



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

AUGUST

From the
Pastor's Desk

Greetings!

I am thankful for the call to partner in ministry with you! As I am writing this article, it is my second day in the office. I have been in town for over two weeks and I am settling in.

As a way of introduction, I will share a bit about myself and where work and ministry has taken me. I graduated from Blooming Prairie High School, in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. My parents were both school teachers and are now retired. My dad was a high school math teacher, teaching Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus. I had him as a teacher three of the six years of high school. Not always the easiest to have your parent as a teacher!! And my mom, she taught in the elementary school. She taught 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade. I also have a brother, Todd, who is an accountant in Rochester, Minnesota.

After high school, I attended Iowa State University. I was fortunate enough to have a full ride athletic scholarship to play golf. I loved my time at Iowa State and on the golf team. We traveled a lot as a team and I was able to play many courses in the Big 12 conference. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance in 2004 and then a Master of Business Administration degree in 2006. I also finished my accounting undergraduate degree in 2006, for good measure!

After college, I began work at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in West Des Moines, Iowa. I had three different positions at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. It was while working at Wells Fargo that I began to feel a call to ministry. I was a member at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, Iowa. I started to get involved in a couple of ministries. It was while on a mission trip in Montego Bay, Jamaica that I decided to apply to seminary. I began my studies by taking the Greek language online in the Fall of 2012. What an introduction!! Then in January 2013, I moved from West Des Moines to St. Paul, to live and attend Luther Seminary. I graduated from Luther Seminary in 2016.

I did field work while in seminary at Jacob's Well in Minneapolis and at Prince of Peace in Brooklyn Park. I completed internships at Mountain View Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona and at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Austin, Minnesota. I also did two chaplaincy units at the University of Minnesota hospital and at UnityPoint Medical Center in Des Moines. These varied experiences prepared me to be called to be the Pastor at First English Lutheran Church in Tyler, Minnesota. I was ordained on May 20, 2017 at my home congregation in Blooming Prairie, First Lutheran Church. I began ministry in Tyler in 2017 and concluded in 2020. My time as a solo pastor has given me experience in a little bit of everything. I did everything from preaching to calling the plumber! I discovered during my time in Tyler about my love for youth ministry. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow as a pastor while serving you here at the Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish.

I look forward to meeting you. Please feel free to reach out to me.

My email is pastorlisaanne@gmail.com and my cell phone is 515-451-1382.

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Lisa Meshke

BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: **Randy** Lindahl, **Johanna** Orsten, **Donna** Baston (Tammy Strand's sister), **Spencer** Otteson, **Jodi** Schoumaker, **Janice** Rapp, **Tom** Wold, **Dorothy** Johnson, **Sonja** Johnson, **Janet** Raveling, **Lisa** Jensen (Don and Sandra Westaby's daughter), **Calmon** Peterson (Karla Anderson's brother), **Dorothy** Heieie, **Wally** Sjogren, **Richard** Kirckof, **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.

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 2

8:30am On-line service on Website and Facebook
8:30am at Crow River (in sanctuary)
9:00am at Grace (on lot by parsonage)
10:30am at Big Grove (outside on lawn)

Sunday, August 9

8:30am On-line service on Website and Facebook
8:30am at Big Grove (outside on lawn)
9:00am at Grace (in or out to be determined)
10:30am at Crow River (in sanctuary)

Sunday, August 16

8:30am On-line service on Website and Facebook
8:30am at Crow River (in sanctuary)
9:00am at Grace (in or out to be determined)
10:30am at Big Grove (in or out to be determined)

Sunday, August 23

8:30am On-line service on Website and Facebook
8:30am at Big Grove (in or out to be determined)
9:00am at Grace (in or out to be determined)
10:30 at Crow River (in sanctuary)

Sunday, August 30

8:30am On-line service on Website and Facebook

8:30am at Crow River (in sanctuary)

9:00am at Grace (in or out to be determined)

10:30am at Big Grove (in or out to be determined)

** 7:00pm Parish Worship Event (place to be determined)

Each of our congregations will have Covid Preparedness Plans in place

to do what we can to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.

Here are some basic things to keep in mind:

- If you feel sick or have any symptoms, you should stay at home.
- Masks are strongly recommended.
- We will be encouraging safe distancing at all times.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and you are encouraged to sanitize your hands as you enter and as you leave.
- We will be taking pictures to keep a visual record of who was present in case there is a need for contact tracing.
- Pastors will not be shaking hands after worship.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAYS

Because life was so rudely interrupted last spring, we were unable to do our traditional Senior Recognition Sundays in May. We have scheduled special Sundays in August to recognize our Graduated Seniors and to bless them on their way to new ventures this fall. Here's the schedule:

Big Grove – Sunday, August 2 at 10:30am

Brooke Deters

Grace – Sunday, August 9 at 9:00am

Evan Jones, Austin Klaphake, Jesse Westaby

Crow River – Sunday, August 9 at 10:30am

David Dokken, Kagan Jakobson, Kaitlyn Quenemoen,
Canon Swanson, Jordyn Walstrom

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The parish office would like to put together an email address list for our members. Please send us an email at bgcrlutheran@frontiernet.net with your name and current email address. This will be one more way for us to keep in good contact with our members.

CHURCH OFFERINGS

We would like to thank those who have been sending in their offerings during the closures and cancellation of services. We truly appreciate your help in meeting our ongoing expenses. If you would like to mail in your offerings, send them to Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish, P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312.

If you are a member of Crow River, you can also send your offerings electronically. On the BGCRGParish.org website, there is a page under Crow River that will guide you in this.

