



• **ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2023 •**

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The definition of community at Gustavus has always included the wider ELCA community. The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

Through the Gustavus Association of Congregations, the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus is connected to over 500 congregations from across the country. These relationships are an important source of Christian faith inspiration and ministry encouragement for the college. We have so very much to be grateful for and always look forward to our time together at the annual Gustavus Association of Congregations business meeting in April 2024.

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we would like you to know our gratitude for your ministry and hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk alongside you in mission. The Office of Church Relations at Gustavus exists because as a college we live from our Christian faith and desire to be in service to the wider community within which we are rooted. We seek to be a place you might consider as a ministry partner and resource for your congregation's educational goals and growth.

**MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:**

• **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 27, 2024**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will gather for a luncheon meeting and feature updates from the Gustavus President and Chair of the Board of Trustees as well as inspiration from Gustavus students. For more information: [gustavus.edu/businessmeeting](https://gustavus.edu/businessmeeting).

• **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 15-21, 2024**, is an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2024 Academy is “*How and Why We Sleep, Revelations in Rest*.” For more information and to nominate a high school student: [gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy](https://gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy).

• **Annual Nobel Conference® — OCTOBER 1-2, 2024** “*Sleep Unraveled*.”

Sleep is a universal human experience and yet its importance is often overlooked. Nobel 60 — Sleep Unraveled brings together an interdisciplinary panel of experts to explore the centrality of sleep for human health and mental well-being. In addition to its role in physical rejuvenation, sufficient high-quality sleep is crucial for cognition, memory, learning, and general health. Sleep loss — whether triggered by noise or light pollution, stress, overwork or conflict with circadian rhythms — has been associated with high blood pressure, weight gain, diabetes and a plethora of other medical conditions. The conference will also delve into the neurological and psychological processes of sleep, the cultural evolution of sleep practices and the social justice implications of a twenty-four hour convenience society that condemns workers to permanent sleep deprivation. More details can be found at: [gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference](https://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference).

• **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 6-8, 2024** This annual tradition in Christ Chapel celebrates and reflects upon the birth of Jesus Christ through worship that features music, dance, spoken word, and the visual arts. Ticket information and archived live stream services can found at: [gustavus.edu/events/cc](https://gustavus.edu/events/cc).

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: [gustavus.edu/churchrelations](https://gustavus.edu/churchrelations). Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Grady St. Dennis  
Associate Vice President of Mission/Executive Chaplain