



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester



From the Desk of Pastor Connie...



Greetings,

The Story of the Christmas Guest

It happened one day at the year's white end, Two neighbors called on an old-time friend And they found his shop so meager and mean, Made merry with a thousand boughs of green, And Conrad was sitting with face a-shine, When he suddenly stopped as he stitched a twine And said, "Old friends, at dawn today, When the cock was crowing the night away,

The Lord appeared in a dream to me, And said, 'I am coming your guest to be.' So I've been busy with feet astir, Strewing my shop with branches of fir, The table is spread and the kettle is shined, And over the rafters the holly is twined, And now I will wait for my Lord to appear, And listen closely so I will hear

His step as He nears my humble place, And I open the door and look in His face." So his friends went home and left Conrad alone, For this was the happiest day he had known, For, long since, his family had passed away, And Conrad has spent a sad Christmas Day. But he knew with the Lord as his Christmas guest, This Christmas would be the dearest and best,

And he listened with only joy in his heart. And with every sound he would rise with a start And look for the Lord to be standing there, In answer to his earnest prayer. So he ran to the window after hearing a sound, But all that he saw on the snow-covered ground Was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn, And all of his clothes were ragged and worn.

So Conrad was touched and went to the door, And he said, "Your feet must be frozen and sore, And I have some shoes in my shop for you, And a coat that will keep you warmer, too." So with grateful heart the man went away, But as Conrad noticed the time of day He wondered what made the dear Lord so late, And how much longer he'd have to wait,

When he heard a knock and ran to the door, But it was only a stranger once more, A bent, old crone with a shawl of black, A bundle of kindling piled on her back. She asked for only a place to rest, But that was reserved for Conrad's Great Guest. But her voice

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2019

Ruth's Pantry

Needs Cereal



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seemed to plead, "Don't send me away, Let me rest awhile on Christmas day."

So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup, And told her to sit at the table and sip. But after she left he was filled with dismay, For he saw that the hours were passing away And the Lord had not come as He said He would, And Conrad felt sure he had misunderstood. When out of the stillness he heard a cry, "Please help me and tell me where am I."

So again he opened his friendly door, And stood disappointed as twice before, It was only a child who had wandered away, And was lost from her family on Christmas Day. Again Conrad's heart was heavy and sad, But he knew he should make this little child glad, So he called her in and wiped her tears, And quieted her childish fears.

Then he led her back to her home once more, But as he entered his own darkened door, He knew that the Lord was not coming today, For the hours of Christmas had passed away. So he went to his room and knelt down to pray, And he said, "Dear Lord, why did you delay? What kept You from coming to call on me, For I wanted so much Your face to see."

When soft in the silence a voice he heard, "Lift up your head, for I kept My word Three times My shadow crossed your floor – Three times I came to your lonely door For I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet, I was the woman you gave to eat, And I was the child on the homeless street. Three times I knocked and three times I came in, And each time I found the warmth of a friend. Of all the gifts, love is the best, And I was honored to be your Christmas Guest."

-- Helen Steiner Rice

Perhaps, you too, have missed Christ's visit to your home, because you did not see him through others . . . Jesus Christ is God's GIFT to all humankind. God's Christmas greeting to you with love and calling us to remember that He comes to us today through you . . . me . . . everyone. If you understand this . . . you will not fail to recognize the guest who comes to your door. Open your heart to his Christ-

mas greeting and gifts, so he can live in you and you live in him. Become a blessing to others as the Christ child blessed you!

Peace and blessings in the New Year!

Pastor Connie

OWLS

The OWLS group at Grace Lutheran is made up of anyone who is retired and wants to get together with other parishioners periodically for a good meal and some good fellowship. OWLS meets the second Thursday of each month at noon. All are invited. The main part of the meal is provided and is always delicious! Bring a friend and some food to pass and spend a good time with your friends.



Winter Weather

For up-to-the-date information on cancellations of services, classes, events, or the closing of the office, follow us on Facebook at

www.Facebook.com/GraceofWinchester

Information will also be listed on local television stations; however, depending on the station, there could be a slight delay in the notification.

Also note that when activities in the Winneconne Community School District are cancelled, activities at Grace Lutheran will also be cancelled.

Let's Pray!

January Birthdays

EACH MONTH WE PRAY FOR A DIFFERENT MINISTRY IN OUR CONGREGATION . . .

THIS MONTH LET'S PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Ryan Olson, Mark Rieckmann, Richard Terio, Pete Uvaas, Dayna Williamson, Dave Wisnefske, Sara Zeinert, Pastor Connie Bramlett

WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU AS YOU MINISTER AT GRACE AND IN OUR COMMUNITY!

- 1 Margaret Johnson
535 Old Orchard Road
P.O. Box 221
Winneconne, WI 54986
- 9 Ron Diley
W10849 State Road 96
Fremont, WI 54940



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Other Key Contacts

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Alissa Olson	920-277-7619

Rob Nelson, Chairperson
gracefinancialclerk@gmail.com

Organists — Todd Repp, Jessica McGinnis, Carol Reichert, Gerry Marks
Custodians — Gene Walter, Kendrick Beal
Power Point Master — Patti Nelson

Love flows from Grace

May you have the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ!

