



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester



From the Desk of Pastor Connie...



Lenten Greetings,

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

There is a story about a man who set out to adopt a troubled teenage girl. The girl was destructive, disobedient, and dishonest. One day she came home from school and ransacked the house looking for money. By the time he arrived, she was gone and the house was in shambles. Upon hearing of her actions, friends urged him not to finalize the adoption. "Let her go" they said. "After all, she's not really your daughter . . ."

His response was simply, "Yes, I know, but I told her she is my daughter."

God in Christ has made a covenant to adopt us as His children, sons, and daughters, and His covenant with us is NOT invalidated by our rebellion. It's one thing to love us when we are strong, obedient, and willing . . . but when we ransack God's house and steal what is His . . . THIS . . . is the test of love.

God shows great love for us in this way. Christ died for us "while we still were sinners." What God does for us in Christ and His Spirit is a once and for all gift, which we remember as we come together at the Lord's Supper. Not only a remembrance, but a sacred experience of Jesus' presence through bread and wine. We receive him spiritually into our spirits to renew us and give us a forgiving relationship to replace our lost and separated condition.

We are saved by what God does for us . . . NOT by what we do for God. Coming to worship and communion is not working out our own salvation. Rather, it is God's coming to us in His Son and Spirit which accomplishes life with God now and after death. Salvation by obedience to the law, which was the Jewish means of salvation, is not possible because we are not able to obey the law. As St. Paul reminds us, only our right relationship to God in Christ will save us and rescue us from lostness. The law can only reveal our lostness, and then we need God's grace through His creating love, redeeming love, and guiding love . . . Father, Son, and Spirit.

Christ's coming into the world is God's prelude to salvation for humankind. His life, death, and resurrection is the "preparation" needed to complete our salvation and assure us of everlasting life with God, beginning now. Regardless of how destructive, disobedient, and dishonest we have been, God's response is simply, "Yes, I know, but I told them they are my sons and daughters."

Give your body, mind, and spirit to God now and let Him keep you in His grace forever.

Peace,

Pastor Connie

2018

Ruth's Pantry

. . . . is short of canned soups right now.



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BINGO!

Please join us for Bingo on Sunday, March 11, at Grace Lutheran in Winchester. Lunch will be served at 11:45 with Bingo to follow. All ages are welcome. Bring a friend. There will be prizes for every game.



Thrivent Choice

Attention Thrivent members: Inspiration theatre Inc. (www.inspirationtheatre.org) is now eligible for Thrivent Choice dollars! With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. You may want to direct some or all of your Choice Dollars® to our own local community theatre.



Summer Worship



The summer schedule will begin on Sunday, May 6. There will be one worship service each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. This schedule will extend through the Labor Day Weekend.

The Congregation Meeting will be held following the 9:30 a.m. worship service on May 6. Mark your calendar for that date and plan to attend. A potluck lunch will follow the meeting.

The final day of Sunday School for the 2017-18 school year will be on April 29. Confirmation classes will continue to meet on Wednesdays only at 6:30 through May 16.

OWLS

During Lent, OWLS is combined with the Wednesday noon soup luncheon. Lenten worship services will be held at 11:00 a.m. The Soup Luncheon will follow the worship service at about noon.

Regular OWLS attendees are welcome, along with anyone else who would like to enjoy the fellowship of Grace members and guests will enjoy a soup luncheon. "Potluck" items to complement the soup luncheon are welcome but not necessary

On Maundy Thursday, March 29, the traditional Maundy Thursday Dinner will take place instead of the Wednesday soup luncheon. All members age 80+ and shut-in members are invited to the Maundy Thursday dinner. Those who provide transportation are also invited to participate in the worship service and the dinner.



FVLH

Linwood Place Annual Meeting: Our annual meeting is April 28. Registration starts at 8:30, meeting at 9:00. Please send the names and addresses of your delegates to us. If you have any questions, please call 734-7225.

