. Within the past decade, more and more Americans have been also turning away from conventional medical treatments and embracing more holistic and natural treatments. Coincidence? Learn how the new medical paradigm allows body, mind, thought, and prayer to play a distinct role in shaping your health. You'll never "think" about your health in quite the same way again.

June Kloubec

Nutrition and Exercise 101

The desire to live in a balanced and active lifestyle is common to us all—and also are the feelings of struggle in maintaining the healthy lifestyle. Many feel overwhelmed by the ever flowing stream of "latest" exercise and diet plans. Increasingly, individuals and communities are tiring of the marketing hype and instead are returning to the basics of sound health habits. Learn the basics of not only finding the right balance for good nutrition and exercise, but also practical steps for incorporating these healthy habits into your everyday living. This presentation can be tailored to fit specific group needs.

June Kloubec

Sex and Faith

Believe it or not, these are highly connected. This seminar can be designed many ways, for the congregation, or for youth. The emphasis here is how faith can influence the decisions one makes about sex and sexual behavior, and how to stay true to what you believe is right in a highly sexualized world.

Karl Larson

Tai Chi as a Method of Meditation and Exercise

Tai Chi is growing in popularity in the United States, although it's been practiced for thousands of years. This "hands on" seminar will teach the basics of Tai Chi Easy™, an activity that can help one meditate, pray, and be physically active at any age and any physical capability level.

Karl Larson

The Fiji Effect—Media Colonialism and Globalization

In 1996, Ann Becker, a professor at Harvard Medical School, identified that even limited exposure to Western television results in body dissatisfaction and disordered eating among adolescent female Fijians. This phenomenon became referred to popularly as the “Fiji effect” and established a strong causal link between television viewing and disordered eating. In Fiji, the influence of Western media has resulted in widespread, rapid, and disruptive social change, including increases in crime, violence, violence against women and children, adolescent sexual activity, and consumerism/materialism.

Leila Brammer

The Rhetoric of Place

Places, both landscapes and locations, shape us and our views of the world. The places we call home, the places with which we identify, serve a vital function in shaping our conceptions of the good life, political debates, and our sense of self. In what ways do the places we call home and the landscapes with which we identify influence our perceptions of ourselves, our communities, and the world in which we live?

Leila Brammer

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Affluenza

America is a society that consumes more than its share of the world’s resources. But how much is too much? How does our robust consumerism impact our neighbors? How does it impact our relationship with God? And how does our runaway hunger for ‘things’ impact the relationship we have with ourselves? After the events of ‘Nine/Eleven’ we were advised that patriotism called us to go out and shop. What are the intended and unintended effects of such a strategy? We will explore these questions and others, bringing Christian resources to bear. There included (but not limited to) the Church’s longstanding rejection of usury, Thomistic virtue theory, the Protestant call to agape, and the tradition of Christian communities dedicated to the ‘simple life’.

Mary Gaebler

Caring for God’s Creation

Being concerned about the environment is biblically mandated and is our Christian obligation. Through our five senses, which God has given most of us, and with no other special equipment other than our alertness, we can receive the revelation of God in Creation. Many Christians recognize that an important way to witness to unbelievers is to honor the Creator in the

way we act and react. Together, during this program, we will explore the ideas of the invisible fingerprints of God left on the little (like seeds and insects) and the large (rivers, oceans, and forests), and how we can be good stewards through our actions. Slides appropriate to the season, depicting Minnesota plants, animals, and natural landscape scenes will accompany this presentation. A darkened room and screen are necessary.

Jim Gilbert

Christian Perspectives on International Affairs & Politics

How is the Christian Church engaged in international political affairs? How is U.S. foreign policy affected by the opinions of American Christians? Other subtopics that may be explored include:

- The United Nations' role in global peace, welfare, and human rights efforts
- Faith-based efforts to promote reconciliation after war

Mimi Gerstbauer

Community Food Security: Moving beyond Charity to Justice

How can we make soup kitchens and other emergency food providers obsolete? This talk explores the model of "community food security," which has as its aim the creation of communities in which all inhabitants have access to healthy, affordable, sustainably produced food at all times of the year. Community food security movements work to link together the needs of all community members, at all income levels.

Lisa Heldke

Culture and Terrorism

Years after 9/11, America remains in a cultural haze, with more confusion than clarity about how to respond to terrorism—either foreign or domestic. What is the ordinary American citizen's role in combating terrorism? This presentation focuses on ways we might take steps to reverse an internal decay that gives rise to terroristic activity and continues to plague our society in many forms—violent crime, drug abuse, corporate greed, dishonesty, and exploitation of the weak.

