

**Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish**  
**PO Box 10**  
**Belgrade MN 56312**

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# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

## August 2024

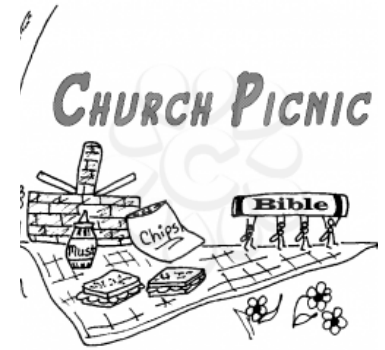


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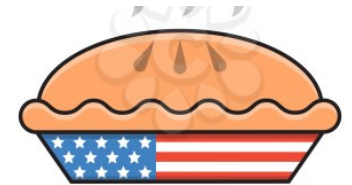
VBS - August 4-7th  
at Grace  
(Program at 7:30 on 7th)



Bonfire Worship  
August 14th  
at Big Grove



August Fest Worship  
and lunch  
August 11th  
at Belgrade Park



All Parish Event and  
worship with music  
and lunch  
August 18th  
at Brooten City Park



# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

417 Washburn Ave,  
PO Box 10  
Belgrade, MN 56312



## From the desk of Deacon Brenda

Grace to you people of God,

In the midst of the joys of summer - the long days and all of the beauty around us, we were reminded last weekend that we live in a broken world. The news reports are pretty grim. We live in a world that seems to be on 'fire'. Really, overarching themes have not changed since Jesus' day. He entered a world that was similar to what we are living in - a violent world where might makes right, where people are exploited and now, where political violence is a very real fear. We blame or often pin our hopes on political leaders or the government which cannot take care of the many issues that communities face.

Recently I heard Theologian Brian McClaren explain how we are living with 4 crises in our lives right now:

1. Crisis with the planet - destruction of our home
2. Crisis of poverty - there has never been such an unequal distribution of wealth and power which leads to -
3. Crisis of peace - when people are threatened they make more and more weapons that set fire and divisions
4. Crisis of religion - we find ourselves on the sidelines, wringing our hands, wondering how we could possibly engage with such huge issues that surround

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Scott Norris	15	Paul & Carrie Halvorson
2	Keshia Nelson	16	Pete White
	Dominic Anderson	17	Doug & Lisa Pastian
3	Toby Hanson	19	Bo Anderson
	Robert Wm. Steffensen		Justin Deters
	Marian Thompson	21	Shelby Anderson
	Delores Walstrom	23	Amy Hellickson
4.	Parker Schwinghammer		Carter Wiechman
5	Jerad Steffensen	24	Randy Lindahl
	Megan Imdieke		Aleisha Terhaar
6	Delaney Imdieke		Ricky Karger
7	Matthew Thoen		Karla Anderson
	Jessica Rohloff		Joe & Kim Carson
	Wilfred Wiechman	25	Darin & Marci
8	Jason Raveling		Schwinghammer
	Tobias Kirckof		Paige Prentice
	Mason Commerford		Carter Heinen
9	Lyle & Judy Johnson	27	Ken Kampsen
	Arden Hanson		Jennie Johnson
10	Cheri Weichman	28	Steven Hellickson
	Adley Gertken		Todd & Kim Trustheim
11	Rick Gerhardson		Kyle Strand
	Ryan & Jesi Halvorson		Connie Wold
12	Al & Cynthia Braegelman	29	Celestie Matter
	Brian & Cary Knight		Sharron Struthers
	Kyle Anderson	30	Brian Knight
	Scott Stueckrath		Warren & Marian Thompson
13	Rick & Diane Gerhardson		Megan Klaphake
	Janette Niklaus	31	John Shelton
14	Darrell & Myra McGarvie		Paisley Gertken
	Amber Deters		
	Wade & Jordyn Jakobson		

If you have any corrections or would like your name added to the Birthday/Anniversary list contact the church office at 254-3249



## Church and Parish Councils

### Big Grove

President: Mark Thompson      Vice President: Jenny Stueckrath  
Secretary: Megan Imdieke      Treasurer: Eric Johnson  
Financial Secretary: Diane Hanson

### Crow River

President: Patti Hagen      Vice President: Joan Mohs  
Secretary: Tammy Quenemoen      Treasurer: Julie Jensen  
Financial Secretary: Travis and Nichole Szczesniak

