



# GLOW

*Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester*

## *From the Desk of Pastor Mark*



# December 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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***For a child has been born to us, a son given to us;  
Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace  
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless  
peace  
For the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and up-  
hold it  
With justice and with righteousness from this time onward and  
forevermore.***

***The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.***

***-Isaiah 9:6-7 (NRSV)***

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The imagery that the prophet Isaiah shares with his readers is both joyful and hopeful. The Christmas descriptions of the promised messiah that Isaiah uses in this 9<sup>th</sup> chapter – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father – are like different gorgeous ornaments all hanging from the same tree. There is no doubt that our God in Christ Jesus is all of these and so many more.

But as we bring the year of our Lord 2025 to a conclusion, the other descriptor, that as the Prince of Peace, seems to carry a bit more weight. Peace is something that has eluded our world for thousands of years and 2025 has been no different. Global conflicts continue to rage. Our own country continues to be sharply divided on many issues. Families and neighbors' squabble over trivial things. Even individuals are torn as personal choices may lead to doors closing behind them. Peace is something that remains elusive on so many levels.

And yet that is a name that we attach to the Christ child. It seems rather ironic because even Christianity, faith born out of this child's coming into our world, has splintered countless times over and the very definition of who/what a Christian is can vary radically different between people. It seems that peace is even impossible within the Christian faith.

The common element among all of these peace-elusive entities is the presence of sin. Sin proclaims selfishness. The Prince of Peace, on the

*(Continued on page 2)*

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other hand, gave to the world the gift of complete selflessness, which was his own sinless life, in exchange for the sinful lives of all humanity. While it is impossible for us to replicate what Christ has accomplished, striving for peace in our world and in our lives begins with intentional instances of mirroring that selflessness, giving our lives away for the benefit of this world that God loves so much that He came into it as one of us.

Just like you can't tell me what that selflessness looks like to me, neither can I tell you what it looks like for you. Ultimately what we do doesn't matter. What matters is the desire to do it and then committing ourselves to it. That's the starting point that we all share.

May you all have a most blessed Christmas and may the peace that is the Christ child existing within you and pouring out from you. That is the greatest gift that our world can receive this year, and we can all be a part of making that happen.

In Christ,

**Pastor Mark**

## *Longest Night*



### **Blue Christmas Evening Prayer.**

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time.

This service provides a time and place of solace during the often-frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. Grace will offer this special service on **Monday evening, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30**. All who are missing someone this Christmas or just feeling out of place are invited to be present during this reflective worship experience.

## *Congregational Meeting*

The Council at Grace Lutheran Church invites you to attend a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025. The Congregational Meeting will take place immediately following our worship service.

The agenda for the Congregational Meeting will be as follows:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Opening Prayer**
3. **Approval of Previous Congregational Meeting Minutes**
4. **Elections (Committee & Council Positions)**
5. **Approval of 2026 Annual Budget**
6. **Oral updates from Teams and Committee (see report)**
7. **Update on Council Activities and Decisions**
8. **Other Business**  
Election results
9. **Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> to Adjourn**
10. **Closing Prayer**

Please join us for this time of fellowship and to hear important updates on the status of activities and decisions relating to Grace Lutheran Church.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any Council member.



## *Advent Worship*

Wednesday Evenings:

Restore our Hope: An Advent Midweek Prayer Service is an invitation for us to intentionally reflect on selected psalmody and to hear readings from the prophet Isaiah in light of the many pressures of our surrounding culture that challenge the hopeful message of Advent.

All are invited to attend these brief services at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays in December (3, 10, 17).

## On the Road . . .

. . . With Bruce and Kathy Hergert

In September we went to Moinesti, Romania to work on a 4-plex apartment building. The project had been under way for some time so we were installing insulation, cement board, drywall and plastering.

The building style was completely the opposite of the Dominican. The units looked much like something you would see in the US but much smaller. Typically the units have two small bedrooms, one bath, a small kitchen area and a small living area for a family of 4 or 5. We visited one of the future resident's current apartment. It was a very small apartment in a Communist era building. Mold was continually growing on the walls and the residents had to paint the walls every month or two. The apartment was very damp and cold. The children slept in the kitchen and living area. Moving to a two bedroom home was very important as it would provide stability and safety for the children. We learned that the government paperwork required to take possession of the unit could take up to three years.

