



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

From the Desk of Pastor Mark



“As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”
--St. John 17:18 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we transition from Thanksgiving to the Christmas season, our disposition goes through a natural transition as well. Thanksgiving is all about doing just that – giving thanks for what we have, for the people that we have around us, for what God has so graciously provided for us, for not being Bears fans (though I almost...almost feel bad for them lately). We expound much time in worship and in fellowship giving thanks to our loving God for we, indeed, have much for which to give thanks.

But as we turn the page from Thanksgiving into Advent, our focus shifts to preparing for Christmas, and for a lot of us, that preparation includes sending out wish lists and gifts, Christmas cards, invitations, “Thank You’s,” and the like. As much as it truly is the season of giving, it is very much also the season of sending.

But what must not ever be forgotten is that the sending includes us. As baptized Christians we have been and are continuing to be sent. Some of the last words that Jesus prayed with his disciples during their last supper together included the invitation of God through the Holy Spirit to go with his followers as they shared the Good News of God’s love to all the earth. The Christmas story – the story of God coming into our world as a human child, God’s act of salvation for the whole world – is the story that we all can joyfully share as we go about our daily endeavors. Jesus sent his disciples with the story of Hope and we, as his modern-day disciples, have been sent with the same message.

With this reminder that we are all called for the purpose of being sent, this will be our focus during this Advent season. The theme of our mid-week Advent services (5:30 Wednesday evenings in December) will be “Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas.” This series is based upon the book of the same name by the Reverend Jorge Acevedo, a pastor in the Methodist church. Each Wednesday evening, I will share a devotional story and reflection from the book. Also, we will sing to-

(Continued on page 2)

December

2024

Ruth’s Pantry

Needs

Canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter and jelly, boxed potatoes, hamburger helper, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, syrup, paper and plastic grocery bags. Garden produce and money donations are also very much appreciated.

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Mark	1
Advent	2
Annual Meeting	2
Birthdays	3
Rummage Sale News	3
Calendar	4
Ushers & Greeters	4
Ruth’s Pantry	5
Thankfulness	5
Cemetery Trivia	6

(Continued from page 1)

gether and pray together and depart from worship being sent and empowered with the message of hope for our world.

I very much look forward to this Advent and spending this time together in worship and embracing our call into discipleship. May we celebrate Christ being sent to us and live lives that reflect this great gift of our loving God.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Midweek Advent Schedule

Wednesday, December 4: "Jesus Reconciles" based on St. Luke 2:8-10

Wednesday, December 11: "Jesus Sets Us Free" based on St. Luke 4:16-19

Wednesday, December 18: "Jesus Changes Everything" based on Galatians 4:4

2024 ADVENT SERIES

"Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas."

DECEMBER 4, 11, & 18 AT 5:30 P.M.
IN THE SANCTUARY &
LIVE ON FACEBOOK



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

Cong. Meeting—12-8-24

The 2024 Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 8**, following Worship. Upon completion of the meeting, we will move to the dining room for a pot-luck lunch.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we learn how the church is doing and make plans for the year to come. Your input is extremely important.

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of Previous Congregational Meeting Minutes
4. Elections (Committee & Council)
5. Elevator Update
6. Approval of 2025 Annual Budget
7. Oral updates from Teams and Committee (see report)
8. Update on Council Activities and Decisions
9. Other Business (Election Results)
10. Closing Prayer
11. Lunch in the dining room



Rummage Sale News

The **Quality and Vintage Rummage Sale** is just over six months away! Have you started looking for the things you no longer use/need?

Have you set them aside so they are not forgotten in a drawer/cupboard/closet/garage? Have you thought about what you might want to charge for those items? (Remember . . . We are asking each person to mark their own items with a price they think is fair.)

Have you thought about helping in the days before the sale to set up, to work during the sale, or to box up whatever is left after the sale?

In the January G.L.O.W., we will tell you where to find rummage sale stickers and tags at the church, if you don't have your own. These will be free for those who need them.



December Birthdays

The 80+ gang

30 Ardis Peterson
2850 E. Shady Lane
Neeah, WI 54956

25 Baby Jesus
Address: In our hearts and
all around us.



Tree Trimming Day

Join us on Sunday, December 1, following the service to decorate our church Christmas tree. All are welcome to help or give advice.



Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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The Congregation Council

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Other Key Contacts

Building and Grounds	920-470-2574	Rob Nelson, Chairperson
Business Manager: Alissa Olson	920-277-7619	graceofwinchester@gmail.com
Music: Todd Repp, Jessica McGinnis, Carol Reichert		
Custodian — Gene Walter		
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!

