

THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

****COVID 19 / CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION**

As a parish, we continue to follow the guidelines and suggestions of the Center for Disease Control and our Minnesota Health Department. Though we have included announcements and calendar information about what we have scheduled for April, please watch for ongoing cancellations as they may happen. We all hope that life will get back to normal soon, but we do not have a definite timetable for this.

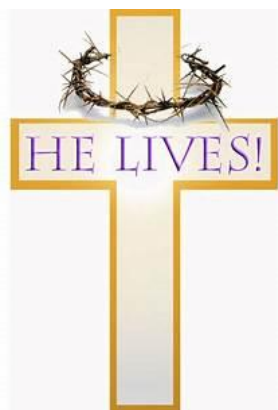
ALL Worship services through April 8th are cancelled.

Please watch our **Facebook page** and our **Website** frequently. We will be posting announcements and devotional material often.

(Note: There are a number of Facebook pages out there – look for the BCGRCParish Facebook page. Also, our website is **bgcrgparish.org** and daily devotions and announcements will be on the home page.)

EASTER – If we are unable to have our Easter services on April 12, we will plan to have Easter on the first Sunday on which we are able to worship together in our congregations. Look forward to that – whether it is April 12 or another date. What a glorious day that will be as we celebrate new life in Christ!!

Offerings – during this time, we encourage you to consider mailing your offerings to the Parish office (P.O. Box 10). Though our doors are closed, some of our expenses continue. For record keeping it will be helpful to use your offering envelopes.



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

"But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Psalm 103: 17

I had already written an article for the April newsletter a few days ago. But things have changed. And things are changing every day. **"But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."**

One day we are having a basketball tournament; the next it is completely cancelled. One day schools are open; the next they are closing down or transitioning to electronic learning at home. One day there is a shipment of toilet paper to Walmart; the next there is none to be found on the shelves. **"But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."**

One day an NBA player is joking and touching microphones; the next day he tests positive. One day there are 7 cases in Minnesota, then 12, then 21, then 35... **"But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."**

I don't know exactly where all this is going. I've never lived through something like this. I am hoping that this will reach its peak quickly and then fade away in the rear-view mirror soon. But in the meantime, I will be looking at ways that we can have a positive and helpful ministry in this time.

And I remind you that whatever changes we see from day to day, **"the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."**

See you in worship!

Pastor John

Stewardship – 2020

<u>Big Grove- April</u>	<u>Crow River- April</u>	<u>Grace- April</u>
<p>USHERS: 5 Open, 12 Andrew & Ethan Spanier, 19 Max & Annika Heieie, 26 Open</p> <p>READERS: 5 Bruce Paulson, 12 Spanier's, 19 Allen Anderson, 26 Deters</p> <p>ACOLYTES: 5 Andrew Spanier, 9 Maudy Thursday Tanner Viessman, 12 Ava Deters, 19 Gunnar Heieie, 26 Kiley Viessman</p> <p>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: 5 Bruce Paulson, 12 Easter, 19 Tammie & Kyle Strand, 26 Lyle Johnson</p>	<p>USHERS: Dale Anderson, Pat Thieschafer, Gary Theis, Randy Anderson, Brian Schreifels, Greg Martin, Glenn Otteson, Ricky Gerhardson, Trevor Miller</p> <p>READERS: 5 Jodi Schoumaker, 12 6:30a Travis Szczesniak, 8:30a Open, 19 Jenna Hanson, 26 Nichole Szczesniak</p> <p>ACOLYTES: 5 Dakota Pelzer, 10 7p Good Friday (CR) Josh Walstrom, 12(6:30a) Bree Thieschafer, (8:30a) Cooper Roering, 19 Samantha Cooper, 26 Kora Martinez</p> <p>CROSSBEARERS: 5 Dacia Szczesniak, 12 (6:30a) Ella Halvorson, (8:30a) Justin Lundberg, 19 Mason Commerford, 26 Odin Jensen</p> <p>GREETERS: 5 Rick & Diane Gerhardson, 12 Delmar & Mona Jensen, 19 Tracy & Stacy Lewis Family, 26 Jeff & Angie Gerhardson</p> <p>ALTAR GUILD: Erin Commerford</p>	<p>USHERS: 5 Steve Jones & Gary Oeltjenbruns, 12 6:30a Open, 9:00a Paige & Austin Klaphake, 19 Confirmation Students Paige Mueller & Donovan Koenig, 26 Open,</p> <p>READERS: 5 Paige Klaphake, 12 6:30a John Anderson 9:00a Open, 19 Lois Evenson, 26 Darlene Barchenger</p> <p>ACOLYTES: 5 Carson Savage, 11 Good Friday 1:00p Max Hanson, 12 6:30a Reegan Jones, 9:00a Brooke Mercado, 19 Taylor Oeltjenbruns, 26 Drew Thompson</p> <p>ALTAR GUILD: Shirley Anderson/ Judy Dickhoff</p> <p>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: 5 Oeltjenbruns & Jones, 12 Easter Breakfast, 19 Open, 26 Open</p>

Please hold in your prayers: Dorothy Heieie, Dorothy Johnson, Sonja Johnson, Janet Raveling, Lisa Jensen (Don and Sandra Westaby's daughter), Calmon Peterson (Karla Anderson's brother), Ernie Johnson, Wally Sjogren, Richard Kirckof, Easton Rood, Phil & Lucille Olson, Ruth Kirckof, Joyce Johnson, Lorraine Johnson, and all those we name in our hearts, having the confidence that through the power of the Holy Spirit, God knows our needs. (Please notify Parish Office with changes and updates.)