### Grace

President: Les Thompson      Vice President: Megan Klaphake  
Secretary: Sue Jensen      Treasurer: Brenda Thompson  
Financial Secretary: Lyndsay Ampe

### Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

Parish Council President: Darlene Barchenger (G)  
Parish Council VP: Ryan Halvorson (CR)  
Secretary: Mark Thompson (BG)  
At large member: Laura Spanier (BG)  
At large member: Clay Walstrom (CR)  
At large member: John Anderson (G)

Lead Pastor: Pastor Lisa Meshke  
Deacon: Brenda Handel-Johnson  
Office Secretary: Sue Wiener

us. (Issues like immigration reform or healthcare or childcare costs and availability or the cost of housing or the loss of the housing subsidy for the migrant farm families in the Brooten area.)

So people of faith, what do we do? Perhaps if the world started every day with prayer, we would all be living in a better place. Every little corner of our world is affected by the small things that we do - the kind word, the deep conversation, the care we take of our neighbor. We should **never** underestimate the power of love. That love stems out of being loved by a God who claims us and this world. Jesus did not come into this world to condemn it but that we might live abundantly and not at the expense of others. Try a 30 day prayer challenge in August - starting **every day** with a simple prayer: "God, thank you for loving me. Help me remember God is with me for all the surprises that come my way today. Make me an instrument of your peace." God will hear you. Can you hear God speaking? Now - to quote my grandmother: "Get busy!"

+God's peace!

### Praying

It doesn't have to be  
The blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch  
a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but the doorway  
into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.

*Mary Oliver - Thirst*

## Parish News:

### Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

**Parish Council:** Tuesday, August 13, at 6:00 pm

**Big Grove, Crow River, and Grace Councils:** Tuesday, August 13, at 7:00 pm

### **CONGREGATIONAL DATA:**

**Births:** Oaklyn Irene Donabauer, daughter of Katie Blume and Creg Donabauer.

**Baptisms:** Grace: Liam Jack Anderson, son of Florian Stifel and Lauren Anderson.

Grace: Octavia and Oaklyn Donabauer, daughters of Katie Blume and Creg Donabauer.

**Deaths:** Big Grove: Esther Presler on June 23, 2024.

Crow River: Timothy Malvin on July 16, 2024

Crow River: Gary Steffensen on July 20, 2024

**Funerals:** Big Grove: Esther Presler on June 28, 2024.

Crow River: Timothy Malvin on July 20, 2024

Crow River: Gary Steffensen on July 24, 2024

**Burials:** Big Grove: Esther Presler on June 28, 2024.

Crow River: Gary Steffensen on July 24, 2024

### **Grief Support Group:**

Whether you are grieving a recent loss or one from years ago, all are welcome to meet with others who have known similar losses, including loss of a parent, child, sibling, spouse, job, or health. This group meets once each month for 90 minutes on the third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be August 20th at the BGCRG parish office from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. All faiths are welcome.

**65th Anniversary celebration: All are invited** to help Warren and Marian Thompson celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at the Padua Pub from 1:00-4:00 p.m. A light lunch will be served. No gifts please, your presence is enough!

We express our sympathies and prayer for the family and friends of Esther Presler who passed away on June 23rd. Blessed be the memory of Esther Presler.



### **Support the 34th Infantry Soldiers**

We are collecting 600 **new** Hawaiian shirts (size S - 3XL) to send to the 34th Infantry Soldiers for their end-of-tour barbeque parties and need your help.



*"My name is Daryl Thul and I am a combat veteran military chaplain and current co-pastor of the ACT Parish, a group of six churches making a doughnut around Kerkhoven. I'm inviting your three congregations to participate in a ministry to our deployed soldiers currently in the Middle East. You are invited to participate in this ministry opportunity and to write a positive note and fold it into one of the breast pockets of the shirt".*

**The deadline is August 29th.** Boxes will be sent out as they fill, beginning in early August. Two VFW posts and an American Legion Post are paying all postage costs. Shirts can be left at each church or dropped off at the parish office.

**Thank You!**

**A huge thank you** to all who attended the Grace ice cream social and silent auction. Thanks also, to all who donated and worked for the event. We feel it was a huge success!



The all parish bible study group has decided to pause bible study until school starts again. See you this fall!



