



AN OUTREACH OF CHURCH RELATIONS

# THE SPIRE

Strengthening the presence of the Church in the College and the presence of the College in the Church.

Volume 13:2 | Spring 2012

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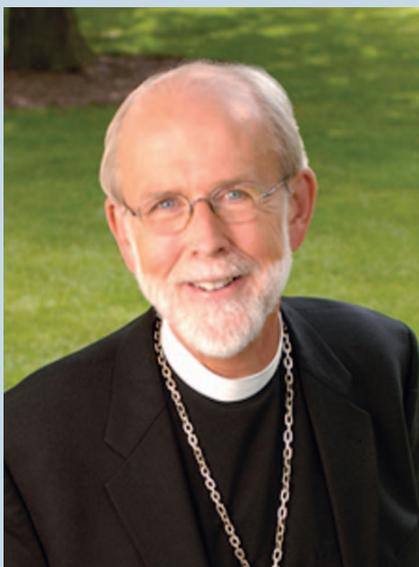
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The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, is slated to bring the keynote address at this year's Convention.

## Convention 2012: Celebrating 150 Years of Faith at Gustavus

### 25th Annual Association of Congregations Convention to be held Saturday, April 21

PASTOR GRADY ST. DENNIS, Director of Church Relations and College Chaplain

From the very founding of Gustavus Adolphus College, a deep sense of vocation has been the strong heartbeat and driving life force leading us in our calling to help students attain their full potential as persons, developing in them a passion for lifelong learning and preparing them for lives of leadership and service in society. We understand, as did Martin Luther, that the Christian life is one of service to God and neighbor in one's place of everyday responsibilities. We are proud of our roots in the Lutheran Church and believe our calling in Lutheran higher education strongly aids Christians for this vocation and serves the common good for Church and society.

In 2007, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted a social teaching statement called *Our Calling in Education*. Regarding the work of the Lutheran schools and colleges and universities, two questions were asked: "Will Our Church Have Schools and Colleges?" and "Will Our Schools and Colleges Have a Church?"

At this year's Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations convention, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will help us reflect upon these questions. He will deliver the keynote address, "The Future of Lutheran Higher Education."

The 25th annual convention of the Gustavus

Adolphus College Association of Congregations will be held Saturday, April 21, 2012. Morning worship in Christ Chapel will feature special music by Gustavus students with beloved retired Gustavus chaplain Richard Elvee preaching. The convention offering for 2012 has been designated for the Church Relations outreach ministries of the Center for Servant Leadership.

During the breakfast business meeting session in Alumni Hall, Association delegates will elect members to the Gustavus Board of Trustees, and the Association's Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. Following the keynote address in Christ Chapel, GACAC convention guests will be served a light lunch. The day will conclude with a food pack service-learning event designated for Feed My Starving Children from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lund Arena.

**NOTE—NEW FOR 2012!** The revised GACAC convention day format will feature a festive breakfast meeting at 8:30 a.m. in Alumni Hall for congregational voting delegates and pastors. Association business will be conducted at this time and the Covenant Award presented.

Association member congregations are currently updating information about their staff and delegates. We ask church offices to please make sure we have correct information regarding who should be invited to represent your congregation on Saturday, April 21.

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## From the Director

PASTOR GRADY ST. DENNIS, Director of Church Relations and College Chaplain



*"Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the  
sea, a path in the mighty  
waters... Do not remember  
the former things, or  
consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new  
thing; now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it? I*

*will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in  
the desert."—Isaiah 43:16, 18–19*

Grace and peace to you from the Gustavus  
Center for Servant Leadership!

It is a very tempting thing to live in the  
past. Especially, when there is so much in that  
heritage that has been great and a blessing. Yet,  
ours is not only a story of what God has done,  
but even more so a present-day testimony of  
what God continues to do in this generation.  
This year, as we celebrate 150 years of faith at  
Gustavus Adolphus College, we do so giving  
thanks for the strong roots God has set for  
us and excitedly we declare that we indeed  
perceive God continuing to inspire faith in  
new ways today.