Karen Larson

Faith, Religion and Culture

Paul Tillich argues in his little book, *The Dynamics of Faith*, that all persons, simply by virtue of being human, operate out of some kind of faith, whether it be faith in God, or faith in something else! We will consider what this means for individuals, and for the wider society beginning with the questions of sin—"the problem" that presupposes faith. How does faith answer sin, and how do we so easily distort faith? Why do we make false gods of our culture symbols? And what difference does faith make anyway

in our lives, as religion, culture and symbols empower faith, for good or for evil, to become active in the world.

Mary Gaebler

God and Politics

Somewhere beyond clichés about “Christian America” and “the wall of separation church and state” there is a serious question about what the impact is of religious faith on political convictions and activities. This presentation explores the failures of mere secularism, pluralism, and religious activism (of both the left and the right) and proposes an alternative course for politically minded Christians today.

Garrett Paul

Human Rights in Islam

With so much disinformation about Islam present in today’s mass media, what is the status of human rights in the context of that religion? This talk will explain the political, economic, and social rights guaranteed to citizens (Muslim and non-Muslim) under an Islamic governance. Topics will include: the political framework of Islam; separation of “church” and state; basic rights between people; rights of the people from the government; the concept of an “Islamic” state; and, finally, Islam, human rights, and the world since 9/11/01.

Steve Mellema

Just Peace

What happened to the old bumper sticker that said, “If you want peace, work for justice”? Have we forgotten, or did we never really believe it? In a world now obsessed with what our nation’s leaders call “the war on terror,” what has happened to our concern for justice and the peace it nurtures? This colorful and informative presentation takes us to places few of us have had the chance to visit—Cuba, El Salvador, and Namibia—and introduces us to global neighbors who long for the kind of peace that too often passes our understanding: *Just Peace*.

Mary Solberg

Living as a Muslim in Post 9/11 America

This talk will focus on the difficult times faced by the Muslim community worldwide, but especially in this country, since the acts of terror that were perpetrated on September 11, 2001. How are we to respond to the situation that has resulted? We live in a world that seems increasingly polarized along racial or religious lines. What can we do to remedy the situation, and to move toward a more united community and society?

Steve Mellema

Locavores, CSAs and Farmers' Markets: The Growing Interest in Local Foods

The taste for locally grown foods has exploded in the United States in the last few years, as several recent books attest (*The Omnivore's Dilemma; Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*). What role can local foods play in promoting social, economic, and environmental justice? How can consumers make food choices that support their own ethical and social commitments?

Lisa Heldke

Mass Violence in America

Mass violence in America is an ongoing challenge to both American security and the American psyche. Whether the violence is perpetrated by foreign terrorists, as in the case of 9/11; by domestic terrorists such as Ted Kaczynski, Tim McVeigh, or John Muhammad; or in American schools or workplaces, as recently exemplified by the shooting spree of Cho Seung-hui, it is clear that the relationship between American culture and mass violence must be considered and addressed.

Karen Larson

The Politics of Homelessness

Who are the homeless, and why does homelessness exist? What is being done to end homelessness? These will be the questions of focus during this presentation/conversation, which can be tailored for a one- or two-hour session. This is an abbreviated version of a course taught to first-year students who, as a part of the course, live outside for three days and nights in November during National Hunger and Homelessness Week.

Richard Leitch

Public Discourse/Civic Engagement

While the popular press bemoans the self-centeredness of the youth, an amazing number of them are taking an active part in their communities, participating, planning, and initiating action. At Gustavus, the Communication Studies Department has incorporated a new course in the curriculum that appeals to students with these interests and helps them gain the vital skills of citizenship in our democracy. Listen to the influence they have had on important issues in their communities and reinvigorate your faith in the future.

Leila Brammer

The Quality of Mercy: Forgiveness in International Relations

South African Desmond Tutu has said that forgiveness is an absolute necessity for continued human existence. What does forgiveness mean, and where do we get the ability to forgive? When is it possible to forgive, and what is possible to forgive? Who has authority to forgive?

How does forgiveness between and within nations differ from interpersonal forgiveness? Though rare, there are stories of forgiveness in international relations: forgiveness in the decades after WWII between the U.S. and Germany/Japan and racial reconciliation in South Africa after years of apartheid. However, forgiveness is not something that nation-states or their representatives seem to do. What possibilities exist for nation-states to forgive as part of the reconciliation processes after wars or atrocities? What would it look like and what meaning would it have? How does it relate to our own experiences with forgiveness?

