



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

From the Desk of Pastor Mark



September 2025

Ruth's Pantry

Needs

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

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²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. – Luke 14:27-33 (NRSVUE)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Apart from some old baseball cards, a few well-worn ball caps, and a specifically curated vinyl record collection, I'm not a person who keeps a lot of extra stuff around me. The (kind of) running joke in my family is that if I were to die today that my family could wipe out all existence of me within about 10 minutes. There's just not much to clean out, and what is there is pretty much isolated to one spot in the house. I realize that this is not for everyone, and neither should it be. We are all different, with different experiences to draw from which define who we are as people of God, and whoever we are deemed to be, that is precisely who we should lean in to being.

Now, if you are making the connection that I have done this to follow Jesus' command to give up all your possessions to become his disciple, I assure you that this is not the case. I am about as far away from being a martyr as anyone could be. I would love to say that my faith in the driving factor behind this lifestyle choice, but, truthfully, it has more to do with several other factors, including the fact that my adult life has been somewhat nomadic, so moving extra boxes from place to place gets tiring pretty quickly; that when I no longer take up residence in this world that my wife and kids have little to no interest in holding on to the things that I have; and that, quite frankly, my stuff doesn't hold much monetary value. About five years ago I reached a point in my life where I determined that it is just easier to acquire what I need when I need it

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rather than holding on to it for those just-in-case moments, which have been pretty few and far between. So, when it comes to my personal effects, I live simply, which is evident in my wardrobe, my décor, my hair, and my accessories.

It is hardly an empty void, though. What I have replaced these effects with is a greater appreciation for the people, places, and experiences of the moment. I love to talk to locals and to learn more about the people, places, and culture that I travel to. There's something to be said about closing my book, turning off the patio lights and getting lost in the night sky and the countless wonders that exist there. I used to live and die by the outcome of the Packer game, but now it's more about the time with who I get to watch the game with (though, I'm still pretty in tune to what is happening on the field of play!)

The point is that I've learned to see beyond the stuff, which I feel is the first baby step, of about a thousand steps to go, that I have made in following God's call to me to become a disciple of Christ. Again, though, this specific example applies just to me. A deeper sense of discipleship for some may be to be empowered to make a difference financially. Others may be drawn to a deeper sense of centering prayer. Others may be drawn to make a statement on a particular justice issue. We're all different and God, who created us in our unique selves, knows what those differences are; and so, God provides personal steps for each one of us to follow and engage.

And as we enter the programming time of year in the church, there are numerous ways for us to explore our own baby steps into deeper discipleship. Many people have expressed excitement to me for Mark Rieckmann's New Testament after-worship adult forum to resume, a wonderful way for us to grow and learn. For those who feel called to make a difference locally, Ruth's Pantry is always welcoming new volunteers. For those who want a more global presence, the quilting group, or participating in/organizing Lutheran World Relief kits may empower us. Wednesday morn-

ing Women's group or Leah Circle are gathering of saints who wrestle with scripture and grow in faith and relationship. Confirmation instruction is an opportunity for middle-age church youth to take the leap from knowing the Bible stories to living out their faith. The new ministry that launches in September, L.I.F.T (Life in Faithful Transition) is an invitation to gather and share, celebrate and support one another.

I am merely scratching the surface on different ways that Jesus calls us into discipleship. Once we accept the invitation to open our hearts and minds and simply desire a deeper sense of following, God will provide innumerable opportunities to do so. If you feel like you've reached the point of desiring something more in your faith journey but are having difficulty unlocking what might be, I'd love for you to reach out to me to talk more about it. Because the most wonderful thing about our discipleship journeys is that we get to walk them together. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

L.I.F.T



It's finally here!! LIFT (Life in Faithful Transition) will hold our initial gathering on Sunday, September 14, immediately following worship (the Packers do not play that day). Every one of us has changes happening in our lives, some minor, some life-altering, but all significant. This is an opportunity to share and to be surrounded by saints in Christ who can celebrate and pray with us.

Immediately following worship, we will share a potluck meal, I will lead us in a brief devotion and will introduce this program to those gathered, and we will then have a time of sharing. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me for further clarification.

Peace,

Pastor Mark

Church History

The 175th Anniversary History Book is progressing and should be available for purchase on October 26.

PLEASE order your copy of the book soon so Kate will have an idea of how many to have printed! Sign up at a church service or call Kate at 920-379-4937.

Thank You!

The Elevator

Work on the elevator is progressing, but worship will continue to be in the dining room until the work is finished.

We are still short the needed funds to complete the job. If you are holding off to see how the fundraising goes, now would be the time to give a little more. Thanks to ALL who have been faithfully contributing!!!



