



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

JANUARY 2025



From the Desk of Pastor Mark

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east^[b] and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born.” -- St. Matthew 2:1-4 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It’s hard to believe, but it was 25 years ago now that the great majority of us went through what is known as Y2K (Year 2000). If you don’t recall, this was the term used to describe the new millennia, when the calendars would roll over from 1999 to 2000.

In the weeks leading up to this monumental event, there were a lot of questions and even anxiety on the minds of many. There were those who were concerned that computers were going to crash or electrical grids would fail. Others suggested that traffic control towers would be scrambled, and planes would collide and fall from the sky or that even alarms would be triggered, and nuclear weapons would unintentionally be launched. The possibilities for chaos and destruction seemed to be endless.

Fortunately, when the clocks struck midnight, the disruption to our world was minimal. I personally don’t know of anyone or can recall anyone who experienced any disruptive issues that were directly or indirectly related to the advent of the year 2000. If anything, the most inconvenient matter for all of us was probably remembering to date the checks that we wrote out with 2000 instead of 1999.

This wasn’t the first such anxiety that our world ever experienced, though. St. Matthew writes in chapter 2 that when King Herod heard that Jesus had been born, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him.” (Matthew 2:3) We all know that Herod felt threatened and worried about his throne. Herod knew from the chief priests and teachers of the law that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem in Judea, and he must come from the Davidic line. King Herod does not meet the biblical messianic criteria, so he was already paranoid about any potential rival to his throne and so his paranoia is understandable; but, I’ll admit,

(Continued on page 2)

Ruth’s Pantry

Needs

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

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Mark	1
Rummage Sale	2
Birthdays	3
Elevator Fund	3
Adult Forum	3
Calendar	4
Ushers & Greeters	4
Ruth’s Pantry	5
175th Anniversary	5
Cemetery Trivia	6

(Continued from page 1)

I've never noticed the second half of this verse before, that "all Jerusalem was frightened with Herod at the birth of Jesus." If the Jewish people were waiting for the messiah to come, why would the rest of Jerusalem be afraid?

Because just as Herod felt threatened, so did the Jewish leaders. A messiah had been prophesied, and if Jesus was the promised messiah, their positions would be threatened as well. The structure of their faith would be compromised. Change would happen and their world would be turned upside down. They were in danger of losing everything that they held sacred. It's not that they didn't want the messiah to come; it's just that they didn't want his coming to undermine their dispositions.

But Jesus coming into our world would turn it upside down. The irony, though, is that it didn't come about with his birth, but rather, it came about by his death and triumphant resurrection. In Jesus' lifetime, Rome would remain in power and the Jewish worship and faith experience would not change. Even in the decades immediately following his death and resurrection, there'd be a minimal disruption as the first Christians struggled to find their footing in a landscape resistant to change.

But, as we know, what came out of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has not only impacted our world over the past 2000 years but has molded it as well into a world where our God remains with us still and will do so until this world is no more. What we experience in worship, what we confess, and how we live out our lives as disciples of Christ are direct reflections of God coming into our world as one of us and turning it upside down and inside out, all for the benefit of God's eternal kingdom to be present in it.

My friends, as you take your first steps into 2025, I pray that you are reminded during every one of them that the road that you walk is paved with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the God who came into our world and disrupted it all for the sake of our salvation. I pray that daily you are reminded that through his

death and resurrection, all things that would threaten us have already been defeated. The years come and go, and each one brings with it new challenges as well as new opportunities. May we always remember, though, that each year is in God's time and is a gift to us and that we live it accordingly.

May you all have a blessed 2025!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark



Thank You

Many thanks to all who helped "dress up" our church for the Christmas season—all of those who helped decorate the tree, Jim and Debbie Groff, Alissa, and Evan for the outside and inside decorations, Patti and Randy for arranging the beautiful Christmas banners, those who contributed flowers and plants, and those who dressed festively to "pretty up" the worship services. Thanks to the youth for the "hot chocolate."

Rummage Sale News

As promised in the last GLOW, you can look for sale tags for the **Quality and Vintage Rummage Sale** in the coat room. They will be in a container on the south end of the card rack. Take what you can use. The container will be refilled as necessary. You can also use masking tape as an alternative. If you mark things as you find them, it won't be such a chore when you need to take your things to the church for sale!

We hope you are finding things for the sale, as you go about your days. Your committee co-chairs have found some special items they have set aside. You won't want to miss the sale when it arrives on June 5 to 7, 2025.

Think about signing up to help set up, be at the sale, and pack up. That sign-up will come closer to the sale itself.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MAY GOD GRANT YOU HEALTH AND PEACE!

ELEVATOR *Fundraising*

Donations for the repairs and renovations of the Grace elevator have been coming in slowly. At the same time, the cost of those parts and renovations continue to increase, making our dollars for the project worth less.