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00 p.m. Wor- ship	3	4	5
6 Ehipany 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:20 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	7 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	8 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	9 2:00 –8:30 p.m. Cackles and Cards 6:00 Worship and Confirmation	10 Noon OWLS 6:00 p.m. Council	11	12
13 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:20 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	14 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	15	16 6:00 p.m. Wor- ship and Con- firmation	17 6:00 p.m. Meals Ministry	18	19 8:00 a.m. Meals Minis- try
20 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:20 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	21 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	22 6:30 p.m. Prop- erty Team	23 6:00 p.m. Wor- ship and Con- firmation	24	25	26
27 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:20 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	28 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	29 8:30 a.m. Sew- ing Circle	30 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 6:00 p.m. Wor- ship and Con- firmation	31		

Council Highlights



Council Meeting, December 13, 2018

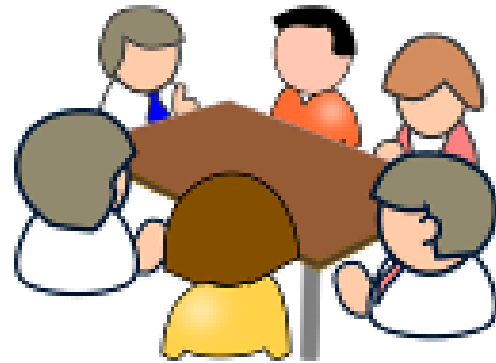
- November’s net income was a negative \$17,471. This brings us to a negative \$46,845 year to date. The Council is hoping for year-end generosity.
- The task force did not meet in December but will resume meeting in January
- Morgan Zeinert and Camey Hall will begin training in January for the Crossways Camping Ministry Capital Campaign.
- The Council has extended a standing invitation to the members of the Ruth’s Pantry Board to attend any Council Meeting for directional clarity.
- A new computer given to Grace will be set up in the sanctuary to potentially provide streaming services online via Facebook for folks who can’t attend the worship ser-

vices.

- The directory project is regaining traction with efforts led by Margo Harrison
- Four members are planning to be delegates at the Appleton Annual Conference in February.

—Richard Terio, Council Secretary

NOTE: All members are invited to attend the council meetings.



January Worship Assistants—8:15

Altar Assistant — Paula Nyback
Lay Reader — Karla Holl

January 6 — Usher Team 3
Greeters — David & Jan Olson
Communion Assistants — Team 5

January 13 — Usher Team 4
Greeters — Ruth Ann Wisnefske
Communion Assistants — Team 1

January 20 — Usher Team 1
Greeter — Mary Schmidt, Dayna & Randy Williamson
Communion Assistants — Team 2

January 27 — Usher Team 2
Greeter — Paula Nyback
Communion Assistants — Team 3

January Worship Assistants—10:30

Lay Reader — Patti Nelson

January 6 — Usher Team 3
Greeter — Linda Breaker
Communion Assistants — Team 5

January 13 — Usher Team 4
Greeter — Linda Kromm
Communion Assistants — Team 1

January 20 — Usher Team 1
Greeters — Dave & Gayle Wisnefske
Communion Assistants — Team 2

January 27 — Usher Team 2
Greeters — Ray & June Breaker
Communion Assistants — Team 3

Library Notes

Here are two wonderful book donations and one out of the old files!

Both donations were published by Rose Publishing.

- *Deluxe Then and Now Bible Maps*
Information is divided into Old Testament Peoples and Places and New Testament People and Places. It includes maps of different places like the Tower of Babel and Garden of Eden, Damascus, Rome, Pompeii. Shows places of ancient times. Has wonderful overlays so you can see what is built in these places today. Everything is in color.
- *Bible Charts, Maps, and Time Lines*
Everything is reproducible. Bible time line in clear history sections. Overview of Christianity, Cults, and Religions and how they intersect. Lists 100 key people in the Bible and how and where they intersect. Contains A Tree of Denominations. Doctrines of each. Again, everything in color – easy to see, to read, and to understand. Good for students and teachers alike.
- *Everyday Life in Bible Times*
This book has been in our library since the 70's and has never been taken out. It is published by the National Geographic Society. Many colored pictures and easy to read: how the people lived, how they battled, where they lived, how they traveled. One of the pages it opens up to is "In the Footsteps of Paul – From Damascus to Caesar's Rome." This book tells you the story. The other books above will show you the maps of where they journeyed.

Please show me that you are interested in keeping this book in our library. It is wonderful reference material and even looking at the pictures is very interesting and educational.

Sandy

Talk to Jesus

It's estimated that on average, an American makes 6 phone calls per day and sends 32 text messages --- 38 conversations or more defining a day. If you relate, may I encourage you to make one last call at the end of your day. Make it a call to Jesus in prayer. Just talk to him as you did the others . . . something like this poem from an unknown author:

Hello Father,

I called tonight to talk a little while
I need a friend who'll listen to my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it through another day on my own
I need your love, Jesus, to guide me, so I'll never feel alone.