## Fragodt resigns from Association Board of Directors

The Rev. Brian Fragodt '81, member and  
president of the Gustavus Adolphus College  
Association of Congregations (GACAC) Board  
of Directors since 2007, was elected in April  
2011 to a concurrent term on the College's  
Board of Trustees. Given those additional  
responsibilities, he has resigned from the  
Association Board.

Fragodt is greatly appreciated for his  
visioning and commitment to the College's  
relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of America. He served as a member of  
the Faith Task Force of Commission Gustavus  
150 during 2008–09.

Currently serving as chairperson of the  
Enrollment Management Committee of the  
Board of Trustees, Fragodt feels the Association  
is well represented among the trustees. The  
Rev. John Hogenson '81, Association board  
president, serves as an *ex-officio* member of  
the Board of Trustees and on that board's  
Executive Committee.

I hope you find the ministries Gustavus  
provides to the congregations through  
the Church Relations outreach ministries  
of the Center for Servant Leadership an  
encouragement and resource for you and your  
congregation. Thank you to the many who  
have taken advantage of the excellent ministry  
resources we make available to the church.  
This edition of The Spire is filled with details  
about our festive GACAC Convention on April  
21. We have many special things planned for  
this great day of celebration. Please mark your  
calendars today and plan to join us! We are a  
college of the church and we count it a privilege  
to be your partner in faith and learning.  
May the Lord propel us in "new things" this  
year together that we might do even more to  
strengthen the tie of faith in Jesus Christ that  
binds us and so, offer a present day testimony of  
what God continues to do in love!

"Serving on the Association Board these past  
five years has been a joy!" says Fragodt. "The  
unique relationship between the Church and  
Gustavus grows deeper each year, thanks to the  
commitment of Association congregations and  
the visionary leadership of the Reverend Grady  
St. Dennis and Marilyn Beyer. It has been an  
honor to serve on the Association Board, and  
I look forward to involvement in other roles in  
the future."

Fragodt is senior pastor at Our Saviour's  
Lutheran Church of East Bethel. He is married  
to Kim (Beyer '83).

An appointment will be made to serve the  
vacant position. During the 2012 business  
meeting of the Association on April 21, an  
election will be held to fill the position for the  
remainder of the term.



The Reverends Dennis Johnson and Susan Peterson will coordinate the Three Crowns Ambassador Program.

Dr. Greg Aune, holder of the new Jon and Anita Thomsen Young Distinguished Endowed Chair in Music, is director of the Gustavus Choir.  
Photo by Tom Roster

## Johnson and Peterson team to coordinate Three Crowns Ambassador Program

The Reverends Dennis J. Johnson '60 and Susan Peterson '65 are serving as program coordinators for the Three Crowns Ambassador Program, a volunteer program of church relations in the College's Center for Servant Leadership. The goal of this program is to give every member congregation of the Association of Congregations a designated representative to shepherd the congregation's relationship with the College and help cultivate stronger relationships.

Gustavus's mission complements congregational ministry. Gustavus makes numerous resources available to congregations, because we consider our College to be your partner in ministry. We are challenged by communicating the availability of these resources, and by knowing what the needs of the congregations are.

At this writing, the coordinators are working with Area Representatives to broaden and better develop the program. Area Representatives are volunteers who each provide a shepherding presence for a team of 3 to 5 assigned congregations. The Area Representatives will recruit, train and support Three Crowns Ambassadors in the assigned congregations, and meet regularly with those volunteer Ambassadors, who in turn work with their congregations' clergy and lay delegates. Prayer concerns and needs of congregations are of great interest to Johnson and Peterson.

Through the building up of this program, it is believed that stronger lines of communication at the grassroots level will help the Church Relations staff and others at Gustavus to build closer relationships with those congregations, listen to concerns, and better identify the needs, engagement, and satisfaction of alumni and of the congregations.

Both coordinators have been examples of extraordinary leadership and ministry. Johnson previously served in multiple roles at Gustavus, including as interim college president from 2007 to 2008. Peterson served as senior pastor at Gloria Dei in St. Paul until 2010 and is the first woman to lead an ELCA congregation of over 1,000 members.

## Signature Event: Gustavus Music Showcase returns!

Gustavus Adolphus College and the Department of Music are featuring four premier touring ensembles in the Music Showcase 2012, to be held March 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis. The College's international touring ensembles—the Gustavus Choir, the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, and the Gustavus Wind Orchestra, as well as the Jazz Lab Band—will perform together at this event.