PARISH WORSHIP EVENT – Sunday, August 30 at 7:00pm

Our Parish Council is planning a Special Parish Worship Event at _____. This service will include a time of expressing our Appreciation for Dave Clark and his service during our interim time. Though we will not have a meal together, you can expect a treat of some sort. Please come to let Dave know how much we appreciate him.

CROW RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS of Ruby Thorson. Ruby died on Monday, June 29th and her service were held on Saturday, July 18th. Blessed be the memory of Ruby Thorson.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report: (June)Income: \$ 10,039.50
Expenses: \$ 13,595.48
General Fund End Balance \$ 8,328.12

**Reviewed the schedule for worship in the upcoming weeks.

**Will plan for a Parish Service of Appreciation (for Dave Clark) event on August 30 in the evening.

**Approved a 12 month lease agreement with the City for our office space.

BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – July (Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report: (June)Income: \$ 67,932.92**
Expenses: \$ 2,794.66
General Fund End Balance: \$ 93,888.98

**Note: Over \$65,000 was given by Marvin Imsdahl's estate. Council decided to put \$40,000 in a CD to be used for designated projects.

**Council approved a National Honor Society project by Kylie Terhaar. She will be raising funds to provide an outdoor bench by the church.

**Council discussed a plan for indoor worship. We will continue outdoor services at least through August 9 when the plan will be finalized.

CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – July (Complete minutes available at parish office.)

Treasurer's Report: (June) Income: \$ 7,331.00
Expenses: \$ 7,208.87
General Fund End Balance \$18,984.32

**Worked on a Covid Preparedness Plan to safely begin worship services indoors in August.

**Approved welcoming Kristin Buysse as a new member.

**Set August 9 as our Senior Recognition Sunday at our 10:30 service.

GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – July (Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report: (June) Income: \$ 7,349.32
Expenses: \$ 6,097.13
General Fund End Balance \$ 48,903.62

** Received updates from the Trustees on the church roof, parsonage hail damage repairs, and parsonage maintenance and improvements.

** Discussed formulating a plan and guidelines for indoor worship and activities. This plan will be finalized at our August meeting. In the meantime, our outdoor worship services will be held across the street in the shade of the trees on the lot next to the parsonage.

** Senior Recognition is planned for Sunday, August 9 at our 9:00am service.

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
(V) Vacation						1
2 8:30a Worship CR 9:00a Worship G 10:30a Worship BG Pastor John (V)	3 Pastor John (V)	4 Pastor John (V)	5 7p Grace Council Pastor John (V)	6	7	8
9 8:30a Worship BG 9:00a Worship G 10:30a Worship CR 6:30p BG Council	10	11 7p Crow River Council	12 5p Parish Council mtg @ Grace	13	14 Wedding Rehearsal Erin Anderson/Wyatt Krug	15 Wedding Erin Anderson/Wyatt Krug
16 8:30a Worship CR 9:00a Worship G 10:30a Worship BG	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Buysee/ Lieser Wedding Rehearsal @ CR	21 5:30p Buysee/Lieser Wedding @ CR	22
23 8:30a Worship BG 9:00a Worship G 10:30a Worship CR	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:30a Worship CR 9:00a Worship G 10:30a Worship BG 7:00p Parish Worship Event place held TBD	31					

Please see the sheet that has the times and the locations of the services in August. Some to be held in doors and some to be held outdoors. Church schedules are on the second page of the newsletter and continued on the third page.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	<i>Scott Norris</i>		
2	<i>Keshia Nelson Kayla Engen Dominic Anderson</i>	15	<i>Paul & Carrie Halvorson</i>
3	<i>Toby Hanson Robert Steffensen Marian Thompson Delores Walstrom</i>	16	<i>Pete White</i>
		17	<i>Doug & Lisa Pastian</i>
		19	<i>Bo Anderson Justin Deters</i>
4	<i>Parker Schwinghammer</i>		
5	<i>Jerad Steffensen</i>	21	<i>Katelyn Rock Shelby Anderson</i>
7	<i>Matthew Thoen Jessica Rohloff Wilfred Weichman</i>	23	<i>Amy Hellickson Carter Weichman</i>
8	<i>Jason Raveling Tobias White-Kirckof</i>	24	<i>Randy Lindahl Aleisha Terhaar Rick Karger Karla Anderson Joe & Kim Carson</i>
9	<i>Lyle & Judy Johnson Lauren & Kathy Voog</i>		
10	<i>Cheri Weichman</i>	25	<i>Darin & Marci Schwinghammer Nathan Nelson Paige Prentice Carter Heinen</i>
11	<i>Norman & Lorraine Johnson Joyce Johnson Rick Gerhardson Ryan & Jesi Halvorson</i>	27	<i>Ken Kampsen Jennie Johnson</i>
12	<i>Al & Cynthia Braegelman Brian & Cary Knight Kyle Anderson</i>	28	<i>Steve Hellickson Todd & Kim Trustheim Kyle Strand Connie Wold</i>
13	<i>Rick and Diane Gerhardson Russell Hammer Janette Niklaus</i>	29	<i>Celestie Matter Sharon Struthers</i>
14	<i>Darrell & Myra McGarvie Amber Deters Mark & Tiffany Torkelson</i>	30	<i>Brain Knight Warren & Marian Thompson</i>

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish
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Lisa Meshke pastorlisaanne@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)
Pastor	John Dalen	
	Lisa Meshke	
Parish Treasurer/Office Secretary	Roxanne Oeltjenbruns	