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
1 Pantry Challenge 9:30 a.m. Worship with Rail Communion 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum	2 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	3	4 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Advent Worship Service	5	6	7
Sunday services and Christmas services will be live streamed when staff is available.						
8 9:30 a.m. Worship Annual Congregational Meeting Potluck Meal	9 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	10	11 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Advent Worship Service	12 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	13	14
15 9:30 a.m. Worship with the Praise Band 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum	16 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	17 8:30 a.m. Property Team	18 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Advent Worship Service	19 5:30 p.m. Congregation Council	20	21
22 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum	23 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	24 4:00 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion	26	27	28
29 9:30 a.m. Worship	30 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	31				

December	
Ushers	Greeters
December 1 — Team 2	Team 2
December 8 — Team 3	Team 3
December 15 — Team 4	Team 4
December 22 — Team 5	Team 5
December 24 1 st — Team 6	Team 6
December 24 2 nd — Team 1	Team 1
December 25 — Team 2	Team 2
December 29 — Team 3	Team 3

Keeping in Touch

General email address:

graceofwinchester@gmail.com

Grace Web site: glcw.org

Grace: [Facebook.com/graceofwinchester](https://www.facebook.com/graceofwinchester)

Ruth's Pantry: ruthspantrygrace@gmail.com

Ruth's Pantry: [Facebook.com/glcw.ruths.pantry](https://www.facebook.com/glcw.ruths.pantry)

The email Prayer Chain.

Ruth's Pantry "Collection Challenge"

Pancake Items. Many of Ruth's Pantry shelves are empty. The first Sunday of every month will be a Ruth's Pantry Collection Challenge Sunday where the congregation members will be challenged to bring a particular kind of food item to help stock the shelves. While pasta items and those items listed below are ALWAYS needed, when you come to Church on Sunday, **December 1**, please bring **boxed potatoes** or **hamburger helper**.

"Early" Notice: The challenge for the first Sunday in **January** will be canned soup or oatmeal.



Ruth's Pantry Food Needs

Any kind of canned fruits or vegetables
 Hamburger helper Soups
 Pancake mix Cooking Oil
 Spaghetti Sauce Peanut Butter
 Boxed Potatoes Cereal
 Laundry Detergent Shampoo
 Toilet Paper
 Plastic and paper grocery bags



Year-Round Thanksgiving

As this newsletter is published, we are celebrating Thanksgiving and moving into the Advent and Christmas seasons. May we continue to be thankful to God for sending Jesus to save us from our sin. And may we be thankful for each other and the many opportunities provided to each of us in our congregation.

- for our pastor/leader
- for the opportunity to laugh together
- for elders
- for listening and holding space for each other
- for everything grounded in Christ and the promises of baptism
- for the happy phone call conversations just to connect and catch up and check in
- for trying and experimenting in new ways in the church
- for anger and the full range of human emotions
- for those who are upset or need someone to listen and are comfortable reaching out to their pastor and friends in the church
- for the boldness to do new things together
- for the chance to be together for celebrations
- for connection that combats loneliness and low confidence
- for family that sustains us and sometimes sacrifices to support us
- for the good news of the gospel in Christ Jesus and all who share that news in their daily lives
- for congregations and leaders who seek to make the world a more livable, bearable place
- for God's presence where two or more are gathered together

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

Annual Meeting Potluck

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Join us for a time of food and fellowship following our annual meeting.

After the work is done let us gather in the dining room and reflect on the year together. We hope to see you there!

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www.graceofwinchester@gmail.com

glcw.org

8396 Steeple Hill Drive

Larsen, WI 54947



2024



Grace Historical Dates

8-9-1988 Movie was filmed at Grace this fall. Received \$500. The movie, *Meet the Applegates* was released on February 1, 1991.

8-15-24 Music room was constructed, painted, and carpeted. The Blue room was painted and carpeted.

10-11-1988 Received additional \$1000 for use of Grace for the film

10-11-1988 Installation of shelving in the lounge for new library.

11-8-1988 Computer has been purchased and installed. Training should start soon.

12-6-1988 New entrance doors have been installed.

1989 The contemporary Sunday worship service was begun.

4-19-1989 Prayer and Share began as a midweek mini series.

5-10-1989 Under supervision of the cemetery board, the fence along the north boundary of the cemetery will be removed. (Note: Fence was removed by Ted Eckstein on 7-11-2011.)

6-13-1989 Office work room project begun.

11-4-1989 Lounge painted and new furniture purchased.

—Facts are assembled and submitted by David Christianson, with the help of several people who went through historical materials and pulled out data of note.

