



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester



From the Desk of Pastor Mark

November 2025

Ruth's Pantry

Needs

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

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.**
 - 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**
 - 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**
 - 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.**
 - 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, And his faithfulness to all generations.**
- Psalms 100 (NRSV)*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

A food editor of the local newspaper received a telephone call from a person inquiring how long to cook a 22-pound turkey.

"Just a minute," said the food editor, turning to consult a chart.

"Thank you very much," replied the novice cook, and hung up.

"Hurry, hurry, hurry!" "Time is money!" "Get 'er done!" Our contemporary culture is rather obsessed with quantifying our time as being productive. There is shame with not being productive – shame of self and shame of others. This obsession with productivity includes hurrying through what we need to complete now so that we can move on to the next item on our list. At the end of the day, we may be able to say that we've checked everything off our list that we hoped to accomplish, but did we ever stop for a moment to give simple thanks for our God who has made it all possible for us?

The 100th Psalm invites us to do just that. It is a beautiful psalm of praise and thanksgiving and is a reminder that it is important not only for us to give thanks to God for what God has done and continues to do for us every day, but to make sure that our time is intentional in doing so. It means **stopping** what we are doing, which is incredibly difficult for a lot of people to do, and giving the entirety of the moment to God. I've had numerous people say to me that their time with God is spent when they are behind the steering wheel, heading home after work. Yes, God wants us aware of His presence with us, but I know that God also wants us to make it home safely, so our full attention should be on the road and on the other drivers around us.

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The point is that we can sometimes combine our worship with our other tedious chores, which in essence treats God like option B. As soon as the chore is over, so is our worship, because it's based on how long the other task lasts, not on what time we need to set aside to honor God.

But giving our full attention to God and engaging in the two-way conversation that God wants to have with us grants us clarity, understanding, and peace. It's an opportunity to give back fully what God first gives to us, a personal and unique relationship.

Just as we are intentional in carving our pumpkins and turkeys, may we be intentional in carving time out of our lives for thanks and praise with God. There is nothing in our lives that is more important, and we can't wait a few more minutes to get done. In the end, it will make us more grateful people for what we do get to do to honor God's time, not for what we must do to justify that time to the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

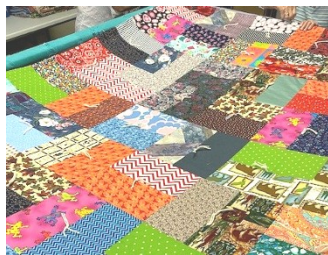
LWR Quilts and Kits

Our 2025 shipment to the Lutheran World Relief Minnesota warehouse included:

- 61 School Kits
- 101 Personal Care Kits
- And 192 quilts!

None of this would be possible without the faithful members of

Grace Lutheran donating the supplies for the kits and quilts. One family donated nearly all of the towels for the personal care kits. Others donated generously for the school kits. We are also thankful throughout the year for the donated sheets and light-weight blankets that go in to the making of the quilts. Finally, much credit goes to the dozen or so faithful gals who give their time twice a month to assemble and tie the quilts.



LIFT

LIFT (Life in Faithful Transition) will host our second potluck gathering immediately following worship on Sunday, November 9. The theme of this gathering has been dubbed "Carols, Comfort, or Chaos: Christmas is Different for Everyone." While Christmas is celebrated worldwide with pageantry and communal expectations, the reality is that some may not experience the same things as the rest of the world. This will be an opportunity to confidentially share with others the challenges of loss, changing family dynamics, and unique rituals, among other things. Also, for those who may not feel comfortable speaking, there will be a box for you to write your questions and concerns to be shared in the gathered community.

Please bring a dish to share and an open mind to navigating the transitions that happen in our lives, the welcome and expected ones, as well as those that are unplanned. We hope to see you there!

On the Road . . .

. . . With Bruce and Kathy Hergert

From Kathy: Recently, Bruce and I have been able to participate in two Worldwide Habitat builds.

The first build was in the Dominican Republic in August. We worked on five homes, pouring cement floors and repainting the exterior of the home. The homes were very small and poorly constructed, having one very small bedroom, a small living room, and a small kitchen area with dirt floors. Entire families live in these tiny homes.