All four ensembles will perform a piece commissioned by a prominent composer. Eric Whitacre has been commissioned to prepare a piece for the Gustavus Choir, under the direction of Gregory Aune. The Symphony Orchestra, directed by Ruth Lin, will perform a new piece by Chen Yi. James Stephenson is writing a piece for the Wind Orchestra, under the direction of Douglas Nimmo; and Alan Blaylock will prepare a piece for the Jazz Lab Band, directed by Steve Wright.

This signature event, returning during this year of sesquicentennial celebrations, is a unique opportunity for College musicians to perform for a new audience in a different venue. Professional experiences such as this help students to grow as musicians and to appreciate the work that goes into a professional performance. An added benefit is that students get better acquainted with musicians from the other student ensembles. The showcase was previously held in 2005, 2006, and 2008.

Students, alumni, parents, and friends are invited to celebrate the work of these ensembles. Tickets are \$17.50 for adults, and \$10 for students 18 and under. All seats are general admission (no reserved seating). Tickets are available at [gustavustickets.com](http://gustavustickets.com).

For more information about the Gustavus Music Showcase, visit [gustavus.edu /events/musicshowcase](http://gustavus.edu/events/musicshowcase).

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAY 2012

### SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY:

*All events scheduled in the Johnson Student Union and Jackson Campus Center*

- 8:30 a.m. Registration opens  
Opening, welcome, and music
- 9:30 a.m. Workshop #1
- 10:50 a.m. Small-group reflection time  
Round table talks for staff and volunteers
- 11:45 a.m. Bag lunch
- 12:20 p.m. Time to see & explore highlights of the campus
- 1 p.m. Workshop #2
- 2:10 p.m. Small group reflection time
- 2:40 p.m. Closing session
- 3 p.m. Sending reception



**Gina DeNucci, student intern, will coordinate Student Leadership Day 2012.**



**This marks the fourth year for Student Leadership Day at Gustavus.**

## Meet Gina DeNucci

Gina DeNucci '12 of Chanhassen, Minnesota, a sociology/anthropology major and a defensive player on the Gustavus women's hockey team, is joining the Church Relations staff in the Center for Servant Leadership as the spring semester student intern. DeNucci will work with the Church Relations staff to coordinate Student Leadership Day on April 21, the major youth event held concurrently with the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations Convention. She will also assist with other ministries of Church Relations, including Pastor-2-Pastor and the Exploring Religious Questions minicourse.

DeNucci enjoys event planning and working with youth. Her previous experiences include coordinating major youth events for her home congregation, Mount Olivet Lutheran in Minneapolis, at their camp near Lutsen.

Identified learning objectives of this internship include experiences in faith and self-discernment. Other aspects of the internship include job shadowing opportunities with Grady St. Dennis, her internship site supervisor. She will journal insights about her experiences and will write a final reflection paper. DeNucci is open to possibilities about her career following completion of her undergraduate degree.

Internships at Gustavus give students new perspectives for possibilities following the undergraduate experience. Over 60% of Gustavus students participate in an internship during their college years. Through hands-on experiences, internship projects are meant to be challenging, meaningful, and instructional.

## Your congregation updates needed!

At the beginning of every calendar year, we review the records in our database to identify as clearly as possible who the clergy and lay delegates are for all of our Association member congregations! As you know from your own experiences, maintaining up-to-date congregational records is always a challenge!

All clergy of Association member congregations are voting delegates at our annual convention, this year scheduled for April 21. Based on congregation size, and knowing that pastors often have schedule conflicts on convention day, each congregation also has a number of lay delegates. These leaders are important representatives of your congregations in helping Gustavus remain connected to the Church! Your representatives also are key in the governance of the College, in the election of our Board of Trustees and Association of Congregations Board.

Please make sure your congregation has representatives at the April 21 convention of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations (GACAC). Every year, we carefully plan a day that we know will be both interesting and a blessing to all who are able to attend! For the day's events, guests are welcome. Individual invitations will soon be sent to all clergy and representatives on record; please pre-register all attending; registration is needed for lunch and also for the afternoon food pack!