Mimi Gerstbauer

Whatever Happened to El Salvador?

These days we hear a lot about “illegal immigrants” and very little about El Salvador, where many of them come from. Remember El Salvador? Not so long ago, U.S. tax payers were pouring billions into a civil war there. Now, we are told, democracy has been established, and free-trade agreements ensure prosperity and stability. What is really happening in Central America? This presentation is a fascinating story told with pictures that bring these no-so-distant neighbors to life and helps us understand from a different perspective the challenges they face.

Mary Solberg

Whose Body Is It, Anyway? and Other Questions in Medical Ethics

Medicine and health care consume increasing amounts of our time, energy, and money. At the same time, promising medical advances raise both hopes and vexing, ethical questions. This presentation is designed to shed light on fundamental issues in health care and medical ethics. What is health? What ought basic health care include? Is basic health care a “right”? How much weight shall we give to “quality of life,” in making health care decisions? To what degree should we care about whether people in the Third World have access to health care—or even potable water? In what ways does our Christian faith inform our thinking regarding these issues?

Mary Solberg

Yes We Can: The Inspirational Story of “Twenty-somethings” Serving God in South Africa

Picture a sea of dirty tin shacks the size of 8x10 sheds side by side for as far as the eye can see. Such is the visual image of the informal settlements of Cape Town, South Africa. Imagine life for a child in this setting where illness and violence seem to rule the day. Be inspired by the story of a group of “twenty-something” leaders from Cape Town and Minnesota, who have brought hope to a community facing a multitude of social problems.

Grady St. Dennis

RELATIONSHIPS AND SKILLS FOR LIVING

A Method of Moral Judgment

Making moral judgments is a complex skill, like driving a car or reading, that is part instinctive and part learned. It can be something that we do well without even thinking about it—until some crisis forces us to re-evaluate, and then we discover that everybody does not do it the same way, and that some people cannot even do it all—they are morally illiterate. Our society finds itself in just such a crisis today. This presentation is designed to help us understand how we make moral judgments and to pay better attention to some considerations that are often left out.

Garrett Paul

Being a Positive Coach for Children

Parents are the life blood of any athletic organization in the community, and often they are asked to serve as a coach. This seminar will help potential or current coaches learn what actions to take to maximize the potential of the children they work with.

Karl Larson

Bullying and Violence Prevention

Bullying has been an issue in schools for generations. This seminar will discuss the role churches and schools can play in addressing the issue. Also, we'll discuss the impact of the explosion of electronic communication on bullying.

Karl Larson

Congregation as Mentoring Community

What surrounding voices influence the formation of our youth and the choices they make? In what ways does the congregation clearly communicate to our young adults the values and beliefs we hold? How can the church be a mentoring environment that recognizes, supports, challenges, and inspires its members to live deeply into their unique callings in the world? This presentation will invite reflection upon the ways a congregation might actively mentor the next generation and all its members, creating a "mentoring community" whose practices, narratives, and ways of living together collectively mentor all its members into lives of "faith active in love."

Chris Johnson

Contemporary Christian Ethics

How do we decide what is good and what is not? And what has faith to do with it? We will consider the sources of our ethical decision-making and how it is that we actually go about choosing. In particular we will consider how our use of Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience are prioritized, and what this ordering says about the kind of God we believe in. Following this introduction we will consider briefly some conflicting ethical positions within the Christian Church around issues of sexual and bioethics, the ethics of war, and environmentalism, or (as it is sometimes called) “creation care”.

Mary Gaebler

Cultivating Wellness

This seminar will introduce the multiple dimensions of wellness, helping participants to gain insight into wellness beyond the physical domain. The emphasis here is how each dimension of wellness impacts the other, particularly the role of spirituality.

Karl Larson

How to Start a Soccer Club in Your Congregation

Soccer is growing quickly in the United States, and many organizations are offering camps, including churches. Learn how your church can structure a camp, provide opportunities for kids in the community, and support the sport of soccer.

Karl Larson

Observing the Speed Limit of Life

Who has their foot upon the accelerator? What are the implications of a lifestyle shift from meals cooked at home to fast food on the run? What does it mean that our communication with each other has evolved from visiting in person to text-messaged phrase-symbols such as IDK GTR? This presentation will examine the various ways we are breaking the speed limit of life and reflect upon practical ways one can slow down the pace of everyday life.

