



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester



From the Desk of Pastor Mark

April 2026

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
- Cereal, Cereal**
- Paper & Plastic Bags

“But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciple.” –St. Matthew 28:5-8 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

FINALLY!

That’s what 2026 is starting off as. On a personal level, I’ve FINALLY been able to pay off some debts and am FINALLY addressing some lingering health issues. From a seasonal perspective, after some false (faux) starts and an enormous record-breaking weekend blast of winter, spring is FINALLY starting to break through the snow and cold. After the delay of the elevator project, at the end of April we are FINALLY celebrating our 175th anniversary as a congregation and as a community. And, lastly, and most importantly, we will gather on the first Sunday of April and worship our God who 2000 years ago FINALLY completed the salvation of His beloved humanity by dying on the cross for the sins of the world before rising to new life that is eternal.

HALLELUJAH!!.....FINALLY!

When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary showed up at Jesus’ tomb on that first Easter morning, they’d been waiting a lifetime for the fulfillment of the prophecy that one would arise and lead God’s people, Israel. In fact, generations had come and gone awaiting this fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah. And when they arrived at the tomb and found it empty, it didn’t initially dawn on them that this was what had been accomplished. I mean, how could it? It was completely unlike anything they expected God’s conquering of sin to be.

And the same joy, awe, and wonder continue to wash over us some 2000 years later. That’s exactly why Easter Sunday is such a hope-

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Mark	1
175th Anniversary	2
Birthdays	3
Church Contacts	3
Calendar	4
Ushers & Greeters	4
Ruth’s Pantry	5
Volunteering	5
Holy Week	5
Grace Lutheran Trivia	6

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

filled day. Physically, emotionally, mentally – our lives can be very difficult at times, but Resurrection Sunday is our most prominent annual reminder that it won't always be so, that there will come a time when we FINALLY know and understand and experience the fullness of the peace which surpasses all understanding.

That is ultimately what we strive for, but because of the broken and sinful world in which we reside, the completeness of it all will continue to evade us until we step through to the other side of death's door. But until that day comes, let us live in the joyful promise that was fulfilled on that first Easter morning when the angel rolled a stone and perched upon it, the guards knee's knocked, and the women's early morning somber stroll turned into a frenetic run to share the good news with Jesus' disciples that he was alive. There could not have been a more perfect ending to God accomplishing what God desired to do for the beloved humanity.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

FINALLY!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

175th Anniversary

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Sunday, April 26, is our celebratory day. East-Central Synod of Wisconsin Bishop Anne Albright-Edison will join us and preach on this festive day.

Several of Grace's former called and interim pastors will be present and will participate in the worship service. Following worship, we will convene to the dining room for a catered lunch by Parker Johns.

We will also have the opportunity to write our "Love letters to Grace 2050" which will be placed inside the time capsule to be opened on Grace's 200th anniversary.

Also, there will be displays and fellowship. There is no cost for you for the luncheon, but to know how many to plan for the meal we do need to know how many of your family/friends will be in attendance. Please let the church office know if you plan on being a part of the celebration by no later than April 7, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mark or the church office.



April



Lynn Selle made the morning snack counter a celebration of Easter food on Sunday, March 22. Cute, healthy, and inviting. Thank you, Lynn!

The 80+ birthday gang

- 10 Barbara Christian
5431 Grandview Road
Larsen, WI 54947
- 14 Jim McLeod
8570 Hickory Avenue
Larsen, WI 54947
- 20 Peggy Staples
220 N. Westfield St., #113
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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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!

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace	2 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship	3 5:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship	4
5 Easter Sunday Pantry Challenge 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship	6 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	7	8 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	9 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	10	11
12 9:30 a.m. Worship with Praise Band 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	13 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	14	15 9:00 a.m. Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	16 8:36 a.m. Property Team	17	18
19 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum	20 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	21	22 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	23	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Worship 175th Anniversary Celebration	27 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	28	29 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word with Holy Communion 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	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.

April	
Ushers	Greeters
April 5 (1st) — Team 6	Team 6
April 5 (2nd) — Team 1	Team 6
April 12 — Team 2	Team 1
April 19 — Team 3	Team 2
April 26 — Team 4	Team 3

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, **April 5**, please bring dish soap.

"Early" Notice: The first Sunday challenge in **May** requests are in. You are encouraged to bring laundry detergent.

Volunteering—You?

Grace needs more volunteers in a number of areas—greeting (once every 6 weeks), ushering (once every 6 weeks) reading the lesson, serving communion, providing snacks for the gathering time after church on occasional Sunday mornings. Not a single one of these jobs (opportunities) is difficult. All that is needed is a willing heart.

If you are interested in serving your congregation in any of these ways, please contact Alissa and let her know where you would like to be involved. THANK YOU!



Holy Week

Killing Jesus on Palm Sunday??? Every year the church enacts a quiet but consequential liturgical decision. On Palm Sunday we gather with branches in hand, singing hosannas and recall Jesus' dramatic entry into Jerusalem. Yet moments later, the mood shifts abruptly as the Passion narrative is read. The story moves from celebration to execution with barely a breath in between.

The pastoral logic behind this practice is understandable. Attendance declines during Holy Week, and many congregations will not return for Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. If the Passion is not proclaimed on Palm Sunday, some worshippers will simply never hear it.

Yet something vital is sacrificed in the process. When the liturgy rushes from triumphant entry to crucifixion, the days that make sense of Jesus' death disappear. Holy Week becomes compressed into a single emotional swing rather than experienced as the unfolding confrontation that the Gospels describe. The result is not only a loss of narrative depth but also a loss of theological clarity.

The events between Sunday and Friday are not incidental background material but the very substance of the story. During these days Jesus openly challenges the political, economic, and religious structures of his world. He exposes how holiness has been turned into a product, how empire sustains itself through extraction, and how religious authority can become entangled with systems of domination. To collapse this week into a single liturgical moment is to risk misunderstanding why Jesus was killed at all.

Imagine being asked to explain the significance of MLK Day, Who was he? Why was he killed? If the answer to those questions only recounts the events of April 4 in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel, you have missed the significance entirely.

—Borrowed from a devotion by Andrew Thayer

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April

2026



Grace Historical Notes

A set of eight earphones were purchased and a loud speaker for the church was installed in 1939. The church was redecorated in 1940.

In 1942, it was voted to introduce devotional booklets.

Up until 1942, all memorial funds given in memory of loved ones were added into the church budget. In 1942, it was voted to place these funds "above the budget" and that the Penny-a-Meal offerings taken during the Lenten season be applied to the budget.

Sunday School envelopes were introduced in 1943.

At the annual meeting of the congregation on January 11, 1945, the name was changed to Grace Lutheran Church in recognition of the 95 years of God's remarkable grace to the congregation.

The first Lutheran World Action (Relief) offering was taken in July 1945. In the first appeal for clothing that same month, 1790 pounds of clothing were sorted, packed, and shipped for the needy in Norway.

Members of the church began to collect and organize books for a church library in 1946.

At a special meeting on September 10, 1947, it was decided to place the *Lutheran Herald* in every home in the congregation.

—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.