Round table talks for youth ministry staff and volunteers, and small group discussions for high school students, will offer a forum for reflecting on principles of leadership and sharing practical ideas. | Photo by Stacia Vogel

## Student Leadership Day at Gustavus: A great opportunity for students and youth leaders

THE REV. DEAN SMITH, Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna

High school students and their leaders are invited to come to campus on Saturday, April 21, 2012, for the fourth annual Student Leadership Day at Gustavus Adolphus College. You will enjoy time to reflect, and to consider possibilities and your impact as a leader—this experience may be exactly what you are waiting for!

Bring your high school youth and leaders in youth ministry to Student Leadership Day 2012 at Gustavus! All levels of leadership will enjoy a fun, interactive day of leadership training.

The Gustavus Center for Servant Leadership welcomes high school students and their leaders—paid as well as volunteer leaders—to explore ways to make significant contributions to their congregations and ministries by exercising their God-given gifts for leadership. Students will have opportunities throughout the day to meet and spend time with other students from a variety of congregations and ministries and with Gustavus student leaders, who will help them reflect on key teaching points.

The Student Leadership Day event was begun in 2009 at Gustavus with about 50 participants and in four years has grown to over 150 students and leaders gathering each year to learn, grow, and explore Christian leadership that is faith-centered and effective—implementing practical principles that are valuable at church, at home, at school, and in the community. The experience will involve upbeat music, presentations, and time for thoughtful reflection. Students attending for the first time will be excited by the new potential for leadership they see within themselves, and students who have attended in the past will find something new to learn and take away from the day.

Gustavus has partnered with Youth Leadership of Minneapolis to create a day featuring large group learning, small group discussion, and time to strategize about applying what has been learned to the life and ministry of participants' congregations. The main talks will be delivered by experienced ministry professionals from the Youth Leadership team. Gustavus students will facilitate the conversations with the high

school youth. This event will encourage students to consider their own leadership gifts and how they can share those gifts with the ministry of their congregations.

Youth workers will have an opportunity to learn from each other and from other youth ministry professionals during a leaders-only lunch and round-table discussions. Tiger McLuen of Youth Leadership in Minneapolis will share practical ideas for growing a vibrant youth ministry. There will also be some fantastic give-aways from Youth Leadership—gift certificates for training events and seminars that will improve ministries and sharpen skills—for those just beginning in youth ministry as well as more seasoned veterans. There is great value in this event for everyone!

The day is being held simultaneously with the Association of Congregations Convention, but is a separate event. We encourage your clergy and lay delegates to come for Convention and the servant-leadership mobile food pack in the afternoon, while youth and their leaders experience Student Leadership Day. These separate events will not be intermingled.

The \$10 per person Student Leadership Day registration fee (including for adult leaders) includes lunch and all materials you will need for the day. The schedule begins with registration at 8:30 in the morning and ends at 3:00 in the afternoon—with lots of great stuff in-between!

To register for Student Leadership Day or if you have questions, call Gina DeNucci at 507-933-7073. For information and registration forms, go to [gustavus.edu/churchrelations/studentleadershipday](http://gustavus.edu/churchrelations/studentleadershipday). Please join us for an inspiring day on April 21!

**GACAC CONVENTION 2012 TO BE HELD ON APRIL 21 WITH A NEW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS!**

**SCHEDULE FOR CLERGY & VOTING DELEGATES:**

- 8 a.m. Registration  
*Jackson Campus Center*
- 8:30 a.m. GACAC Business Meeting  
Breakfast  
*Alumni Hall*
- Elections & Covenant Award Presentation
- 10:15 a.m. Morning Worship  
Rev. Richard Elvee, homilist  
*Christ Chapel*
- 11 a.m. “*The Future of Lutheran Higher Education*”  
Bishop Mark S. Hanson
- Noon Lunch  
*Jackson Campus Center*
- 12:30 Mobile Food Pack Event with  
-3 p.m. Feed My Starving Children  
(Service-learning event)  
*Lund Center*
- 3 p.m. Closing Reception  
*Johnson Student Union foyer*

**SCHEDULE FOR NON-VOTING GUESTS:**

- 9:15 a.m. Registration & Coffee  
*Jackson Campus Center*
- 10:15 a.m. Morning Worship
- 11 a.m. Keynote address
- Noon Luncheon
- 12:30 Mobile Food Pack Event  
-3 p.m.
- 3 p.m. Closing Reception

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

All clergy and voting delegates are to register in advance for the breakfast, lunch, and food pack event, or portions in which you plan to participate.