OFFERINGS: During this time as we experience cancellations of services of worship, we encourage you to consider mailing in your offerings to PO Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312. For record keeping it is advised to use your offering envelopes. Even at times when the doors are closed, the expenses of the Parish will continue.

Please watch for Facebook and our Website (bgcrgparish.org) for any cancellations or announcements for our Parish, and any devotional material.



BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH

IF YOU ARE AWARE OF ANY CHURCH MEMBERS, who are hospitalized, please contact the Parish Office. Pastor John would like to know for prayers and visits. Hospitals are unable to notify us when someone is hospitalized.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES



PALM SUNDAY -- April 5
8:30am – Big Grove (no Communion)
9:00am – Grace (no Communion)
10:30am – Crow River (no Communion)

Watch for updates
Website (bgcrgparish.org)
or Facebook

MAUNDY THURSDAY -- April 9
7:00pm at Big Grove (with Communion)

GOOD FRIDAY -- April 10
1:00pm at Grace
7:00pm at Crow River



EASTER SUNDAY -- April 12
6:30am – Crow River (no Communion)
6:30am – Grace (Communion)
8:30am – Crow River (Communion)
9:00am – Grace (no Communion)
10:30am – Big Grove (Communion)

CALL PROCESS UPDATE: Our Transition Team did an excellent job and has submitted our Ministry Site Profile to the ELCA. Our Call Committee includes three members from each congregation – Big Grove: Amber Deters, Don Segaar, Warren Thompson; Crow River: Kayla Engen, Doug Mohs, Kyle Quenemoen; Grace: Bruce Wing, Stephanie Fischer, Brenda Thompson. The Call Committee is currently considering candidates for our second pastoral position. Keep this process in your prayers, that God may gift us with a faithful pastor who will serve well in our parish.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Saturday, April 18 7:30am at Grace. Come and join us for breakfast. Good food, good fellowship, and some good news from God's Word. A great way to start the day!

PARISH CHOIR: Calling all voices!! Come, sing with the Parish Choir during Holy Week. Practice will be at 7:00pm on Sunday, March 29 and April 5. We will sing on April 5th.

NOTICE TO PARISH ON FLOWERS FOR EASTER: As of Monday, March 23rd we are putting ahold on ordering Easter Flowers at this time. If you already turned in a form along with your check and we do not have Easter we will return the check to you. If you have any questions please contact Sande Mathison (Grace), Karla Anderson (Crow River) and Lisa Pastian (Big Grove). To God Be the Glory!!!



CROW RIVER WELCA WOMEN invite our sister church women to join us for Spring program on Thursday April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Mary Solbreken will be giving a demonstration and answering questions on flower and gardening. Hope to see you there. "April Showers Bring May Flowers!"



Nursing home residents and Shut ins cannot have visitors right now so bless them with happy or thinking of you or hello cards.

FOOD SHELF DRIVE IS EXTENDED UNTIL MAY 6

March is Minnesota Food Share month and is a great time to support our local food shelf. Every dollar given locally to our food shelf qualifies it for percentage grants from other sources during this month. So, our gifts are multiplied. Be generous! **The BBE Food Shelf could also use some items, as:** shampoo, crème rinse, Kleenex, combs, disposal razor blades, brushes, assorted cleaning supplies.



Please note that the food shelf has extended the time until May 6th. We are all in this together. Thank you for the donations that have been received. If you would like to donate just drop the donation in the mail, please make checks payable to the **BBE FOOD SHELF** and you can send to box 10, Belgrade Mn 56312 and Roxanne will make sure your donation will get to the BBE food shelf

MEN'S CANADA FISHING TRIP:

At this time, we are still planning to go. We do not have any way of knowing yet if this trip will be affected by border closings, etc.

DEADLINE to sign up for this trip is April 15. You can sign up by sending a deposit of \$200 per person to the Parish Office (P.O. Box 10.)

CROW RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CEMETERY OMELET BREAKFAST has been cancelled for Sunday, April 26th.

CROW RIVER WORK DAY: There will be a work day on Monday, April 13th starting at 9:00 am and we will be quilting. Please bring a dish to pass for a noon lunch.

THANK YOU all for all the prayers, caring thoughts, calls, text messages, the week while I was in the hospital. Thank you to Pastor John for his visit & prayers! It was a long week of having pain and test after test but they finally figured it out. I am truly blessed to have great family, friends & church family. Prayers helped alot! Jodi Pelze.r

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS for Darlene Boie and family on the death of Lyle G. Boie. Lyle died on Wednesday, March 11th and his service was held on Monday, March 16th at Grace Lutheran Church. Blessed be the memory of Lyle G. Boie.

