



September

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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GLOW

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

From the Desk of Pastor Mark



² ***Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—***
³ ***who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,***
⁴ ***who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,***
⁵ ***who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.***

— Psalm 103:2-5 (NRSVUE)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

September 11 will be the 25th anniversary of the horrendous events of what transpired on that day in 2001. I imagine that most every one of us can clearly remember where we were on that day during those fateful moments. I was a seminary student who was a shuttle driver for books exchanged between the two seminaries in town and had just completed my circuit when, upon my return, the librarians filled me in with the early details. But even in Dubuque, Iowa, 1000 miles from where the attacks were being carried out, I felt a whole lot of fear and anxiety that surrounded us all that day. The mother of one of my classmates was scheduled to fly out of Boston that morning to visit her, and because of the significant phone disruptions on the East Coast in the immediate aftermath of the attacks that day, my classmate struggled to connect with her mother throughout the day to make sure that she was safe. Later in the day her mother was finally able to get in touch with her and let her know that she was all right, but the fear and trembling that my classmate displayed throughout those agonizing hours remains very vivid to me a quarter of a century later.

One of the early responses, almost immediately after the attacks, were that several high-profile pastors and religious heads declared that this attack was the result of America having turned away from God. It was a blanket statement with which some even attempted to profit from the fear and guilt that they were spreading. In many ways it was a precursor to the division that we see in our country today, pitting those whom God favors against those whom God is punishing. But that's not who our God is or has ever been.

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The 103rd Psalm, presumably written by David, is acknowledged to be a hymn of praise for God's salvation of Israel. As David writes this, Israel is a nation that has repeatedly succumbed to questioning God's presence and worshipping other idols. But, despite the constant turning away from God by the Israelites, God's faithfulness to them has remained firm, nonetheless. What God cherishes, God will never let go.

Why? Because God knows the bigger picture. God has secured our future. God's hands are guiding us toward the fulfilment that God will bring about. What that means is that even though tragedy and heartbreak will continue to happen and transpire in our world and in our lives, God's promised fulfilment has not changed one iota. The question is, in acknowledging this, will our response to God's faithfulness change?

One month ago, the city of Menasha, as well as other surrounding communities, experienced a horrific EF-3 tornado, destroying homes, businesses, and livelihoods. The path of destruction was wide, even affecting members of this faith community. While the rebuilding effort will be a very long-term endeavor, what jumped out in the immediate aftermath of this event was the number of people who turned out to volunteer to assist in the cleanup and repairs, to provide food, transportation, temporary pet kenneling, phones and phone chargers, and a whole lot of other things. At last count, at least that I saw, it was estimated that over 7000 people had responded to assist in whatever way that they could.

That is an incredible response of God's people responding and meeting the immediate needs of those who many didn't even know where to turn to begin looking for help. In the immediate aftermath I heard nothing about there being any kind of judgment that God had directed this natural disaster to this place to punish this community. There were no declarations that God had turned his back on his people. No. Rather, after an incredibly destructive natural event came through what became clear was that God was guiding the

helpers into helping, and that's exactly what they did.

That's what God does and that's what David was celebrating. May we all be responsive in the same way, acknowledging that our God is a God of love and of hope and of salvation. As we remember and mourn the events of 25 years ago as well as continue to engage in ministering to those who's lives were shook one month ago, may we always remember that our God is a God who forgives, heals, redeems, crowns and renews, always active, and that we get to be a part of His kingdom which is always moving toward the fulfilment of this creation that God loves so much.

Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

ELCA Lay School

Each year at this time, our East Central Synod begins classes for those who wish to grow their faith through the synod's Lay School of Ministry. Classes are held on one Friday and Saturday evening of each month, and are designed to encourage self-understanding and personal growth.

While this is a two-year program, continuing education classes are available to those who have finished the program or those who wish to take a class to see if they are interested in enrolling for the full program. Classes are taught by seminary professors and local pastors with special training and expertise in various areas of faith.

This program is designed to build up strong leaders among the members of our congregation and equip them to better carry God's word within the congregation.

If you are interested in more information about Lay School, go to layschool@ecsw.org on your computer. Dave Bork is a graduate of the Lay School of ministry. He would be happy to tell you more about how it works and what it has done for his faith and his understanding of the Bible.



Our Synod Web Site

For those of you who have access to a computer, the East Central Synod of Wisconsin has a Web site.

The address is: <http://www.ecsw.org/> If you subscribe, you will receive emails regularly.

You can go to this site to learn about various events for women and youth in the synod. Being out here in Winchester, we feel somewhat separated from many of the other churches in the synod. This site also has regular messages from the bishop of our synod.

