



• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2022 •

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 2023.

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 2023 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

• Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 29, 2023

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 17-23, 2023, an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2023 Academy is *“Small but Mighty: How our Relationship with Bugs Can Change the World.”* For more information and to nominate a high school student: gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy.

• Annual Nobel Conference®— OCTOBER 3-4, 2023 *“Insects: Little Body, Big Impact.”*

Insects are tiny. Their effects—on us, and on their environment—are anything but. Humans' lives are inextricably connected with insects', in ways that both benefit and harm us (and them). Insects also have their own lives that have nothing to do with us humans, but from which we might learn a great deal. If we observe, contemplate, and recreate facets of insects' ways in the world, we may find in their lives the inspiration to constructively and creatively address many of the challenges of our time, from a global nutrition crisis to the challenges of social isolation. More details can be found at: gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference.

• Christmas in Christ Chapel— DECEMBER 1-3, 2023 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.

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