While working with Habitat Worldwide can be hard work, it is so worthwhile.

## December

### The 80+ birthday gang

30 Ardis Peterson  
2850 E. Shady Lane  
Neenah, WI 54956



### 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

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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!*

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
Note Special After-church Activities	1 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pan- try	2	3 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Advent Mid- week Prayer Ser- vice	4	5	6
7 <b>PANTRY CHALLENGE</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Congrega- tional Meeting, Then tree decorating	8 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pan- try	9	10 8:30 a.m. Sewing Cir- cle 5:30 p.m. Advent Mid- week Prayer Ser- vice	11 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	12	13
14 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	15 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pan- try	16	17 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Advent Mid- week Prayer Ser- vice	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. Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pan- try 5:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service	23	24 4:00 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m. <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> with Holy Communion	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 9:30 a.m. Christ- mas Day ser- vice with Holy Communion	26	27
28 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	29 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pan- try	30	31			

## 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.

## December

Ushers	Greeters
December 7 — Team 5	Team 5
December 14 — Team 6	Team 6
December 21 — Team 1	Team 1
Dec. 24 1st — Team 2	Team 2
Dec 24 2nd — Team 3	Team 3
December 25—Volunteers	Volunteers
December 28 — 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, **December 7**, please bring canned meats, such as tuna, Spam, chicken, Dinty Moore, ravioli, spaghetti, soups, etc.

"Early" Notice: The first Sunday challenge in **January** requests are in. You are encouraged to bring **anything for breakfast**.

## Silent Night

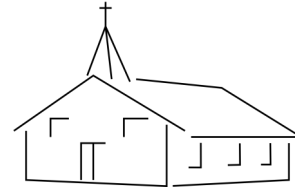
(Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), 1818)

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, All is bright  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so Tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King!  
Christ the Saviour is here,  
Jesus the Saviour is here!

Silent night, Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord at thy birth;  
Jesus Lord at thy birth.



## Let's Build A Church

From the Abels in Brazil:

The reason for this letter is to ask for your **help** in a special project for a small but growing church located in Campo Mourão, the city where the Brazilian Lutheran Church work began in the 1960s. During our own ministry we were extremely blessed to receive cooperation from U.S. donors in building the four churches we planted in the metropolitan area of Curitiba. Now, we are **partnering with another congregation**—the Cohapar Church—to raise funds so they may have an adequate place of worship.

Their present church building was constructed many years ago and is now in **serious disrepair**. Termites have destroyed much of the wooden structure, the concrete walls are cracked, the ceiling is falling apart, and the space is no longer adequate for the number of people who meet there regularly.

The World Missions Board has approved this project, a modest **request of \$50,000**. With the help of interested individuals and churches, this goal can easily be reached—blessing the Cohapar congregation with **a safe, functional, and welcoming place of worship**. The members of the church will be doing much of the labor.

Your gifts of any size can be designated to the Cohapar Project and sent to: AFLC World Missions 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55441

# *Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester*

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Larsen, WI 54947



# December

# 2025



## *Grace Historical Dates*

1903 The pulpit we use today was retained from the original church (which had been renamed from The Norwegian Lutheran Church to the Immanuel Lutheran Church sometime before the split occurred in 1870).

The altar and altar rail we use today are from The Second Evangelical Lutheran Church. That altar had a picture on it which was replaced with Thorvaldsen's statue of Christ that we still see today.

The Young Ladies Sewing Society paid for the statue, the altar cloth, the carpet in the chancel, and the matting in the aisle.

The young people of the congregation had purchased a new pipe organ for the church by selling subscriptions. It was used until 1948.

The pipe organ was put in place and played for the first time at the dedication on May 15, 1904, by the seller, Carl Raugland, of Minneapolis.

The young people also paid for the large stained art glass window on the north side of the church.

The Ladies Aid Society paid for the large window on the south side of the church.

Captain Ole Oleson of Oshkosh, a former member of the congregation, gave the two stained glass windows near the altar.

—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.