September Birthdays

The 80+ gang

- 4 David Christianson
5300 Ann Street, #105
Larsen, WI 54947
- 8 Duane Fietzer
8564 Olde Market Drive
Larsen, WI 54947
- 11 Ruth Ann Wisnefske
5466 Grandview Road
Larsen, WI 54947
- 15 Gerald Peterson
5707 Lakeview Road
Larsen, WI 54947
- 23 Lona Schroll
9188 N. Loop Road
Larsen, WI 54947
- 30 Kay Wisnefske
4978 Grandview Road
Larsen, WI 54947

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

8396 Steeple Hill Drive, Larsen, WI 54947

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The Congregation Council

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| David Bork | 920-428-3420 | gpa.dave.bork@gmail.com |
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| 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!

September 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|
|  | 1 Labor Day | 2 | 3 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word in the dining room | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Collection Challenge— See Page 5 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Dining Room After Church—Baby shower in the dining room. Treats!! | 8 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry | 9 9:00 a.m. Denim Decorating Day | 10 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word in the dining room 6:15 p.m. Confirmation Parent/Student Mtg. | 11 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Dining Room 10:30 a.m. Potluck Meal. Introduction to L.I.F.T. | 15 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry | 16 8:30 a.m. Property Team | 17 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word in the dining room 6:15 p.m. Confirmation | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:30 a.m. Worship with the Praise Band 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum | 22 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry | 23 | 24 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service with Holy communion 6:15 p.m. Confirmation | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Dining Room 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum | 29 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry | 30 | |  | | |

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.

| September | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Ushers | Greeters |
| September 7 — Team 4 | Team 4 |
| September 14 — Team 5 | Team 5 |
| September 21 — Team 6 | Team 6 |
| September 28 — Team 1 | Team 1 |

Ruth's Pantry "Collection Challenge"

The Ruth's Pantry Collection Challenge Sunday (to help stock the shelves) is coming up. When you come to Church on Sunday, **September 7**, please bring items for the **BABY SHOWER**! Also, the September challenge items include **cereal and school lunch items**.



"Early" Notice: The first Sunday challenge in **October** requests are in. You are encouraged to bring **soups and crackers**.

Baby Shower

The cost of baby items has significantly increased over the last several months. When people donate to a pantry, baby care items are not usually in the forefront of people's minds. As a result, we have decided to dedicate this year's "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday to a Baby Shower for Ruth's Pantry.

BABY SHOWER! (Wipes, pouches or purees, snacks, small toys or teethers, bigger diapers, etc.)

Join us after worship on Sunday, September 7, for snacks, games, and fellowship.



The Newsletter

According to the 175th anniversary book, the church newsletter used to be 16 or more pages each month. With all our electronics, that many pages probably aren't necessary. But those old ones were **FULL** of articles submitted by the members of the congregation.

This isn't MY newsletter. It is the newsletter for the people of Grace. What would you like to see in the GLOW? How do we get our readers interested in contributing?

—The Editor

LET'S CREATE

Tuesday, September 9th - from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Denim Decorating!

Bring a sack lunch with a beverage, your denim item and a needle, thread and scissors. All other supplies will be provided. Lynn Selle & Cindy Schultz will be there to assist with painting and sewing. If you can sew on a button, you can decorate denim! Invite a friend! All are welcome.



Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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8396 Steeple Hill Drive

Larsen, WI 54947

920-836-2382



September

2025



Grace Historical Dates

- 1-3-2002 Westgor Funeral Home donated a new ground heater unit to thaw frozen burial ground.
 - 4-13-2002 Day Care began construction of a play area at the east end of the south parking lot.
 - 5-5-2002 Repair of church roof from hail damage appears to be with 40-year asphalt shingles. This replaces 60-year-old slate tiles.
 - 6-20-2002 Twenty "Reserved" signs purchased for \$230.
 - 6-28-2002 Playground equipment by ballpark was installed by Scott and Todd Krause as an Eagle Scout project. Scott and Todd are sons of Norm and Cindy Krause.
 - 7-29-2002 Main church roof removal of slate and cedar shingles began. The roof will be recovered with plywood and new shingles.
 - 8-6-2002 Collar ties (2 x 8 x 16') were placed in the attic. As of 8-8-2025 have not been installed.
 - 8-8-2002 Roof completed. Six squares of shingles placed in the cemetery shed.
 - 8-14-2002 Eight blue floor mats installed. Ceiling fan in lounge installed by Howie S. and Dave C.
 - 9-12-2002 Church Mutual Insurance Company offered us \$9700 toward repair of bell tower shingles from hail storm. Project will cost about \$30,000 to repair. Repairs to start in 2 weeks.
- 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.