Grady St. Dennis

On Being a Christian with Integrity

Real faith, according to the apostle Paul, is always active in love. But what does this mean in specific situations, and how does such activity actually arise within us. We will combine an examination of faith (both true and idolatrous) with an exploration of the way ethical decisions are actually made. In what sense is our use of Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience related to our convictions? Are we being consistent? What do our decisions and beliefs about ethical choices reveal about our deepest commitments?

And why does it matter? The role of experience in our moral knowing and the concept of self-sacrificial suffering will be examined in particular.

Mary Gaebler

Speaking of God: The Debate about Inclusive Language

What's all the shouting about? Can we fully capture God with *any* name? How does our way of talking to and about God affect our relationships with each other? This presentation invites us into the debate about God-language in worship, theology, and everyday conversation. And it offers an opportunity to reflect on the ways we might love and honor both God and our neighbor by "speaking rightly" about God.

Mary Solberg

Teacher Training: Giving Your Volunteer Teachers the Teaching Advantage

In this session, the presenter will share time-tested classroom management strategies designed to help effectively minimize negative student behavior issues. In addition to proven strategies, she will incorporate the latest in best practices for involving students and keeping them engaged with the topic. This presentation is excellent for basic teacher training and skills development sessions.

Debra Pitton

Teaching Children about Evil in a Post-Holocaust World

How do we teach children about evil in a post-Holocaust world? How is the Holocaust itself depicted in books for children and for young adults? Is it possible to define responsible and irresponsible ways of teaching young people about this event, or other controversial or difficult topics such as the bombing of Hiroshima? In this forum, we will discuss such issues, looking at many examples, both good and bad, of books for children and young adults.

Elizabeth Baer

Telling the Truth in a Lying Culture

What meaning does "Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor" have in a world where we seem increasingly surrounded by political, corporate, social, and personal deceit? In personal and institutions, how can we negotiate the tensions between what we ought to do and what is done as common practice? In what ways can we live ethically in relationship with our neighbors, our God, and ourselves?

Leila Brammer

The Stories We Tell and How They Shape Us

The stories we tell about events in our lives and our communities serve an important function in shaping our experiences and our realities. Are we victims, heroes, or bystanders in the stories we tell and what does that say about who we are as individuals and communities? Understanding the stories we tell and power they have is the first step in finding ways to recreate the stories of our lives and our communities to more accurately and usefully reflect who we are and why we are here.

Leila Brammer

The Unexamined Meal is Not Worth Eating: Philosophical Ruminations on Food

Philosophy is the study of meaning and value in human life. Food, arguably, is one of the greatest sources of meaning and value, as well as being one of life's necessities. Nevertheless, philosophers have paid relatively little attention to it. This talk explores some of the questions that arise when philosophers begin to reflect on the contents of their dinner plate.

Lisa Heldke

SPIRITUALITY

Building a Vibrant Singles Ministry

It is estimated that one in three adults sitting in the church pew is single. Single adults today constitute 44 percent of the U.S. population. This presentation will invite discussion of the needs of today's single adults and reflect upon practical strategies for growing a vibrant singles ministry.

Grady St. Dennis

Christian Perspectives on War and Peace

"For everything there is a season, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace" (Ecclesiastes 3). Human history seems to suggest that we've had little time for anything other than war, so did Jesus really mean it when he said "turn the other cheek" and "love your enemies"? In a single session or (if you prefer) in a series, we'll explore a wide range of important biblical, historical, and contemporary Christian perspectives on violence and non-violence, war and peace.

Chris Johnson

Finding Your “Spirit” in a Secular World

How do you keep the faith? This seminar offers some suggestion on how to keep one’s spiritual center in a rapidly changing world. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences during this session.

Karl Larson

Forgiveness, Justice, and Revenge

Christians can often feel conflicted about forgiveness, torn between this sense that it is good (or even “required” of Christians) to forgive and the “gut feeling” that it would just be wrong to forgive some people. Christians can be torn when facing the prospect that to forgive someone seems to invite further abuse, or when being a forgiving person seems to mean that evil goes unchallenged. Their experiences of evil—done directly to them or to their loved ones—causes many people to question or even reject the moral value of forgiveness. How could it be good to forgive such people (Nazis, rapists, child abusers, terrorists), and how could it be good to be a forgiving person in a world so corrupt? Still, the heart of Christian faith is about forgiveness and grace. In a single session or (if you prefer) in a series, we’ll explore the nature and relationship of forgiveness and anger, justice and revenge in the Christian life.