Your Grace leadership is wrestling with borrowing funds set aside for other purposes at Grace to get the job done. This issue was discussed at the Grace annual meeting in early December. If you would like more information about this dilemma, please discuss it with one of the elected Congregation Council members listed below.

Adult Forum

Every Sunday at 10:45 a.m., a Bible study is led by Mark Rieckmann in the LYF room. He has been taking the old testament one book at a time making the stories in each book come alive for attendees. He uses a whiteboard program to illustrate the stories. Everyone is welcome to attend.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

The 80+ gang

- 9 Ron Diley
W10849 State Road 96
Fremont, WI 54940
- 26 Sandy Grant
5375 State Road II
Larsen, WI 54947



Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

8396 Steeple Hill Drive, Larsen, WI 54947

E-mail: graceofwinchester@gmail.com Web Site: www.glcw.org Phone: 920-836-2382

The Congregation Council

David Bork	920-428-3420	gpa.dave.bork@gmail.com
Steve Harrison, President	920-585-8350	stevie.h@live.com
Karla Holl	920-836-9508	karlah@new.rr.com
Patti Doverspike	920-279-4404	patti.doverspike@gmail.com
Eric Johnson, Secretary	920-279-5965	itserock@msn.com
Patti Nelson, Vice President	920-858-6394	sewthegardener@hotmail.com
David Wisnefske, Treasurer	920-470-1711	dwisnefske@yahoo.com
Pastor Mark Laatsch	906-424-0003	gracewinchesterpastor@gmail.com

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!

JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4
5 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum	6 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	7	8 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Service of the Word in the Gathering Space 6:15 p.m. Confirmation in Zittau	9 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	10	11
12 9:30 a.m. Worship with the Praise Band 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum	13 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	14	15 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Service of the Word in the Gathering Space 6:15 p.m. Confirmation in Zittau	16	17	18
19 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum	20 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	21 8:30 a.m. Property Team	22 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Service of the Word in the Gathering Space 6:15 p.m. Confirmation in Zittau	23	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum	27 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	28	29 5:30 p.m. Service of the Word in the Sanctuary with full communion 6:15 p.m. Confirmation in Zittau	30	31	

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.

JANUARY	
Ushers	Greeters
January 5 — Team 4	Team 4
January 12 — Team 5	Team 5
January 19 — Team 6	Team 6
January 26 — Team 7	Team 7

Ruth's Pantry "Collection Challenge"

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. When you come to Church on Sunday, **January 5**, please bring **oatmeal** and/or **canned soup**.

"Early" Notice: The challenge for the first Sunday in **February** will be peanut butter and jelly.



The following items are always needed:

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

175th Anniversary

As we enter the 175th anniversary year of Grace Lutheran Church in Winchester, let us give thanks for a church that has heat in the winter, comfortable pews for worship, a beautiful sanctuary with lovely stained glass windows, and all the other comforts of "home."

Let us give thanks for our faithful members, descendants of the forefathers who began the congregation and those who have come to us from other faiths and congregations.

Let us be thankful for our pastor and our leaders who make our weekly worship services available and inspiring.

Let us be thankful for the dedicated members of Grace who are reviewing the historical records and creating a history book so that we can enjoy learning about where we came from and share our beginnings with others.

Please pray for Grace Lutheran as we go into a new year—the year of our 175th Anniversary!!

Baptism

Josephina Jacobson was baptized at Grace in October. May Josephina grow up knowing and loving Jesus.



Small Wonders

The leaders of the congregation and the church members were sad to see the Small Wonders Daycare end a more than thirty-year run at Grace Lutheran. Many area children were nurtured and cared for in the Small Wonders classrooms.

Best wishes to Ed and Nannette and the other teachers in the weeks ahead.

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

www.graceofwinchester@gmail.com

glcw.org

8396 Steeple Hill Drive

Larsen, WI 54947

JANUARY

2025



Grace Historical Dates

1990 Our first summer outdoor worship service was held.

4-10-1990 Northeast Asphalt's bid for \$17,500 for the blacktopping and marking of the south parking lots was the low bid. Had a 1969 bid of \$7,213 for blacktop.

5-10-1990 New carpeting installed in lounge and secretary's office. Parts of old carpeting were used to carpet Sunday School rooms 215 and 216.

8-7-1990 The blacktopping of the south parking lots and cemetery roads has been completed.

4-3-1991 Completed installation of 6-inch drain pipe at south parking lot for courtyard drainage system.

5-30-1991 Outdoor service wood deck completed for first outdoor service. (The deck was remodeled and extended on 7-10-1997).

6-11-1991 Cemetery Board and Trustees set winter burial policy of no burials between December 1 and March 31. Storage may be rented at Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah. Cost of storing the body will be picked up by the family.

8-13-1991 New outdoor sign will be placed in the southwest corner of the cemetery at a total cost of \$3000. It was finished by 10-16-91.

—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.

