



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

From the Desk of Pastor Mark



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Happy New Year!!

Since I began this call a little over three years ago, I have gone through some changes. Some of the bigger ones are that I have transitioned into my fifties, the last of my children have graduated from high school and my Spotify library and playlist now incorporates NPR podcasts and Americana and folk music. Aches and pains seem to be hanging on a little longer than they used to and I find myself cursing all the reckless drivers that routinely pass me on the highway. I've gone through some changes, I'm still going through changes, and these changes are pretty strong evidence that I'm not getting any younger.

But such is the reality of our mortality. While I am daily reminded that I will not live forever in this world, because of the revelation to the world of our Lord Jesus Christ 2000 years ago, the Day of Epiphany is a beautiful and relevant reminder that I will live forever in the next one,

January 6, the Day of Epiphany on our Christian calendar, signals the conclusion of the 12-day Season of Christmas and transitions us into the aptly named Season of Epiphany, which we will celebrate until Ash Wednesday. The Day of Epiphany is the day on which we commemorate the visit of the magi from the east bearing gifts, before setting out on their return journey in which they would share with the world what they had witnessed. While our English understanding of the word "epiphany" may come across as being an "aha!" moment for the world, a more focused meaning of the Greek word, *epithaneia* (epiphany), means "manifestation," and that gives us greater depth than just being a sudden "aha!" moment.

The dictionary defines *manifestation* as "an event, action, or object that clearly shows or embodies something." It embodies something. That means that it takes on the nature of a being, specifically, our being. In taking on the human flesh and all that is attached to it, the good and the bad alike, Jesus became more than just an "aha!" moment but became a "I know what you're going through because I'm going through it as well" moment for us.

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Ruth's Pantry

Needs

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

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It means that as Jesus matured, he experienced the same range of emotions as we do, from the joy of receiving children to the pain of losing his friend Lazarus. He experienced the physical as well, the hunger of 40 days in the wilderness to the excruciating pain of the crucifixion. And yes, even spiritually, Jesus was challenged, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane that the cup from which he was to drink would be taken from him and then crying out in abandonment from the cross. In other words, Jesus knew all too well the aches and pains that I complain about.

But he knew them so much more than I will ever even comprehend. In the beating and crucifixion that he experienced, he knew physical pain that will forever exist beyond the parameters that my body could ever handle. Upon his back he carried not only my sins, but the sins of all people for all time, an absolutely crushing undertaking. In his heart he took our fears and failings and returned to us from them promise and hope.

And He did all this just so that the limitations that I experience in this world will dissipate forever when I take off the mortal flesh of this world and put on the immortal of the next. In coming to us and being revealed to the world, Jesus has shown us not only what we are capable of when we finish the race we are currently running, but what will be and who we will be when we cross the finish line.

And that, my friends, is the most wonderful epiphany that we could ever receive!

May you all have a blessed Day of Epiphany, and may those blessings accompany you through the year of our Lord, 2026.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



Grace Opportunities

As we enter the new year, perhaps you are looking at ways to become more involved at Grace Lutheran. A number of service opportunities are always available. Listed below are some ways you can be more involved and serve with other members of your church:

- Join an Usher Team
- Be part of a Greeting Team
- Sing or Play in the Praise Band
- Prepare or buy food and serve at Coffee Hour
- Prepare and Serve Communion at Worship
- Read the Lessons on Sunday Mornings
- Help the Building and Grounds Team with property upkeep
- Take Communion to Shut-Ins

VOLUNTEER



If you are interested in helping in any of these ways, please contact Alissa in the church office.

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, **January 4**, please bring items to spice up a meal. Examples include, salad dressings, condiments, seasoning, etc.



For those interested in getting a head start on the February Challenge we will be collecting Personal Hygiene products. Deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash for men and women are all good options. We appreciate your continued support!

Evening Prayer

Sometimes the darkness of the long winter nights seems overwhelming. Now our days of winter are beginning to grow longer and the dark nights are growing shorter. Regardless of the number of hours of darkness we are experiencing, there is ALWAYS a reason to thank God for each day.

Dear God:

We thank You tonight for a good day and for the special way You take care of us all the time. Thank You for the fun times outside and the quiet times inside and for helping us learn new things.

(Add your own reasons for thanks . . . Can you come up with at least seven of them?)

We love You and praise You and give You glory. **Amen.**

January

The 80+ birthday gang

9 Ron Diley
Q10849 State Road 96
Fremont, WI 54940



7 THINGS EVERY CHILD NEEDS TO HEAR:

1. I love you.
2. I'm proud of you.
3. I'm sorry.
4. I forgive you.
5. I'm listening.
6. This is your responsibility.
7. You've got what it takes.



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 2026

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
				1	2	3
4 Pantry Challenge: Anything for Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	5 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	6	7 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Day of Epiphany Worship with full communion 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	8 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	9	10
11 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	12 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	13	14 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	15 8:36 a.m. Property Team	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Worship with the Praise Band 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	19 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	20	21 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	22	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	26 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	27	28 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship with full Communion 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	29		

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 4 — Team 5	Team 5
January 11 — Team 6	Team 6
January 18 — Team 1	Team 1
January 25 — Team 2	Team 2



Recently the Women of Grace gathered for a Christmas Party. Thank you to all who have helped make this group come together. We look forward to having even more women join us in 2026!



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Services come together this year. Grace is truly blessed with a community of talented and helpful members and for that we are so very grateful.

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

graceofwinchester@gmail.com
glcw.org
8396 Steeple Hill Drive
Larsen, WI 54947
920-836-2382



January

2026



Grace Historical Dates

1903 Various families of the congregation paid for the other stained glass windows with their names printed on them.

Under the leadership of Pastor O.J. Norby from 1899 to 1912, many meetings in the form of social gatherings, such as box socials, necktie socials, and ice cream socials were held in the Winchester hall. The purpose of those meetings was to raise money to help finance the building of the new church.

On Sunday, May 15, 1904, the present church building was dedicated. With the local pastor, O.J. Norby, twelve pastors took part in the dedication services, with standing room only.

Three services were held on dedication day. The morning service was in Norwegian, the afternoon service in English, and an evening service was dedicated to the young people.

The ladies of the congregation arranged for and served a dinner in the basement, free to all who came.

The offering for the dedication day was almost \$300.

Our church was first named the United Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Winchester.

Membership of the congregation in the early 1900s was 645.

—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.