Chris Johnson

Growing Spiritually as a Couple

Spiritual connection with God not only transforms our relationship with God but it can transform our relationship with our partner as well. This presentation will identify the things that limit spiritual development in relationships and explore strategies for growing spiritually with the one you love.

Grady St. Dennis

Honoring the Sabbath: A Lay Perspective

The Third Commandment tells us to do it, but what exactly does “Honor the Sabbath” mean in today’s world? Does it mean more than just going to church on Sunday morning? And if so, how can we do that? The presenter will discuss the importance and the different ways that the concept of sabbath can be thought about and realized by individuals every day.

Amy Pehrson

Luther and Wisdom

Although Luther had a very dim view of human abilities when it came to pleasing God, he had an amazingly high view of human ability when it came to figuring out how to serve the neighbor and the community. Instead of providing detailed instructions and lists of rules, he invited believers to use their wisdom. What did he mean by wisdom? How does it affect community leadership?

Darrell Jodock

Luther and Vocation

Luther said that every Christian has a calling, a vocation. Unfortunately the concept has too often been “flattened out” merely to endorse one’s career. So, what sort of calling is this? How is it different from that, more than one’s occupation? How does it affect one’s work? How does it affect family life? How does it affect civic engagement?

Darrell Jodock

Questions of Meaning, Purpose and Faith

Young and old alike are hungry for space to talk about topics that matter with people who care. This presentation is meant to facilitate a time set aside for quality thought and meaning-filled conversation. What questions are the big questions in your life? How do you make sense of the world in which you live?

Grady St. Dennis

Radical Listening: A Tool for Social Change Making

What can be gained by listening, carefully and reflectively, to someone with whom we disagree sharply? Despite its efforts on behalf of the expression of unpopular ideas, the centuries-old tradition of free speech upon which our country was founded has surprisingly little to say about the importance of *listening* to such ideas. This talk explores the role of “radical listening”—that is, listening to ideas one finds most difficult to hear, with a commitment to understanding those ideas in spite of tremendous hostility to them. Why can listening be a useful tool for social change, even when it is not accompanied by any changes of heart or mind? What can be accomplished through listening, alone?

Lisa Heldke

The Spirit of Service

Participate in a guided reflection session upon the “why” behind kind acts of service. Explore the differences between community service, charity, volunteerism, and service learning. Discuss ways to think about the context of “the other” and how to grow the experience into something that can have a wider impact for the recipients and provide a service learning teaching moment for participants. This workshop is an excellent preparation session for community service groups and mission trip participants.

Brian Johnson

Vocation and Calling: Connecting Sunday to Monday

What really matters? Who am I and why am I here? How can I really make a difference in the world? What does God really want me to do with my life? Questions like these are with most of us all throughout our lives. In a single session or (if you prefer) in a series, we'll explore a wide range of issues and questions surrounding the idea of vocation or “calling,” including the rich theological insights of the Lutheran tradition, society's changing attitudes toward work and community, and each person's giftedness for “ministry in daily life.”

Chris Johnson

SCANDINAVIA AND SCANDINAVIANS

Immigrant Churches

One hundred and fifty years ago, the landscape of Minnesota looked very different as immigrants began to settle in the area. In addition to a distinct way of life, they brought with them distinct forms of worship. What were these forms? What did these churches provide for their congregations? How did these immigrant churches adapt to the rapidly changing population influx of the past century? What are these churches like today? How is the landscape of Minnesota still ripe with immigrant churches today?

Sarah Johnson

Sweden-Social Welfare: Could It Work Here?

Sweden's model of social welfare or social insurance offers Swedish citizens an amazing array of benefits and privileges. These programs are often described as covering one from "cradle to grave." This session will explore these benefits describing what Swedish citizens receive as a right of citizenship. We will examine the costs (the tax cost) of such benefits, and we also contrast the Swedish model with what we believe to be the American model. The Sweden/U.S.A. contrast becomes of interest as we, in this country, examine our system of delivering health care, of providing access to higher education, and providing work environments which are family friendly.

Bruce Johnson

What Is a Swede?

Sweden used to be a conspicuously homogenous country with respect to its population. Today, however, 20 percent of Sweden's population is composed of first- or second-generation immigrants. The presenter will talk about both the "Old Swedes" and the "New Swedes" and how the relationship between the two may redefine Sweden in the 21st century.