Since we were adding concrete floors to the homes, the residents had to move their possessions (which were very few) outside as well as sleep outside while the cement cured. They were so excited to be getting real floors and new paint that they gladly moved outdoors.

I was very impressed with the local builders with whom we worked. They were passionate about helping their neighbors and providing them with a simple solution to enhancing their well-being. While we worked hard on site, the focus was to get to know the families I can't express the gratitude shown in their expressions for the work we were doing.

175th Anniversary

Saturday, October 25, marked 175 years of ministry here at Grace, a monumental milestone for which we give thanks.

Sunday, October 26, begins our next 175 years, and that is where we turn our attention.

For the next six months, until our big celebration on the weekend of April 25-26, 2026, the 175th Anniversary Committee invites all of Grace's members to write down what Grace Lutheran Church has meant to them, means to them now, and what hopes they have for her future.

These love letters will then be placed into the time capsule on our celebration weekend in April to be opened and shared on the 200th anniversary in 2050.



November Birthdays

The 80+ gang

- 2 Marilyn Pagel
1463 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952
- 9 Floyd Hanson
5336 County Road II
Larsen, WI 54947
- 14 Leon Harder
3307 W. Larsen Road
Neenah, WI 54956
- 14 Elayne Emmons
Box 253
Dale, WI 54931
- 23 Carol Reichert
1505 E. Willis Rd., #1107
Gilbert, AZ 85297



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The Congregation Council

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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!

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
						1
2 Pantry Challenge 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	3 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	4	5 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	6	7	8
9 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	10 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	11	12 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	13 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	14	15
16 9:30 a.m. Worship with the Praise Band 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	17 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	18	19 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace	20 8:30 a.m. Building and Grounds	21	22
23 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	24 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	25	26 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service.	27 Thanksgiving Day! Give thanks, for He is good!	28	29
30 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum						



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.

November	
Ushers	Greeters
November 2 — Team 6	Team 6
November 9 — Team 1	Team 1
November 16 — Team 2	Team 2
November 23 & 26 — Team 3	Team 3
November 30 — Team 4	Team 4

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, **November 2**, please bring syrup and pancake mix. Thank you!

"Early" Notice: The first Sunday challenge in **December** requests are in. You are encouraged to bring canned meats, such as tuna, spam, chicken, Dinty Moore, ravioli, spaghetti, soups, etc.

Thank You!

Thank you to Gene Walter for installing siding on the pantry and painting the doors. You did a wonderful job and it looks great. Thanks for making our pantry look more inviting. You are appreciated.

Thank you to the Property Team for repairing the ramp, putting up the new sign and installing an air conditioner at Ruth's Pantry. What would we do without you guys?

The Ruth's Pantry Team



Special thanks to Gene Walter, Mark Rieckmann, and Randy Doverspike for re-roofing the shed for the outdoor worship. It looks 100 percent better!

And thanks to whomever installed the shades in the sewing room and supplied us with window prop sticks. These guys ROCK!

Chili Supper

This group of good-looking, hard-working young ladies put on a chili supper in October where more than 100 people enjoyed the food and donated more than a thousand dollars to be used to purchase food for the Pantry. Good job, gals!



Church Beautification

The church beautification elves have been at work again. Many thanks to Jodie and her elves for decorating our church—inside and out—with a lovely harvest theme. Be sure to take a moment to enjoy the flowers, etc., when you come to worship.



Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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November

2025



Grace Historical Dates

1903 Members of the congregation hauled all needed building materials free of charge and did the excavating for the basement. Stone for the church foundation came from parsonage land.

Brick and all useful materials (except the pews) were taken from both of the old churches and used as filler in the new church.

The church building was completed so it could be used late in the autumn of 1903.

The basement of the church had two large rooms for classes and activities, a large kitchen, and a furnace room. A wood burning furnace was installed.

The cost of the new church was about \$15,000

At the annual meeting on January 7, 1904, the building committee reported a debt of \$569.02.

The ornamental stones on the top, sides, and base in the doors and windows and in the gables and steeple of the new church made the outline of a cross.

The new church steeple was 107 feet high and had a cross on the top.

The interior of the church was plastered, and the wood finish was in birch. The Manitowoc Seating Company made the church pews of antique oak.

—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.

