



# GLOW

*Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester*

## *From the Desk of Pastor Mark*



<sup>1</sup> *Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*

<sup>2</sup> *I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;*

*I have no good apart from you."* -- Psalm 16:1-2 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As I type these words, the United States is less than a week removed from having orchestrated a strike against Iranian nuclear facilities.

There's been attempted retribution. Ceasefires have been issued between Iran and Israel and those ceasefires have been broken and resumed again. I'll tell you honestly that I don't understand the military, political, economic, or social repercussions of this strike, nor the fallout from it all, so I couldn't tell you what our national or world future holds in relation to this. But what I can tell you is that global diplomacy is fragile and broken right now and people are afraid.

People are afraid of war, of drawing our military personnel into conflict and dangerous situations. People are afraid that Iran or an ally of Iran will successfully retaliate against American civilians or military members stationed in the Middle East. People are afraid that the retaliation may even happen on American soil. People are afraid that the price of oil will spike. People are afraid that dominoes will fall and that the already shaky global economy will collapse. There are a lot of scenarios that are making a lot of people afraid.

Historically, when the American public have become afraid, they have traditionally turned to the Bible, to the church, and to religious leaders to provide guidance and comfort. It is well documented that in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 that church attendance jumped up substantially. People who felt secure prior to these attacks suddenly didn't know who, what or where were safe anymore, apart from religious leaders reciting the comforting words of scripture within the confines of a sanctuary fortress. That was a safe and comforting environment, and so people turned to it.

But, as the trends that had begun in the 1990s when church attendance/membership began to decline, normalcy settled in, and churches once again started to become emptier. And while we may mourn these changes in the church, what we are reminded of in these days is that Christ created His church for such a time as this. The church was not created to boast large memberships; rather, Christ instituted his church

# July 2025

### **Ruth's Pantry**

#### **Needs**

Canned Peas  
Cereal  
Shampoo, Body Wash  
Bar Soap  
Hamburger Helper  
Cereal  
Cooking Oil  
Sugar  
Salt and Pepper  
Cereal  
Paper & Plastic Bags

### **Inside this issue:**

From Pastor Mark	1
Rummage Sale	2
Birthdays	3
Concessions	3
Calendar	4
Ushers & Greeters	4
Vacation Bible School	5
Ruth's Pantry	5
Thank You	5
Cemetery Trivia	6

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

as a place of welcome and belonging, a place of worship and security for all who seek it.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a prayer to come into the temple and to experience the fullness of God there. The psalmist's faith is in the one true God, contrasting those who place their trust in false gods – like the promises of war. While war may bring tentative peace and security, things like death, destruction, and broken trust last much longer. I am prayerfully optimistic that further aggressions can be avoided and discontinued and that we can instead begin to pivot towards peace and love in this world that our God loves so much.

And we, as the church, are invited, as well as commanded, to carry out this very work from within our walls. In encountering the living God in the sacraments, we become responsive recipients of that grace. In the church we will pray for peace. We will sing for peace. We will open scripture and receive the Word of peace that God offers to us. And when we depart from this sanctuary, we will strive to live into that peace that has been made known to us in the love of Jesus Christ.

May God's love be on your hearts and minds and may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

*Pastor Mark*

## *LWR Kit Packing*

Worship on July 6 is indoors. Following the service that morning would be a good time to pack all the lovely towels, combs, toothbrushes, etc., that members brought during Lent for the LWR Personal Care Kits. We will probably pack some quilts, too.

We have a huge supply of packing tape, but We really need appropriately sized boxes. Those of you who have helped in the past know what we need. If you have any that would work, please bring them along.

## *Thank You for Beauty*

Thanks for Sandra Mathison for the stunning flowers in the cross in the cemetery. Also thanks to Mary Schmidt and Karla Holl for beautifying our south entrance—the pots in the driveway and the plantings around the door.

Thanks to Paula for her constant work maintaining the Serenity Garden and keeping it beautiful and peaceful. Also thanks to Julie and Betty Erickson for the pots decorating the front terrace.

Thanks to the Ecksteins, who keep the lawns in the cemetery and the other church properties expertly trimmed and in good condition.

We enjoy the beauty of the flowers and are thankful to God for his beauty, as well as for our local “gardeners” who keep Grace Lutheran looking lovely and inviting!

## *Rummage Sale*

**THANK YOU!** Thanks to . . .

- **God.** This sale was orchestrated by God from the time the idea was conceived last October, until the items were packed and removed from the building (by Tuesday noon following the sale. Leftover items were delivered to two different thrift stores).
- **Workers.** We had the BEST helpers from beginning to end. Every single one of you who helped in any way was a blessing to the outcome of a very successful sale!
- **Shoppers.** They helped us reach an unexpected total in sales . . . **\$4,085.00** (and counting) for the **Elevator Fund!**

We have an awesome God and with His help we exceeded all our hopes for this endeavor.

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

Sherry Olson and Kate Christianson  
Co-Coordinators



## Concessions

When you receive this newsletter, we are more than halfway through the concessions season at the Grace Lutheran Ballpark. Special thanks to Jim and Debbie Groff, who have taken on the task of keeping the concession stand supplied with drinks, with chips, etc., and with brats, burgers, ice cream, and hot dogs.

For the next few weeks, these items are for sale each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings during the supper hour. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** to come to purchase their evening meal which helps raise money for the youth, for mosquito control, and for miscellaneous other Grace needs.

