



GLOW



Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester



From the Desk of Pastor Mark

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire. – Psalm 46:8-9 (NRSVUE)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Every day as I stroll through my neighborhood, I see a few more political signs populating on people's lawns. Nothing says "fall" more than the beauty of turning trees, the aroma of pumpkin spice, and the proclamation of American democracy on cardboard rectangles. Ah, the joys of the midterms. Some signs simply have the candidate's name on them. Others make bold promises, or even bolder accusations. While I don't know the vast majority of those whose yard décor I encounter in my daily meanderings, their signage gives me a general idea as to what ideals they probably support.

While I am grateful that none of my immediate neighbors put any kind of political signage in their yards, thus none of our conversations enter into the political arena, what jumps out to me is when I do encounter politically polar signs in neighboring yards, and I wonder what the relationship might be between these neighbors. It's no big secret that family and friendship have been affected by impassioned political stances; so, what does it look like when two diametrically different people must live next door to one another? Is it a situation where looking away from your neighbor is easier than loving your neighbor? I really hope that's not the case with any of these situations, but I really don't know. Hopefully deep-rooted and long-lasting relationships beyond personal politics will be stronger.

But over the past several months, something else has also popped up in my neighborhood--something that has had very little signage attached to it. It is a Habitat for Humanity home. I know that it's a Habitat for Humanity home, not because of any signs out front proclaiming it, but rather because of a marked trailer that is occasionally in the driveway.

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October

2026

Ruth's Pantry Needs

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

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I don't ever recall living close enough to one of these builds before, but with this one I have been able to witness the daily process over the past several months of seeing this site grow from being just a hole in the ground to what appears to be a two-bedroom home with an attached two-car garage.

It has been such a delight encountering a lot of different people who are volunteering at the site. My dog sure loves the attention that she gets from them. There's a barrel at the end of the driveway marked "free wood" for anyone in the neighborhood who would like to have it. While there certainly are licensed contractors coming and going to ensure that the electricity and plumbing and the like meet the necessary code standards, it's the collaboration of those who give so joyfully of their time and talents that have created the true foundation for a house that is built on love.

It's also a beautiful representation of what Christ has created his church to be: a home built on the foundation of faithfulness, love, and humility. In a time in which so many strive to pull our world and our nation apart for their own benefit and agenda (as some of the political signs allude to) Christ's church has always served to build, rebuild, and to unite. It is a place where we leave our differences at the door and humbly acknowledge that we are all sinners accepting the invitation of salvation that comes through the relationship that we have with Jesus. It's a place where we can be vulnerable, joyful, or fearful and know that we are loved and that we are safe. It's a place where we can dream and know that our dreams have the proper space and resources that they need to grow.

In about six weeks, all the political signs will once again disappear (yippee!) and soon after snow will settle on those lawns, reminding us that we are all in this together and going through whatever we're going to go through together.

The Habitat for Humanity home will continue to be fashioned and fitted for habitation, and at some point, a family, because of the willingness and generosity of humble strangers, will assume occupancy in it. That will be a day of great joy and celebration. May the church always reflect that home--to be a place of safety and security amid the storms and uncertainties we weather together, a beacon of hope and togetherness in what is too often a brittle and fractured world.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Virtual Adult Forum

The September and October Bible Study session for the Leah Circle which gathers at the Henrietta on the second Thursday of each month has been centered on the ELCA's social statement on "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy." If any of you would like to engage in this topic on a grander scale, the East Central Synod of Wisconsin will be offering a virtual "Faith and Civic Life Study Series" on Tuesdays from November 3– December 8. Please check out the Synod's website, www.ecsw.org for registration details and more information.



A Fresh Look for the GLOW

You may notice that our newsletter looks a little different in the coming months! Microsoft is discontinuing Publisher, the program we have traditionally used to create GLOW, so we are in the process of transitioning to a new publishing program. As we make the switch, you may see some changes in fonts, layouts, graphics, or the overall look of the newsletter. Don't worry, the same Grace news, updates, announcements, and familiar features will still be here!

Like anything new, it may take us a little time to find our rhythm and discover what works best. We appreciate your patience as we learn our new program and we hope to have a little fun giving GLOW a fresh look along the way!

New look. Same GLOW. Same Grace.