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FUND

The Congregational Fund of Grace Lutheran Church is now accepting requests for grants and scholarships. Grants can be requested for ministries within our congregation, outreach in our community, missions of the ELCA, equipment and furnishings, or capital improvements to the church. To make a request, simply write a letter explaining how the grant money would be used. Requests for scholarships for Bible Camps or college should also be in written form.

All requests for grants and scholarships must be received by May 1. Requests and applications should be addressed to: Grace Congregational Fund, P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312.

THERE WILL BE NO EASTER BREAKFAST THIS YEAR FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Big Crow River Grace Youth Page

CONFIRMATION FOR 9th GRADE STUDENTS – April 15 and 22

We will be doing a combined Confirmation / EPIC on these two Wednesdays. We will begin at 6:00pm with a brief class time. Then we will eat at 6:30 and have EPIC following. Please try to be on time for class!!

“EPIC” – 9-12 Youth

We will begin again after Easter! April 15, 22, and 29. Meet at 6:30pm for supper with activities following. We only have two months left with Tyler, so let's enjoy getting together with him while he is still with us.

CONFIRMATION FOR 7-8th GRADE STUDENTS – April 29

Supper at 6:00pm. 6:30 large group presentation. 7:00 small groups. Dismiss 7:25. Servers are Deanna Johnson, Amber Heinen, and Andrea Prentice.

FCA3 BREAKFASTS: (Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Artists, and Academics)
Thursdays at 7:30am. All 7-12th grade youth are invited to come.

Please watch Facebook or the Website for information on cancellations.

BIBLE CAMP – Summer 2020 GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Youth can still sign up for Bible Camp this summer. Though the Early Bird Deadline is passed, you can still access the discounts and assistance funds by registering through the Parish Office.

SAVE THE DATES – CANOE TRIP -- Sunday, July 19 – Thursday, July 23

This trip will be for 7-12 grade youth who like to “rough it” in a remote wilderness setting. You will receive more information and registration forms at a later date.

The Jelly Bean Meditation

Green is for the grass you made.
White is for the grace you gave.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Red is for the blood you shed.
Black is for the sins which fled.
Purple is for your hours of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow. Amen.



April 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-1:30pm Phone # 320-254-3249						
(HC) Holy Communion			1	2 4p Naomi Circle (G) 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace 6:30p GLCW EX Board (NOTE DAY CHANGE) 7p WELCA CR	3 5p Parish Council	4 10:30a Worship/ Music Committee
5 6:30p BG Council	6 6:30p Rachel Circle (G)	7 10a Sarah Circle (G)	8 7:00p Grace Council	9 7:30a FCA 7p Maundy Thursday @ Big Grove 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace	10 1p Good Friday Worship @ Grace 7p Good Friday Worship @ Crow River	11
12 Easter Sunday 6:30a Easter Sunrise @ Crow River 6:30a Easter Sunrise @ Grace (HC) 8:30a Easter Worship @ Crow River (HC) 9a Easter Worship No HC 10:30a Easter Worship @ Big Grove (HC)	13 9a Crow River Work day	14 7p Crow River Council Newsletter Deadline	15 4p J.A.M. 6p 9 th Gr Confirmation 6:30p EPIC	16 7:30a FCA 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace	17	18 7:30a Men's Breakfast
19 8:30a Worship-BG 9:00a Worship-Grace w / HC 9:45a S.S.-CR 10:30a Worship CR w H/C	20	21 BBE Food Shelf Appreciation Luncheon	22 4p J.A.M. 6p 9 th Confirmation 6p CR plan Memorial Day dinner @CR 6:30p EPIC	23 7:30a FCA 3p Pastor John @ BNH 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace	24	25 BBE Prom
26 8:30a Worship-CR 9a Worship-G 9:30a S.S.-BG 9:45a S.S.-CR 10:30a Worship- BG	27	28	29 4p J.A.M. 6p 8-8 Gr Confirmation 6:30p EPIC	30 7:30a FCA 9a Newsletter Assembly		

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish
PO Box 10, Belgrade MN 56312 | 320-254-3249
Pastor John Dalen prjohnd59@gmail.com

Parish Secretary bgcrlutheran@frontiernet.net

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

God's Work, Our Hands!

Church and Parish Councils

Big Grove

President	Jim Thoen	Vice Presidents	Scott Stueckrath /Jenny Stueckrath
Secretary	Megan Imdieke	Treasurer	Deanna Johnson
Financial Secretary	Tammie Strand		

Crow River

President	Kayla Engen	Vice President	Ryan Halvorson
Secretary	Melanie Lundberg	Treasurer	Travis Szczesniak
Financial Secretary	Jerry Torgerson		

Grace

President	Stephanie Fischer	Vice President	Dennis Braegelman
Secretary	Bruce Brunette	Treasurer	Connie Wold
Financial Secretary	Tom Madsen		

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish (BGCRG)

Council Members:	Allen Anderson (BG)	Eric Johnson (BG)
	Jan Martin (CR)	Brian Ziemer (CR)
	Connie Wold (G)	Megan Klaphake (G)

Pastors Pastor John Dalen

Parish Treasurer/Office Secretary Roxanne Oeltjenbruns