Thanks to the workers who helped staff the stand during the community rummage sales in early June. We met some old friends and made some new ones during this time.



## July Birthdays

### The 80+ gang

- 2 Paul Milner  
5365 Ann Street  
Larsen, WI 54947
- 8 John Thiel  
8335 Steeple Hill Drive  
Larsen, WI 54947
- 20 Nancy Collins  
107 E. Beckert Rd.  
New London, WI 54961
- 27 David Robbins  
8605 South Loop Road  
Larsen, WI 54947

### Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

8396 Steeple Hill Drive, Larsen, WI 54947

E-mail: [graceofwinchester@gmail.com](mailto:graceofwinchester@gmail.com) Web Site: [www.glcw.org](http://www.glcw.org) Phone: 920-836-2382

#### The Congregation Council

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

#### Other Key Contacts

Building and Grounds	920-470-2574	Rob Nelson, Chairperson
Business Manager: Alissa Olson	920-277-7619	<a href="mailto:graceofwinchester@gmail.com">graceofwinchester@gmail.com</a>
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!*

# July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word in the Gathering Space	3	4	5
6 Pantry Sunday 9:30 a.m. Indoor Worship with Rail Communion	7 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	8	9 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle	10 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	11	12
13 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship	14 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	15 8:30 a.m. Property Team	16 8:30-11:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word in the Gathering Space	17 8:30-11:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School	18	19
20 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship with Praise Band	21 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	22	23 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word in the Gathering Space	24 5:30 p.m. Congregation Council	25	26
27 9:30 a.m. Indoor Worship	28 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	29	30 5:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion	31	<div>All outdoor services are weather permitting and may be moved inside without advance notice. You may bring your own chair/blanket for the outdoor services, or metal chairs will be provided.</div>	

## Keeping in Touch

General email address:

[graceofwinchester@gmail.com](mailto:graceofwinchester@gmail.com)

Grace Web site: [glcw.org](http://glcw.org)

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

Ruth's Pantry: [ruthspantrygrace@gmail.com](mailto:ruthspantrygrace@gmail.com)

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

The email Prayer Chain.

July	
Ushers	Greeters
July 6 — Team 1	Team 1
July 13 — Team 2	Team 2
July 20 — Team 3	Team 3
July 27 — Team 4	Team 4



## Ruth's Pantry "Collection Challenge"

During the past few months, more and more people have been coming to Ruth's Pantry for help with their family's food needs. The first Sunday of every month is a Ruth's Pantry Collection Challenge Sunday where the congregation members have been challenged to bring a particular kind of food item to help stock the shelves. The results have been wonderful! Thank you When you come to Church on Sunday, **July 6**, please bring **Ketchup** and **Mustard**.



"Early" Notice: The challenge for the first Sunday in **August** will be **Cake Mixes** and **Cooking Oil**.

## School Supplies

When doing your back-to-school shopping, remember the Lutheran World Relief needs:

- ♦ Spiral-bound 70-page notebooks
- ♦ Crayon 12-packs
- ♦ Blunt-tipped scissors
- ♦ Rulers with both inches and metric
- ♦ Pencil sharpeners
- ♦ #2 Pencils (NOT sharpened)
- ♦ Eraser (approx. 2-inch)

## Thank You (3)

I want to sincerely thank you for the beautiful blanket you made for me. It truly means so much—not just because of the time and care that went into making it, but because it shows that you've been paying attention to my life and what's going on with me.

Feeling seen and supported by this community is incredibly meaningful. Your thoughtful gesture reminded me that I'm not alone, and that there are kind and generous people who notice, care, and show up in such heartfelt ways.

Thank you again for your kindness. I'm deeply grateful for each of you.

Thank you! Cody McLeod

.....

I would like to thank you for the beautiful quilt you have created for me. I understand that a lot of time, effort, love and passion went into making it, and I am appreciative of every moment of that. I also like how the quilt represents different parts of my personality.

Thank you, Isaac Laatsch

.....

Thank you for the quilt. It's very pretty and totally me! Have a safe summer and God Bless.

Payton Sommers



## Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester Vacation Bible School 2025

### It's Time to Register

**VBS is a free program for kids in kindergarten to 5th grade.**

**July 16 & 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Additional information and Registration forms are available in the gathering space.**



**If you have any questions, please contact Alissa at 920-277-7619.**

# *Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester*

*graceofwinchester@gmail.com*

*glcw.org*

*8396 Steeple Hill Drive*

*Larsen, WI 54947*

*920-836-2382*

**July**  
**2025**



## *Grace Historical Dates*

8-11-1999 Two new cemetery rules signs installed in cemetery.

9-12-1999 Tree planted in area between 2 ball diamonds (purple autumn ash). From the penny church and anniversary committee.

9-22-1999 Installed rebar in concrete bumpers in south parking lot.

10-7-1999 New carpeting installed in dining room and lower hall.

10-18-1999 1967 corner stone removed. Box opened by D. Christianson and held until 10-24-1999 presentation of contents.

11-1-1999 Decided all nationalities who are Lutherans may become members.

11-2-1999 Greg Wisnepske started covering windows with aluminum. Job completed 11-11-1999.

1-5-2000 Fire inspection—electrical panels not labeled.

3-7-2000 Installed new safe in work room. Bolts through wall. Other safe was stolen.

3-28-2000 Project of repairing stained glass windows and installing storm panels on exterior.

8-15-2000 Heavy wind damage on property. Trees down.

—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.