Thrivent Choice Deadline: Thrivent Choice deadline is March 31! If you are a Thrivent Member, you are able to log-in to your Thrivent account and designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to go to your favorite non-profits. Fox Valley Lutheran Homes would love to be one of them!



Thank You

Thanks to the “guys” who brought me some wonderful barley soup! It was delicious! —Ted Doehling

To my Grace church family: Thank you for your prayers and all of the beautiful cards you have sent to me during my illness and stay in the hospital. I look forward to seeing you again very soon!

—Arden Bramlett

I thank all my friends from church, neighbors, and family who sent me many birthday cards and valentines. I enjoyed all of them. —Leona Umland

Thank you to Grace for the card and plant at Christmas. Also, thanks for the cards for Ron’s birthday and the prayers as he deals with medical issues.

—Ron & Joleen Diley

Many thanks to all of you nice people of Grace Lutheran for the cards I received while hospitalized. I’m getting stronger each day with the good Lord pushing. Thanks to Mary Alice for delivering a prayer shawl. Thank you all!

—Ardis Peterson

March Birthdays

- 3 Irene Johnson
654 Cleveland Street
Neenah, WI 54956
- 4 Mildred Marks
4789 County road G
Oshkosh, WI 54904
- 12 Vivian Howman
8232 County road T
Larsen, WI 54947
- 23 Ralph Rieckmann
N327 County Road W
Fremont, WI 54940
- 26 Norman Zobel
5905 Oak Lane Drive
P.O. Box 350
Butte Des Morts, WI 54927

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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The Congregation Council

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Other Key Contacts

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Facebook — Gayle Wisnefske — gmwisnefske@yahoo.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!

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				March 2-3 — 7th- and 8th-Grade Confirmation Retreat at Pine Lake Camp		
4 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 9:30 a.m. Pastor & Arden's Anniversary Reception	5 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 11:30 Ruth's Pantry Board Meeting 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	6 8:00 a.m. Weigh-In Group	7 11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship 11:45 a.m. Soup Luncheon 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Confirmation	8 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	9	10
11 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Lunch and Bingo, dining room	12 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	13 8:00 a.m. Weigh-In Group	14 11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship 11:45 a.m. Soup Luncheon 5:00 p.m. Cackles and Cards 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:00 Confirmation	15 6:00 p.m. Meals Ministry	16	17 8:00 a.m. Meals Ministry
					March 17, 10:00 a.m. First Communion Training	
18 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship	19 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	20 8:00 a.m. Weigh-In Group 6:30 p.m. Property Team	21 11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship 11:45 a.m. Soup Luncheon 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Confirmation	22 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry Meeting	March 24, 6:30 p.m. Easter Cantata	
25 8:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship	26 9:00-11:30 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	27 8:00 a.m. Weigh-In Group 8:30 Sewing Circle	28 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle NO Wednesday Worship	Thursday, March 29 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship with First Communion Celebration Good Friday, March 30 6:30 p.m. Worship Service		

Council Highlights



- Because of generous donations at the end of the year, Grace ended the year with a positive balance.
- Weekly giving does not keep up with weekly expenses.
- May 6 congregational meeting: two positions are open for Council; three for Ruth's Pantry. Members need to consider serving.
- New holders are needed for candles for Christmas eve services.
- Pastor Connie, Arden, and the LYF Team are working with confirmation students to help them meet their confirmation requirements.
- Synod Assembly is on May 18-19 in Oshkosh. Delegates are needed. A report to the Assembly is being prepared.
- Easter worship will be at 6:00, 8:15, and 10:30 a.m. No Sunday School or Confirmation classes will meet on Easter Sunday.

- If anyone wants to plan a Easter breakfast, please contact Alissa in the church office.
- Handicap access—A battery-operated doorbell will be installed for those who cannot ascend the steps to reach the church offices.

Karen Bramer, Secretary Sub

Ruth's Pantry



It's still winter!