We express our sympathies and prayers for family and friends of Gary Steffensen who was entrusted to God's care on July 20, 2024. Blessed be the memory of Gary Steffensen.

We express our sympathies and prayers for family and friends of Timothy Malvin who was entrusted to God's care on July 16, 2024. Blessed be the memory of Timothy Malvin.



**Parish Office Hours:**

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

**Summer Worship**

**\*Sunday August 4th:**

8:30 am Crow River  
10:30 am Grace

**Wednesday August 7th:**

7:30 pm VBS Program at Grace

**Sunday August 11th:**

11:00 am August Fest Community Worship with lunch following

**Wednesday August 14th:**

7:00 pm Bonfire Worship at Big Grove

**Sunday August 18th:**

11:00 am All Parish Event Brooten City Park  
Noon- Food Served

**Wednesday August 21st:**

No Worship

**Sunday August 25th:**

8:30 am Big Grove  
10:30 am Crow River

**Wednesday August 28th:**

7:00 pm Grace

**\*Sunday September 1st:**

8:30 am Grace  
10:30 am Big Grove

**\*Wednesday September 4th:**

7:00 pm Crow River  
Sunday services will be livestreamed

**\*Holy Communion**

**Glenwood Retirement Village** is a locally managed, independent, non-profit organization located right across from Barsness Park. We offer comfortable independent living, assisted living, and skilled care. Availability is always changing at our care center so please call to check for openings. If you would like more information or have questions, reach out to Ashley, the Admissions Coordinator: 320-634-5802.

**Crow River Worship Duties**

**Lector/Readers:**

August 4: Dave Clark  
August 25: Doug Mohs

**Ushers:**

August 4: Cindy Wilson, Dave Clark, Betty Cole & Linda Jensen  
August 25: Doug & Joan Mohs

**Greeters:**

August 4: Dave Clark  
August 25: Doug & Joan Mohs

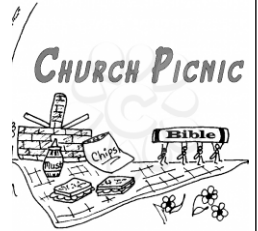
*Thank You!*

**AUGUST FEST COMMUNITY WORSHIP AND LUNCH**

When: August 11th at 11:00 am (lunch following worship)

Menu: Pulled pork sandwiches, salads, chips, dessert and drinks (provided by the parish).

Hosted by BGCRG Parish with assistance from River of Life church.



**August 14th Bonfire Worship**

The Wednesday night worship service on August 14th will be a bonfire service at Big Grove. This will be a fun family event with s'mores (and more), fun, fellowship and campfire songs. Bring your lawn chairs.



**Parish Event - Sunday, August 18th at 11 am**

Where: Brooten City Park

When: Sunday, August 18th at 11:00 am.

Food and pie will be served after worship followed by the Cedar Creek Band.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the end of the summer together as a parish. All are welcome. Free will offering.



**Got Cans?**

The Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish Youth has taken over aluminum can collection at three locations in Belgrade, Brooten, and Elrosa. Cans will be recycled in Glenwood and all funds will be used for youth events for our Parish.

**The locations are:**

Belgrade: by Casey's; Brooten: by County Line Market/Liquor  
Elrosa: by Harry's Pizza

## **PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - July 2024

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

June Income: \$18,832.77

June Expenses: \$18,477.97

General Fund Balance: \$13,187.29

- There was not a quorum at the meeting.
- Pastor Lisa and Deacon Brenda gave reports.
- Some things that were discussed were: Summer worship attendance, the summer all parish event in Brooten, the August Fest community worship, the parish photo directory, and the Brooten Migrant Housing Camp.

## **CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - July 2024

June Income: \$6,948.57

June Expenses: \$9,560.83

General Fund Balance: \$19,427.21

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 6/30/2024: (\$6,879.60)

- Pastor report: lamp was ordered for grand piano, list of contents of safety deposit box will be sent to council, new funeral banner was ordered, Pastor and Doug will work on church bylaws, perpetual care payments are being documented in cemetery directory book, Pastor applied for and rec'd a \$1000 grant, we were updated on photo directory.
- Deacon report: Deacon is almost finished re-organizing sheet music, overflow and livestream speaker volumes were adjusted, recommendation is for new lectern mic tip and windscreen.
- Ash trees have been treated. Ron generously paid for this.
- Some general repairs are needed with: basement bathrooms, church front door pillars, "bunker" door, front window, and steeple painting.
- Council will send a card for Pastor Dalen retirement.
- Church well was tested and is ok.