Roland Thorstensson

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Experience Taizé Worship and Music

Chaplain Brian Johnson, along with student musicians, will lead your group in an experience of the worship of the Taizé community in France. This is an excellent resource for midweek worship services and other worship occasions. The contemplative service combines music, silence, and prayer to create a meaningful worship experience for all.

Brian Johnson

Intentionality in Worship Planning

How is worship connected to culture? This workshop will discuss what's new in worship planning and offer practical suggestions for building upon contemporary and traditional worship styles. The presenter will discuss worship as a liturgical movement—a part of a regular cycle of patterns.

Brian Johnson

The Labyrinth: Find Your Way Within

Walking the labyrinth utilizes this ancient symbol as a spiritual exercise or means to meditate. Some scholars believe that in the Middle Ages it was used for pilgrimages by those who could not travel to Jerusalem. We know that in the Cathedral in Chartres, the model for the labyrinth in this workshop, catechumens walked it as they journeyed from their symbolic death into life during the Easter vigil. Today it offers us an opportunity to listen; since its path is unicursal (there is only one path that leads to the center and out), we are free to engage our intuition, creativity, and spirituality. Come, experience this opportunity to reduce stress, renew your spirit, and find peace.

Patricia Kazarow

The Music of Taizé

This music was originally written for the ecumenical community of brothers from Taizé, France, and the thousands of pilgrims who came there to pray. It is now known and sung throughout the world! In this workshop, we will sing as much of this contemporary chant repertoire as time will allow. Various options for use in worship services and private spiritual practices will be explored. Taizé dances that accompany several of the chants will be demonstrated.

Patricia Kazarow

Music with a Mission

Piano duettists Paul and Helen Baumgartner will present a recital at your church for the benefit of Global Mission Institute of Luther Seminary. A quality grand piano and booking significantly in advance are essential for this presentation.

Paul and Helen Baumgartner

The Power of Music: Ladder for the Soul

“Of all the arts, music alone has the power of waking in us a response to the life movement of the universe....” This interactive session considers the role that music can play in our spiritual lives as a transformational vehicle, a symbolic language, an emotional medium, and a physical tool. We will explore each of these four levels of experience with historical models, musical examples, and practical suggestions for understanding and deepening the powerful effect that music can have on each person.

Patricia Kazarow

Renewing Worship: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

This workshop is designed for congregations who wish to explore this new core resource for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Special focus on the hymns of a particular liturgical season, how to navigate the new settings for Holy Communion services, or just an overview of this volume are just some of the options from which to choose.

Patricia Kazarow

Hymns and Their Stories

Our worship is sustained by our music. We gather for services and sing both new and familiar, beloved hymns. But how often do we pause to meditate on the hymn text itself or take time to observe how the music works with the text to create a sometimes transcendent effect? The presenter will lead participants through the stories of the hymns, enhancing our appreciation of our hymns, and deepening our understanding of the theology of hymns.

Patricia Kazarow

OUR PRESENTERS



Darrell Jodock

The Bernhardson Chair in Lutheran Studies

The Rev. Dr. Darrell H. Jodock came to Gustavus Adolphus College in 1999 as the first Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor of Religion. The purpose of this endowed chair in Lutheran studies is “to represent and teach the Lutheran tradition within the faculty and college, to help interpret and articulate the church-related identity of the college, and to inaugurate educational projects of benefit to the ELCA and the college.” His teaching interests include Lutheran studies, Christian-Jewish Relations, History of Christian Thought, and Nineteenth Century Theology. Jodock has written several papers articulating the church-relatedness of Gustavus, most notably “The Third Path: Gustavus Adolphus College and the Lutheran Tradition.” A number of Jodock’s papers can be found on our Faith and Learning website: gustavus.edu/faith/index.cfm Jodock’s duties keep him busy, but he is available for Partners lectures. Contact the Church Relations Office to inquire about his availability.

“Gustavus affirms its identity as a church-related college. The living Lutheran tradition provides a foundation for the College’s educational vision. Guided by that vision and by the ideals of the liberal arts, the College’s goal is to seek wisdom and to educate community-oriented leaders to serve society.”

– *excerpts from the Gustavus Adolphus College
Church-Relatedness Statement*

Elizabeth Baer

Elizabeth R. Baer served Gustavus from 1992 to 2000 as dean of faculty and vice president for academic affairs. In September 2000, she was appointed the Sponberg Chair of Ethics, a post she held for six years. Dr. Baer currently serves as professor of English. She has published widely on women’s literature and has also authored literary work about women, children and the Holocaust. She has traveled to 23 countries, often with Gustavus students, teaching classes on the Holocaust and on “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland.

