



GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

July 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

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From the Desk of Pastor Mark



"The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance; that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life." -- 1 Timothy 1:15-16 NRSVUE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In 1976 when our nation acknowledged its 200th birthday, the community that I grew up in celebrated in festive fashion. I wasn't old enough to really participate (I was just short of my 3rd birthday on July 4, 1976), but I've seen pictures as well as video and newspaper clips of the various community events. I'm quite certain that many other communities held their own festivities as well. It was a time our nation was still healing from Vietnam, Watergate, and deadly racial conflict of the 1960s; though divided in many ways, Americans were yet able to find common ground to acknowledge this momentous anniversary.

For many years I anticipated that our 250th might reflect the same kind of camaraderie, but as we are about to turn the page on it, I've accepted that this is not going to happen. At this point in time, our nation is too divided by political loyalties, ideology and often even a basic understanding of what is fact. I don't write this to cast blame, that is neither my place nor my desire, but merely to state fact. And the most obvious fact is calling this division what it truly is: sin. Naming it as sin is the first step in rectifying it and beginning to heal from it. Care and concern for our neighbors have given way to stubborn demand that, first and foremost, my own thoughts and opinions be acknowledged and my own needs be met. I don't envision that I'll be around for the nation's 300th birthday in 2076, so this will be an opportunity never fulfilled for me which makes me sad that we have given sin this power.

Despite it all, I remain optimistically confident that we will reach a point of healing and reconciliation, for that is what God does with His people. It is the same story repeated throughout the Old Testament, of God's people turning in on themselves and then being restored by God, spilling over to the time after Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and then ascended into heaven.

Nearly 2000 years ago Paul planted a church in Ephesus, grew the

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church, and then left it to move on to where Christ was calling him to go next. Unfortunately, division crept into the church after his departure as the members began to disagree over the role of leadership, the role of her members, and even the role of the church herself; so Paul sent his young ward, Timothy, to assume leadership of the church in Ephesus and would support Timothy with at least two letters (listed in our Bible as 1st and 2nd Timothy) to be utilized as a guide and affirmation in his leadership.

For five weeks (June 28 – July 26) we will dive into these two letters and, God willing, mine some of Paul's insight and faithfulness that can grant us greater clarity in our present mission and relationships. As you are able, I invite you all to read these two short letters . . .



(6 chapters and 4 chapters, respectively) to make yourself aware of the complete picture of unity and common mission that Paul was intending to relay to Timothy.

While what we might gleam from this cannot fix what is broken in our country in time to help us celebrate our 250th anniversary, it can empower us to be initiators of healing so that our children and grandchildren do hopefully celebrate together one day what we are missing out on today. Courtesy of Paul, this could be the greatest gift that we can leave for them as citizens of our beloved nation.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

Synod Assembly Recap

(June 4-6 at the Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh) Pastor Mark, Dave Bork, and Carol Reichert were the Grace delegates.

Guided by the question, "Look, we are baptized! What is to prevent us from striving for justice and peace in all the earth?" Voting members at the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin gathered for worship, discernment, and decision-making. The assembly celebrated ministry milestones, adopted resolutions focused on civic engagement, support for church staff, and ending hunger. The assembly re-elected Bishop Anne Edison-Albright, and approved a spending plan to faithfully steward God's gifts for ministry.



LWR School Kits

Fourth of July gear will probably be replaced with school supplies in the stores. Look for good sales. Here are the items we put in the school kits:

- 4 spiral-bound 70-page notebooks
- 5 unsharpened pencils
- 5 ball point stick pens with caps
- pencil sharpener
- 2-inch pink eraser
- ruler with both inches and metric
- scissors with rounded tips
- one box of 12 crayons



July

The 80+ birthday gang

- 2 Paul Milner
5365 Ann Street
Larsen, WI 54947
- 8 John Thiel
8335 Steeple Hill Drive
Larsen, WI 54847
- 27 David Robbins
8605 S. Loop Road
Larsen, WI 54947



Pastor Mark joined the sewing group for coffee and goodies in June.
Happy smiles!!

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	920-470-8064	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!

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	2	3	4
5 Pantry Challenge 9:30 a.m. Worship	6 4th of July Holiday	7	8 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	9 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	10	11
12 9:30 a.m. Worship	13 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	14	15 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	16 8:36 a.m. Property Team	17	18
19 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Pines* with the Praise Band	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. Vacation Bible School (See page 5) 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word with Holy Communion	23 8:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School (See the notes on page 5)	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Worship In the Pines*	27 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	28	29	30	31	

* All outdoor services are weather permitting and may be moved inside without advanced notice.

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.

July	
Ushers	Greeters
July 5 — Team 2	Team 1
July 12 — Team 3	Team 2
July 19 — Team 4	Team 3
July 26 — Team 5	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, **July 5**, please bring **catsup, mustard, and relish**.

"Early" Notice: The first Sunday challenge in **August** requests are in. You are encouraged to bring **jelly and jam**.



Thank You

THANK YOU! Thank you! This doesn't come close to sharing our appreciation for these amazing weekly gifts you are all sharing with us through Ruth's Pantry. We have four teenagers, and they even get excited for the weekly pickup. The house goods, food, treats, and the smiles and kindness of your staff are all such a blessing. —With heartfelt gratitude, from our forever blessed family.



On July 12, the Pantry crew sold brats, etc., at Festival Foods in Neenah to raise money to buy food for the Pantry. Some of you supported that effort. Look for more opportunities to support our Pantry.

Vacation Bible School

Your children!

Your grandchildren!

Your neighbor's children!

Friends of all of the above!

All will have a good time and enjoy learning more about God's Incredible Love and learning new ways to share it with others!

Call Alissa



Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

graceofwinchester@gmail.com

glcw.org

8396 Steeple Hill Drive

Larsen, WI 54947

920-836-2382

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Grace Historical Notes

Editor's Note: There are a number of lists of trivia information about Grace Lutheran. In this newsletter, we will start a new list—taking us back to the very beginning of what is now “Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester.”

10/25/1850 - The “Norwegian Lutheran Congregation” was organized.

1850 - Three children were baptized on the day the congregation was formed. Two days later, 19 more were baptized.

1853 - The first confirmation class had 8 students.

1954 - Construction of the first church building was begun

1855 - The first Annual Meeting was held in a parishioner's home.

1860 - During the first ten years of the congregation, 67 deaths were recorded.

1861 - Some of the church interior was completed with the addition of the pulpit, which is the one used today.

3/15/1864 - It was decided to purchase 40 acres of land across the road for a parsonage.

1867 - Pastor Homme was called as first full-time, resident pastor.

1867 - At a congregational meeting on August 31, it was decided to raise \$800 by subscription to build a church.

—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.