On the synod Web site, you can access the *Wave* magazine—a magazine published specifically for individuals and families in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. In years past, the church subscribed to the *Wave* magazine for each family in the congregation. Those years ARE past, but the magazine is still available for any who are interested.

Another Web site—www.elca.org—is available for you to browse to see what is happening in the GREATER ELCA church. Interesting reading



September

The 80+ birthday gang

- 4 David Christianson
5300 Ann Street, #105
Larsen, WI 54947
- 8 Duane Fietzer
5800 Pennsylvania Ave. #108
Appleton, WI 54914
- 11 Ruth Ann Wisnefske
5466 Grandview Road
Larsen, WI 54947
- 15 Gerald Peterson
5707 Lakeview Road
Larsen, WI 54947
- 23 Lona Schroll
9188 N. Loop Road
Larsen, WI 54947
- 30 Kay Wisnefske
4978 Grandview Road
Larsen, WI 54947

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Other Key Contacts

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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!

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	3	4	5
6 Pantry Challenge 9:30 a.m. Worship	7 Labor Day No Ruth's Pantry	8	9 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	10 1:00 p.m. Leah Circle	11	12
13 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. God's Work, Our Hands Celebra- tion	14 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	15	16 9:00 Women of Grace 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word	17 8:36 a.m. Property Team	18	19
20 9:30 a.m. Worship with Praise Band	21 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	22	23 8:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word 6:15 p.m. Parent and Stu- dent Meeting for Confir- mation	24	25	26
27 9:30 a.m. Worship	28 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ruth's Pantry 4:00-5:00 p.m. Ruth's Pantry	29	30 5:30 p.m. Worship Service of the Word with Holy Communion 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	27	28	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.

September	
Ushers	Greeters
September 6 — Team 5	Team 6
September 13 — Team 6	Team 1
September 20 — Team 1	Team 2
September 27 — Team 2	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, **September 3**, please bring boxed potatoes.

"Early" Notice: The first Sunday challenge in **October** requests are in. You are encouraged to bring hamburger or tuna helper.

A Sunday for Caring

Each year, we do something special to celebrate the ELCA "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. Last year we had a baby shower for Ruth's Pantry. This year we are also benefitting the Pantry with the Art and Handmade Fair that will be held following worship on Sunday, September 13. (See the flyer below.) Everyone is invited to bring something that they have created that might be enjoyed by someone else. These items will be displayed in the Great Room. If you find something you would like to own, you can take it and make an appropriate donation to Ruth's Pantry. It sounds like many desirable items will be available for you to take home while the Pantry benefits from your find!

MEANWHILE . . . In the dining room, everyone is invited to come and help assemble school kits and personal care kits and package them for shipping, along with packing the quilts made by the Sewing Group over the past year. Many hands will be needed to prepare the items for the kits, assemble the kits, and box them. Thanks to all the people who have been bringing soap and notebooks and pens and scissors and erasers and crayons and rulers and toothbrushes and combs. Our contributions will fill many boxes to be shipped around the world to those in need.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Hands of GRACE

A CONGREGATIONAL ART & HANDMADE FAIR

Sharing God's gifts with our neighbors.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
Following Worship
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
WINCHESTER, WI

QUILTS & SEWING | **KNIT & CROCHET** | **POTTERY & ART** | **WOODWORKING & CARVINGS** | **BAKED GOODS & PRESERVES** | **JEWELRY & MORE!**

TOGETHER, WE ALSO PACK LWR KITS!

Join us as we assemble
Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits
to share Christ's love with neighbors
around the world.

ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT RUTH'S PANTRY,
A MINISTRY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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glcw.org

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Grace Historical Notes

11-26-1879—It was decided that members of the congregation cannot let their homes be used for public dances.

12-8-1882—Discussed building a shed for horses (built in 1883).

5-31-1893—The two churches reunited into one congregation, the “United Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Winchester.”

1894—English speaking worship services were offered once a month. The first Sunday School Christmas program was given.

3-1-1902—It was decided to raise \$6000 to build a new church.

2-2-1903—Robert Mesmer of Milwaukee was voted to be architect for the church project.

NOTE: As the location of the new church is where the second church was located, the second church was dismantled first, and the first church used until a new church was built. Mr. Moe of Winneconne took down the old churches. (There are pictures taken from the 1904 bell tower showing the bell tower of the first church.)

3-18-1903—Ground broken for new church. (Edward Bertelsen of Sawyer, WI, was the building contractor.)

—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.