Canned soup is always a good meal in the winter. A variety of soups are the primary need at the Pantry this month.

Also needed are canned carrots and the larger bottles of juice.



March Worship Assistants—8:15

Altar Assistant — Dave Bork

March 4 — Usher Team 3
 Greeters — Sheri Smolinski
 Lay Reader — Peter Uvaas
 Communion Assistants — Team 2

March 11 — Usher Team 4
 Greeter — Mary Schmidt
 Lay Reader — Peter Uvaas
 Communion Assistants — Team 3

March 18 — Usher Team 1
 Greeter — Paula Nyback
 Lay Reader — Peter Uvaas
 Communion Assistants — Team 4

March 25 — Usher Team 2
 Greeter — Germaine Anderson
 Lay Reader — Peter Uvaas
 Communion Assistants — Team 5

March Worship Assistants—10:30

March 4 — Usher Team 3
 Greeter — Linda Kromm
 Lay Reader — Ryan Olson and Camey Hall
 Communion Assistants — Team 2

March 11 — Usher Team 4
 Greeter — David & Gayle Wisnefske
 Lay Reader — Ryan Olson and Camey Hall
 Communion Assistants — Team 3

March 18 — Usher Team 1
 Greeters — Ray & June Breaker
 Lay Reader — Ryan Olson and Camey Hall
 Communion Assistants — Team 4

March 25 — Usher Team 2
 Greeters — Jane Moderson
 Lay Reader — Ryan Olson and Camey Hall
 Communion Assistants — Team 5

Personal Care Kits

Every year toward the end of summer, you have been asked to bring items for the personal care kits that are distributed by Lutheran World Relief to folks who are in need.

The kits include the following five items:

- Toothbrush
- Wide-toothed comb
- Nail Clipper
- Two 4-ounce bars of soap
- Towel (no more than 27 x 54 inches, and not too heavy)

This year, we are asking for these items during the Lenten season, a practice that the ELCA has stressed in prior years.

Be thoughtful as you purchase these supplies for the kits. One towel requires only one toothbrush and comb—not a handful of toothbrushes or combs. Make an effort to balance your donations. When you bring them to church, you can put them in the World Relief box at the south entrance or on the bench at the west end of the Dining Room.

Thank you for your contributions to helping those who are less fortunate.

One Final Plea

We are still looking for someone to take over the leadership of the project that prepares the Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

An odd selection of the supplies for the kits are left over from last year. If no one feels a passion for that project, the leftover supplies will be donated to a church in Appleton, where the members there prepare Baby Care Kits each year.

Do you have the passion?

Library News

Exploding Stars, Dead Dinosaurs, and Zombies

Youth Ministry in the Age of Science, by Andrew Root

This book is the story of science and faith. Science may be the biggest threat to teenage faith today, but this book shows the two are not incompatible. Science overstates its claims on truth. Faith often understates its claims. Both faith and science frame the experience and reality of teenagers. Both have something valuable to offer as adolescents develop. Kids in the midst of deep intellectual formation wonder how faith can possibly make sense in light of an evolving 14-billion-year-old cosmos. In this book the story of a youth pastor and the various students he encounters shows how science and faith are not incompatible – how faith can flourish in our scientific age.

The book is labeled “Theology for the People.”



Prayer List

We would like to add two groups of people to those who appear in the Sunday announcements for whom we are praying:

- All who are serving in the Armed Forces. We would like to pray for them by name. Do you have a parent, a son or daughter, a spouse, or a grandchild in the service? If so, please provide their names to Alissa in the church office.
- All who are preparing for the birth of a child. This is a time of celebration but also a scary time for couples. If you would like to be included in the prayers, please provide your names to the church office so we may pray for you and your unborn child.