Paul and Helen Baumgartner

The Baumgartners both have doctorates in piano and are professors emeriti in the Music Department of Gustavus. They served as missionary teachers in Japan, and have been at Gustavus since 1964.

**Leila Brammer**

Leila Brammer has been a member of the Gustavus faculty since 1997. She is associate professor of communication studies with special teaching interests in rhetorical criticism, reasoned decision, and public speaking. Leila received the Swenson-Bunn Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence in 2002, an honor bestowed by the student body.

John Y. Cha

John Cha is associate professor of religion and chair of the Department of Religion at Gustavus. He holds degrees in the history and literature of religions (Asian religions and Buddhist studies). His other interests include Indian intellectual history, continental philosophy, Christian mysticism, and meditation traditions.

Casey Elledge

Casey Elledge is assistant professor of religion, teaching in the area of New Testament studies. His teaching and research interests include Jesus and the Gospels, Early Judaism, Apocalypticism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. His research incorporates historical, textual, and theological studies of both early Christian and Jewish literature.

Mary Gaebler

Mary Gaebler has been a visiting professor at Gustavus since 2003, teaching in the area of theological ethics. Teaching and research interests include theological anthropology and related issues of human agency. She has a growing interest in theological issues related to consumerism, environmental degradation, and globalization of corporations.

Mimi Gerstbauer

Mimi Gerstbauer joined the Gustavus political science faculty in 2001 and is now an associate professor. Her areas of interest include international relations, politics of developing nations, nongovernmental organizations, peace building and reconciliation, and Latin American politics. She is the director of the peace studies program at Gustavus.

Jim Gilbert

Instructor of environmental studies at Gustavus since 1998 and former executive director of the Linnaeus Arboretum, Jim Gilbert served the Hopkins Public Schools for 30 years as a science teacher and naturalist. He is a consulting naturalist for WCCO Radio, author of two books on nature in Minnesota, and writes a weekly nature column which appears in several newspapers.

Lisa Heldke

Professor of Philosophy Lisa Heldke joined the Gustavus faculty in 1988. She holds the Raymond and Florence Sponberg Chair in Ethics. She is passionate about exploring the philosophical significance of food and is considered a pioneer, with numerous published works, in this growing area.

Douglas Huff

Douglas Huff, professor of philosophy at Gustavus, has published many philosophical essays. He has also produced a number of plays, including *Emil's Enemies*, a play based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, which was selected for the GeVa Theatre's 1995 American Voices Series and was produced off-Broadway by Theatre M in 2001.

(Dr. Huff will be unavailable for Partners in Education presentations during the 2007–2008 academic year.)

Brian Johnson

Brian Johnson has served as chaplain at Gustavus since 1996. In addition to being the artistic director for Christmas in Christ Chapel, he has been chaplain to the Lutheran Summer Music program and lecturer in liturgy at Luther Seminary. Johnson has specific interest in ecumenical dialogue and value development among young adults.

**Bruce H. Johnson**

Bruce Johnson joined Gustavus in 1986. He is currently a professor of management in the department of economics and management. He taught at Växjö University (Sweden) in 1990 and leads student study programs to Scandinavia and Europe during the January Interim.

Chris Johnson

Christopher Johnson is director of Gustavus's Center for Vocational Reflection, a major campus wide initiative begun in 2001 and designed to challenge and equip students, staff, faculty, and friends of the College to live full lives of leadership and service to others. He also teaches courses in theology and ethics for the Religion Department.

Sarah Johnson

A native of Washington State, Sarah Johnson graduated with a degree in history from Seattle Pacific University. She joined the Gustavus religion faculty in 2007. The history of American religion is an area of specialization for her.

Patricia Kazarow

Patricia Kazarow joined the music faculty of Gustavus Adolphus College in 1984. In addition to conducting the Choir of Christ Chapel and teaching at Gustavus, she regularly serves as choral clinician and workshop leader for high school and church choirs, and as the artistic director and conductor of the Prairie Arts Chorale, a professional mixed ensemble of singers from southwestern Minnesota. A frequent lecturer, her special interest is transformational music in traditional and cross-cultural contexts. She recently served as a member of the Renewing Worship Hymnody Editorial Team for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the new core resource for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the primary worship resource for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

June Kloubec

June Kloubec has taught at Gustavus since 1992 and is an associate professor in the department of health and exercise science.