Guests are welcome! Please register for lunch and the food pack event, as you plan to participate.

Questions? Call Marilyn at 507-933-7001 or e-mail church-relations@gustavus.edu.



**Darrell Jodock, Bernhardsen Chair and professor emeritus, and Sarah Johnson Ruble, assistant professor in religion, team up to teach the winter minicourse about religion in the public square.**

## “Religion & Politics: Sorting Things Out” is topic for Winter 2012 Exploring Religious Questions minicourse

What role should religion play in public debate? What are the limits? How should religious people participate?

Professor emeritus Darrell Jodock will bring to the classroom a new topic for the Exploring Religious Questions series. In the fourth year of holding these adult education classes at Gustavus, a timely topic titled “Religion & Politics: Sorting Things Out” will be the eighth minicourse in the series.

2012 is an election year. We hear a lot of appeals to religion—some emphasizing its importance, and others worrying about the effects of religion on public policy. Unfortunately, the appeals made during a political campaign sometimes obscure more than they explain, or polarize more than they unite. How can we make room for the positive contributions of religion, while simultaneously recognizing and limiting those forms of influence that harm society?

This course will examine some examples of religion’s positive contributions to American life and some examples of its harmful effects. The course will also examine different models for understanding the relationship of religion and public life—the “Christendom” model, the “Deist” model, the “Civil Religion” model, the “withdrawal” model, and the “engagement” model. Some attention will be given to balancing social values that can be in tension, such as security, liberty, and justice. The course

will draw insight from the past to illuminate code words and alternative positions that vie for our attention in the present.

*Course outline (subject to adjustment):*

Session 1: Formative Influences

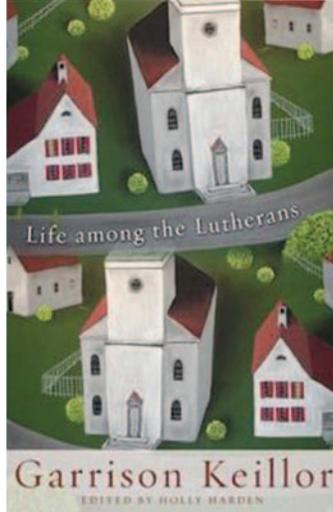
Session 2: Models of Religion and Public Life

Session 3: Religion in the Public Square—Beneficial or Not? (Contributions of religion in civil movements, and negative effects of religion)

Session 4: The Effects of Silence; the Effects of Growing Diversity. (Includes discussion of the importance of truth, effects of negative rhetoric, growing religious diversity, and 20th-century Supreme Court Decisions)

Session 5: Case studies and issues of public debate in America today (possible issues include immigration, health care, inequality of wealth, America’s role in the world)

The course will meet on five Monday evenings from February 20 to March 19 (snow date March 26), from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cost to enroll in this not-for-credit course is \$35. Please call 507-933-7001 for registration information, or find the registration form online at [gustavus.edu/church-relations](http://gustavus.edu/church-relations). Space is limited. (Enrollment deadline Feb. 16.)



Augustana  
Heritage  
Association



Garrison Keillor, American author, storyteller, humorist, and radio personality, will appear at the opening of Gathering VIII on June 21. Professor James Bratt of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., will give a presentation for the Commuter Day on June 23.

## Gustavus hosts AHA Gathering June 21-24, 2012

THE REV. WAYNE PETERSON, Senior Pastor, Saint Barnabas Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN

“A Living Legacy” will be the theme for Gathering VIII of the Augustana Heritage Association (AHA), to be held at Gustavus Adolphus College June 21-24, 2012. Remember the past, enjoy the legacy, and celebrate the future.

In 1860, a small group of Swedes (among them, Eric Norelius, who two years later would found Gustavus Adolphus College) met in Andover, Illinois, and formed a new denomination that would focus on ministering to the growing number of Swedish immigrants in the United States. The denomination was named after the Lutheran foundational statement of faith, the Augsburg Confession, which in Latin is known as *Augustana*.