From the President

. . . . From Ryan Olson, Council President

I would like to provide the congregation with some updated financial information regarding the closeout of the 2017 calendar year and what we are seeing so far in early 2018. Going into December, expenses outweighed income by \$15,430. In December, we saw a significant increase in giving, which allowed us to end the 2017 year with income outweighing expenses by \$42,385. Thank you to everyone who provided additional giving in December for Grace to end on the year on such a positive note. It is, however, important to keep in mind that without the special contributions in December, the weekly giving alone would not have sustained our 2017 budget.

Now, for 2018. As you know, at the November Congregational Meeting, the congregation voted to accept the proposed 2018 budget. As discussed at the meeting, in order to sustain the expected expenses in that budget, weekly giving of approximately \$5,500 would be needed. We were previously seeing average weekly giving at \$3,000. What we are seeing for early January is average weekly giving of around \$2,500. This is \$3,000 below what is needed to sustain our 2018 budget. For the month of January, expenses outweighed income by just under \$8,000. I would ask that all members consider what they can do to help Grace achieve the needed weekly giving to sustain the 2018 budget that was approved last November.

One last comment regarding financials. All Sunday School and Confirmation students that were to be provided bibles have received them. The cost of the bibles was \$500 more than what was collected through sponsorship. This was due to a combination of more bibles needed than willing sponsors and some sponsors not yet paying the \$25 cost of sponsorship. If you signed up to be a sponsor but have not yet paid, please submit the \$25 as soon as possible. If you did not sign up to sponsor a bible, but would still like to do so, please put the \$25 in an envelope and mark it for Bible Sponsorship.

The topic of an Easter morning breakfast has recently been brought up. Currently no committee

or family has expressed an interest in organizing, planning, finding volunteers for, or putting on an Easter breakfast. If this is something that you, your family, or a group of families would like to come together to organize, please let me know as soon as possible.

Lastly, the synod assembly for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19 in Oshkosh. If you are interested in representing Grace as a delegate at this year's synod assembly, please let me know as soon as possible.

There are exciting events occurring at Grace, including another bingo event by the LYF team, 7th and 8th grade confirmation retreat, and many more. Please continue to watch the announcements and the GLOW newsletter for information as well as the worship schedule for Holy Week, changes for the upcoming summer worship schedule, our next Congregational Meeting scheduled for May 6, and many other events that you can participate in, volunteer for, or simply support by attending.

Funeral Planning

Have you planned what kind of funeral you would like to have when you pass on to the next world? What kind of a service? Location of the service? Location of burial? Communion? Favorite Bible passages? Favorite hymns? Special music? Do those who are close to you know the answers to those questions?

If you have made arrangements with a funeral home, some of this information might be in your contract. If not, there is now a way for you to make it easier for your survivors when planning your funeral.

The staff at Grace Lutheran has prepared a form that you may fill out that answers the above questions and more. If you would like to use the form to make your wishes known, you can pick up a copy of the form in the Gathering Area at Grace and complete whatever parts of it you wish. Then return it to the Grace office where it will be kept in a binder secured in the pastor's office until it is needed. Your family will appreciate your efforts, and so will the pastor who will officiate at your funeral.

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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2018

Opportunities

- March 2-3 — 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
- March 11 — Bingo! at 11:45 in the dining room
- March 17 — Saturday — First Communion Training
- March 22 — Thursday — 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry Meeting
- March 24 — 6:30 p.m. Easter Cantata
- March 29 — Thursday — 6:30 p.m. First Communion Celebration; Maundy Thursday Worship
- March 30 — Friday — 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service
- April 1 — Easter Sunday — Worship at 6:00 a.m., 8:15, and 10:30.
- May 6 — Sunday — 10:30 Congregational Meeting

Meetings

Congregational Meeting. The next congregational meeting will be held at 10:30 on May 6. Along with other agenda items, elections for open seats on the Church Council and Ruth's Pantry Board will be held. Please give prayerful consideration as to how you might be called to serve Grace and our community in any of these open seats.

Synod Assembly. The synod assembly for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19 in Oshkosh. If you are interested in Representing Grace as a delegate at this year's assembly, please let Ryan Olson know as soon as possible.

