



• **ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2024** •

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 2025.

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 2025 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 26, 2025** 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.
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 21-27, 2025**, an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2025 Academy is “*The Sweet Life? Getting Granular with Sugar.*” For more information and to nominate a high school student: gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy.
- **Annual Nobel Conference® — OCTOBER 7-8, 2025** “*Sugar: Bringing Sweetness to Light*” Sugar. In the form of glucose, it's the most important source of energy for the human body...and also a substance that can induce cravings as robust as those for cocaine. In the form of cane, beets, and corn, it's an important crop and commodity...and was a driving force in European colonization and the Atlantic slave trade. It's a seemingly-irreplaceable element in celebrations, festivals, and special treats...and a source of “empty calories” in many prepared and processed foods. Sugar in the form of glucose plays a contributing role in adverse health conditions such as diabetes, fatty liver disease, high blood pressure and cancer...and in the form of glycans—complex carbohydrates that cloak the cells of our bodies—it shows promise for playing crucial roles in the treatment of diseases including cancer. Nobel Conference 61 will seek to shed light on this complicated carbohydrate, whose roles in human life are anything but simple. More details can be found at: gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference.
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 5-7, 2025** 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 be found at: 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. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

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