The Augustana Synod thrived for 102 years and in 1962 merged with three other Lutheran church bodies to form the Lutheran Church in America. Twenty-five years later, the LCA became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

People who grew up in Augustana congregations and cherished its distinctive legacy formed the Augustana Heritage Association (AHA) in 2000. The AHA’s purpose is to “define, promote and perpetuate the heritage and legacy of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church.”

The AHA has held biennial mid-summer gatherings since then and this summer will meet at Gustavus Adolphus College June 21-24 under the theme, “A Living Legacy.” The AHA met at Gustavus once before, in 2004, and now returns for Gustavus’ sesquicentennial year and the 50th anniversary of Augustana’s merger into the LCA.

The Gathering begins on Thursday evening, June 21, with a hymn sing led by **Garrison Keillor**, the bard of Lake Wobegone and author of *Life Among the Lutherans*. (Tickets will be available for the public to attend the Keillor event.)

Among the featured speakers will be Bishop Antje Jackelén of the Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden, Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the ELCA’s Global Mission Unit, and David Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA.

### Christ Chapel – An Augustana Legacy

The presence of Christ Chapel in the center of the Gustavus campus is itself an Augustana legacy. In the late 1950s, knowing that the Augustana Synod would soon be merging with other church bodies, the congregations of the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Synod determined to make a parting gift to Gustavus by building a chapel for the College. Christ Chapel was completed in January 1962, just as the Augustana Synod officially became part of the LCA.

There are just over 250 former Augustana congregations in Minnesota today. Members of these congregations are encouraged to attend all of this Augustana Gathering, but there is also a special “Commuter Day” option on Saturday, June 23. All congregations are encouraged to send a careful of folks to learn a little bit about their congregation’s spiritual roots and legacy. The commuter experience begins with an 11:00 a.m. worship service using the old Augustana liturgy, followed by a buffet lunch, and then a 2:00 presentation on “Augustana in American Church History” by **Dr. James Bratt**, professor of church history at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Cost for the Commuter Day option is only \$15 per person. The offering collected that day will go to the Christ Chapel Endowment Fund.

Registration information for the Augustana Heritage Gathering, for the Commuter Day experience, and for the hymn-sing with Garrison Keillor is available online at [www.gustavus.edu/servantleadership/aha](http://www.gustavus.edu/servantleadership/aha). For questions about registration or the Gathering schedule, contact Amy Pehrson at 507-933-7169 or [apehrson@gustavus.edu](mailto:apehrson@gustavus.edu).



## Center for Servant Leadership, Church Relations

507-933-7001 | Toll-free 800-726-6194 | [gustavus.edu/churchrelations](http://gustavus.edu/churchrelations)  
Office Hours 8 a.m.–4:45 p.m. M–F (unavailable during Chapel 10–10:30 a.m.)

### BECOME A MEMBER!

Is your ELCA congregation not a member of the Association of Congregations but interested in joining? Contact the Office of Church Relations.

#### Pastor Grady St. Dennis '92

Director of Church Relations and  
College Chaplain  
507-933-7661 | [stdennis@gustavus.edu](mailto:stdennis@gustavus.edu)

#### Marilyn Beyer

Assistant Director of Church Relations  
507-933-7001 | [mbeyer@gustavus.edu](mailto:mbeyer@gustavus.edu)

#### Gina DeNucci, Student Intern

507-933-7073  
[church-relations@gustavus.edu](mailto:church-relations@gustavus.edu)

Fax 507-933-6337

#### Confirmation Retreats Program

507-933-7023  
[confirmation-retreats@gustavus.edu](mailto:confirmation-retreats@gustavus.edu)

#### Gustavus Youth Outreach (GYO)

507-933-7585  
[youthoutreach@gustavus.edu](mailto:youthoutreach@gustavus.edu)

#### Adult Retreats Program

507-933-7001  
[retreat-center@gustavus.edu](mailto:retreat-center@gustavus.edu)

#### Partners Programs

507-933-7001  
[church-relations@gustavus.edu](mailto:church-relations@gustavus.edu)

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