October BIRTHDAYS

The 80+ birthday gang

- | | |
|----|--|
| 12 | Phil Zehner
7690 Zehner Lane
Larsen, WI 54947 |
| 13 | Carla Olson
5269 Ann Street
Larsen, WI 54947 |
| 16 | Gwyneth Robbins
8605 S. Loop Road
Larsen, WI 54947 |
| 18 | Leiann Christianson
6415 Paulson Road
Winneconne, WI 54986 |
| 18 | Melvin Mathison
99103 North Loop Road
Larsen, WI 5947 |



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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!

October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Pantry Challenge 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 Service of the Word	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 9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle 5:30 Service of the Word 6:00 Confirmation Class	15 8:36 a.m. Property Team 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Chili Supper	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	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 9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle	29	30	31

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)

October	
Ushers	Greeters
October 4 — Team 3	Team 2
October 11 — Team 4	Team 3
October 18 — Team 5	Team 4
October 25 — Team 6	Team 5

Ruth's Pantry "Collection Challenge"

Ruth's Pantry's next Collection Challenge is Sunday, October 4!

This month, we're stocking our shelves with Hamburger Helper and Tuna Helper. These easy-to-prepare meal options are a helpful pantry staple for the families we serve.

Simply bring your donations to Grace and add them to the collection.

Whether you bring one box or a whole bagful, every donation helps us keep Ruth's Pantry well stocked and ready to serve our neighbors.

Thank you for continuing to support Ruth's Pantry, a ministry of Grace Lutheran Church! Together, we can fill the shelves and share a little Grace with our community.

"Early" Notice: The November Collection Challenge will be Soups and Stews!



Chili Supper



Everyone is invited to a **Chili Supper** on Thursday, October 15. Serving will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will continue until 7 p.m. This event is a fundraiser for Ruth's Pantry. Admission will be by free-will offering. Cornbread and desserts will be included in this meal. Please come and bring all of your friends.



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday--Thank YOU!

What an incredible day! Thanks to the generosity of our talented makers, wonderful volunteers, and everyone who shopped and donated at our God's Work. Our Hands. Maker Fair, we raised over \$1,700 for Ruth's Pantry!

We are so grateful to everyone who shared their time, talents, creativity, and generosity to make this event such a success. Every handmade item, every helping hand, and every donation helped support this important ministry of Grace. Thank you for putting God's work into action with your hands and your hearts!

Adults and children from around the world thank YOU! They thank you for the school supplies. They thank you for towels and soap and toothbrushes. They thank you for the warm quilts made by many hands at Grace Lutheran of Winchester. The members of our church ROCK!!!

You have provided fabric as well as used sheets and blankets for the quilts. You have provided notebooks and pens and pencils and crayons for the school kits. You have provided soap and toothbrushes and bath towels for the personal care kits. And finally, you showed up in record numbers and worked hard to pack all of these items into boxes to be shipped. Many thanks to all of you for your diligence and generosity.

You have touched many lives. Perhaps sometime this year we will be able to get an accounting of where all of these World Relief supplies have gone—thanks to Alissa for implementing a new way to keep track of our shipment items. THANK YOU—each and every one of you!

Grace Lutheran Church of Winchester

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glcw.org

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Larsen, WI 54947

920-836-2382

October

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Grace Historical Notes

6-7-1903 Corner stone laid. (Not sure of location—could be in bell tower. But no information was placed behind the stone.

10-10-1903 Church building was completed in late autumn. (38 x 64 with bell tower at 107 feet) \$15,000) (Following similar plans of Bethlehem German Church of Hortonville)

5-15-1904 Dedication of church.

1907 Norwegian was exclusively spoken to teach Sunday School until 1907.

1913 Non-Scandinavians allowed membership for the first time.

11-22-1913 Moved the pipe organ from the balcony to the main floor of the church.

1917 Individual communion cups were used instead of one wine chalice.

1-10-1918 Held equal number of services in English as in Norwegian

1-10-1918 Annual Meeting—all records switched to English from Norwegian.

1-10-1918 Committee formed to plot the cemetery

1-10-1918 Board of Trustees to repair the windmill. It fell over and was damaged.

1-10-1918 No smoking allowed in church building.

—Facts are assembled and submitted by David Christianson, with the help of several people who went through historical materials and pulled out data.