Karen Larson

Professor Karen Larson has taught at Gustavus since 1977, in the areas of anthropology and interdisciplinary studies. Larson profiled the perpetrator of the Unabomber case for the FBI and has become a recognized expert in the field of cultural anthropology in the United States. She has provided commentary on the Unabomber case, the Oklahoma City bombing, abortion clinic bombings, the 9/11 experience and responses, the 2002 mailbox pipe bombings, and the threats of anthrax and ricin. She has taught seminars and lectured on terrorism and serves as a consultant in profiling and terrorism for the FBI and the Rand Corporation.

Karl Larson

Karl Larson joined the Gustavus faculty in 2005 as assistant professor of health and exercise science. His special interests include health education, wellness, and violence prevention.

Richard Leitch

Richard Leitch joined the Gustavus faculty in 1996. He is associate professor and chair of the Department of Political Science at Gustavus. His research interests include Japanese and Chinese domestic politics and foreign policy, and he is the co-author of *Japan's Role in the Post-Cold War World* (1995). At Gustavus he teaches international relations, comparative politics, and Asian politics.

Steven Mellema

Steve Mellema is professor and chair of physics at Gustavus. Born and raised in Minnesota, he served in the Peace Corps in Malaysia from 1972 to 1978. Dr. Mellema embraced Islam more than 30 years ago and is a regular speaker about Islam at schools and churches in our area.

Garrett Paul

Garrett Paul is professor of religion and department chair at Gustavus. His teaching is primarily in the area of historical and contemporary ethics and theology, with special emphasis on medical ethics and social and political ethics. He has written on areas as diverse as the viewpoints of theologians engaged in propaganda for World War I and critical marriage theory.

Amy Pehrson

Amy Pehrson, a Gustavus staff member since 1991, is currently the assistant director of the Center for Vocational Reflection. Married and the mother of three elementary school children, she understands the need for sabbath.

Debra Pitton

Debra Pitton is a professor of education at Gustavus. Prior to joining the faculty in 1997, she was a middle school and high school classroom teacher as well as a K–12 administrator. She has published two books on the process of successful induction into teaching and conducts a mentoring workshop each summer to support teachers working with novice educators.

Grady St. Dennis

An ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Grady St. Dennis is director of church relations at Gustavus. Prior to coming to Gustavus, St. Dennis served as associate pastor at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis from 1999 to 2007. His ministry areas of experience include youth ministry, twenty-something young adults, young married couples, evangelism, and mission outreach.

**Mary Solberg**

Mary M. Solberg grew up in South Dakota, Germany, and Mexico. She has studied American history, sociology, and social work, and has worked as a book editor, social worker, and program administrator.

In the early 1980s she created a program at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to assist undocumented Central American refugees fleeing violence, and represented the Lutheran World

Federation in Central America for several years during El Salvador's civil war. Solberg joined the Gustavus faculty in 1996; she teaches courses in theology, God and gender, and ethics and medicine. She is fluent in Spanish and German, and loves to sing Bach.

Roland Thorstensson

Roland Thorstensson is the chair of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at Gustavus. He grew up on a farm in southern Sweden and came to the U.S. and the University of Washington–Seattle in 1965. Since 1971 he has been on the faculty at Gustavus, where he teaches Swedish language and courses on Nordic life and culture. He and his family have lived in Sweden during two sabbatical leaves (Uppsala and Mora) and in Norway (Tromsø) during a third sabbatical leave.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR RESERVATIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION

To make reservations or receive further information regarding any of the resources listed in this booklet, please contact the Office of Church Relations:

Phone: **507/933-7001** or **800/726-6194**

Fax: **507/933-6337**

E-mail: **church-relations@gustavus.edu**

Website: **gustavus.edu/churchrelations**

E-MAIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Confirmation Retreat Reservations:

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Association of Congregations Retreat Center Reservations:

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When making reservations please be sure to indicate date, congregation name and address, contact person, and group size.

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(All Pastors have delegate status. The number of Lay delegates is determined by the following guidelines)

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751 – 1250	2
1251 – 1750	3

* For each additional 500 members - add one Lay Delegate

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If you have questions regarding the Three Crowns Ambassador program that have not been answered in this handbook, please contact the Gustavus Office of Church Relations at **507/933-7001** or **800/726-6194**.

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OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS STAFF



2007-08 Retreat Coordinators and Personnel
(L to R) **Spencer '09, Sarah '10, Conor '09, Cathryn '10,**
Ben '10, Grady St. Dennis, Marilyn Beyer



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