Lord I want to ask you, please, to keep my family safe and sound
Come, Holy Spirit, and fill their lives with confidence for where they're bound.

Give me faith, Father, to face each hour throughout my day
And not to worry over things I cannot change anyway.

I thank you, Jesus, for being available and listening to my call
For giving me such wonderful advice when I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one that answers every time
I never get a busy signal, never have to pay a single dime.

So, thank you Lord for listening to my troubles and my sorrow
Good night, I love You, and I'll call again tomorrow!

Prayer: Father, thank You that You are available to listen whenever I call. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

FVLH

Apartments for rent: 1-bedroom & 2-bedroom; Call Becky or Katie at 734-7225.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes:

Thanks for an awesome Fall Appeal drive! We raised over \$19,000 for our new roof! Thanks to all our supporters! We love you!!!



Ruth's Pantry

Calling All Church Members

Where do you fit in God's Plan?

Where can you be of service to others? To Grace? To God?

Ruth's Pantry is in need of specific capabilities for a short time. Some of our volunteers are visiting warmer climates in January and February. Some of our volunteers are handling medical conditions in the near future.

Will you help Winchester, Winnebago County, Grace Lutheran Church, and your neighbors?

We need two volunteers to work Monday mornings from 9:00-11:00 for two months.

We all know Aesop's fable about the donkey moving for carrots or the donkey moving because of a stick. Will you be the carrots of service to help Grace fulfill one of its mission projects or will you be the stick that makes it impossible to continue this mission project?

To volunteer or for more information, please call

Sandra Terio, 920-836-0267 I do not hear well and don't always answer the phone so please leave a message.

A big thank you to everyone who made holiday meal donations. To each family we gave out a turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberries, mixings for green bean casserole, Granny Smith apples, and a pumpkin pie.

Current Pantry needs are shampoo and cereal.



Thank You

A sincere thank you to Grace for the beautiful poinsettia and the good visit with Ellen. I really enjoyed it.
—Betty Nelson

Thank you for the card and the poinsettia. It brightens my day. Thank you also to Jacob and Ryan Larsen for bringing it to my home. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.
—Patricia Gulbrandsen

Thank you. The pretty red poinsettia and very lovely card, and the fun visit from Pam, Paula, and Jim made my day!! Christmas blessings to all.
—Betty Uvaas

Thank you, Grace Lutheran, for the lovely plant. I will try to keep it alive until the season has passed. Love to all!
—Ardis Peterson

A big thank you to the volunteers who did such a wonderful job of decorating our church (inside and out) for the holiday season. It is uplifting to walk into a church that is so lovely.

Thank you to Jim and Pam McLeod and Paula Nyback and Patty and Penny for arranging and preparing for the Christmas OWLS celebration. The entertainment was top notch, and the food was EVEN BETTER than top notch. Those of you who do not regularly come to OWLS are missing a great time of love and fellowship. (I wonder what the history is regarding the term "top notch.") 🤔

Many thanks to Ellen Pitsch and her lieutenants for their work with the children's music throughout the year and for the Christmas program. It was great!

Thanks to Amy Jo and Wendy for the yearly poinsettia sale. It is a big job, and everyone at Grace benefits from it.

Thanks to Alissa for handling orders for poinsettias and our giving (even when the results are depressing) and for all of her efforts with the youth activities, together with the youth board.

Thanks to Gene and Kendrick for keeping our church sparkling clean throughout the year.

And finally, a big thanks to Pastor Connie for all of the special Advent and Christmas services, for visiting all of the shut-ins, and for keeping the trees watered. She holds our congregation together, and we love her for it.



Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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2019

Opportunities

January 6, 13, 20, and 27 — Sunday — Worship with us at 8:15 or 10:30. Bring your children to Sunday School and spend an hour in the Adult Education class studying God's word and how it applies today.

January 22 — Tuesday — Come to the Property Team Meeting at 6:30. If you are at all handy, the team will find ways to use your talents in upkeep of the Grace property.

January 29 and 30 — Tuesday and Wednesday — Sewing Circle at 8:30 in the dining room. Everyone is welcome. No special skills needed.



Cackles and Cards

Greeting cards in the store cost upwards of \$4 each. Join us for Cackles and Cards and create some beautiful handmade cards. Each time you come, you will make two each of five cards already designed and cut for you for a total of ten cards for only \$15!



We meet on the second Wednesday of each month. (January 9.) The classroom will be open from 2:00-8:30 p.m., so you can drop in whenever it is convenient for you. Each month, plan on about 2-1/2 hours to complete these treasures! Assistance is always available for folks who are just beginning.

Why don't you think about joining us? Registration is due by the Monday before class at noon so that materials can be prepared. For January that would be Monday, January 7, at noon.

Please call Sheri at 858-1709 to register.