

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2021 •

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.

This is an exciting year at Gustavus as we celebrate 60 years of Christ Chapel and 35 years of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations! 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 celebrate!

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 2022 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

• **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 30, 2022**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will gather virtually 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 18-24, 2022**, an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2022 Academy is *“Our Beautiful Brain: Neuroscience, Mental Health, and Resilience.”* For more information and to nominate a high school student: gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy.

- **Annual Nobel Conference® — SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2022** *“Mental Health (In)Equity and Young People.”* Prioritizing the mental health concerns of young people has become essential amid times of global pandemic, racism, sexism, ableism, social unrest, climate change, and political upheaval. Nobel Conference 58 will address mental health disparities and their effects on youth, with a particular emphasis on the significance of identity, trauma and technology. More details can be found at: gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference.

- **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 1-4, 2022** 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. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director of Church Relations