## **Big Grove Notes:**

**Big Grove has Venmo: @BigGroveLuth2022**

**We are looking for a couple people** to sign up to clean for the months of November and December. The sign up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board at church or you can contact Aleisha at 320-424-0609.

**There will be a WELCA meeting** August 25th after worship to discuss the Fall Supper and Auction.

**Recently we completed an overhaul of the sound system** for Big Grove, replacing decades old wiring and equipment in the main sanctuary and basement. This project will improve the listening experience of the parishioners in church and those who watch services on the Livestream broadcast. A number of you graciously donated gifts to pay for the initial costs of this project. During the upgrade, we discovered additional challenges that raised the final cost. If anyone is considering a gift to help improve the worship experience of people in person and on-line, please consider a gift to support the sound system upgrade.

## **Crow River Notes:**

**Crow River WELCA Mission** for July and August is school supplies. The staff at BBE are grateful to have the BGCRG community's generosity thinking of the supply needs for the classrooms this upcoming year. Listed are items that we provide students with as needed throughout the year or use in projects. *Brand Names are requested because of quality and allergens:* Ticonderoga pencils, Large Pink Erasers, Glue-(sticks & bottles), Scissors- Fiskar (child size, midsize & adult size), wood Rulers with metric/standard, Black Expo Dry Erase Markers, Crayola Marker Sets, Crayola Colored Pencil Sets, Masking Tape, clear Packing Tape, Painters Tape, Post it Notes and Wired Headphones.

## **Grace Notes:**

**Grace GLCW will collecting school supplies** for school kits for Lutheran World relief. Items needed are: rulers, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, black or blue pens, crayons (16 or 24 piece), and 70 or 80 page notebooks. Many of these items will be on sale soon.



## YOUTH HAPPENINGS:



### **Vacation Bible School - Camp Firelight**

**“A Summer Camp Adventure with God”**

August 4-7 (Sunday-Wednesday) at Grace Lutheran Church.

5:30 - dinner 6-8 pm class and activities  
(VBS Program on August 7th at 7:30 pm)

**Preschool - 6th grade** - Kids who finished 6th grade and are going into 7th grade can participate in VBS or they can be a junior shepherd of a group of kids.

You can sign up on our website and clicking on the VBS link, or by contacting the parish office at [bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com](mailto:bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com) or at 320-254-3249.



### **Bible Study: Parenting, Prayer and Play**

**We will be meeting Wednesday, August 21st at 5:30pm at Grace.**

**What:** Monthly gathering with parents focusing on faith and parenting and kids participating in Sunday School

activities. Parent resources will include scripture, parenting guides, living and sharing our faith.

**Who:** *Any* parent or adults interested in fostering friendships and discussing how to live out their faith in their families.

**When/Where:** Third Wednesday of each month at Grace Lutheran

**Time:** 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Discussion and study for adults, activities for kids, 6:30 pm - Cookout (food provided), 7:00 pm -Worship.

**Contact:** Lyndsay Ampe 612-325-8960 or the parish office.



**FCS “Overtime Bowling”** dates are being set up for kids in grades 7-12 at the Lucky Shots Bowling Alley in Brooten once school starts. Watch for specific dates and times in later announcements and the September newsletter.

### **Grace August Altar Guild:**

Judy Dickhoff and Shirley Anderson

## **BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - July 2024

June Income: \$4,722.38

June Expenses: \$6,713.64

General Fund Balance: \$28,293.59

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 6/30/2024: (\$7,546.50)

- There was not a quorum at the meeting.
- Some of the things discussed were: the sound system, the August 14 bonfire worship service, the processional cross, the summer all parish event in Brooten, a piano Paula Geier would like to donate to the church, and designating a new head usher.

## **GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - July 2024

June Income: \$9,224.53

June Expenses: \$10,913.63

General Fund Balance: \$64,650.15

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 6/30/2024: (\$9,049.24)

- Ice cream social/silent auction fund raiser raised \$2600.
- VBS will be August 4 - 7th at Grace. Volunteers are still needed.
- Renovations - the 55 damaged chairs are to be kept; lighting work is done; flooring is done; painting of the Narthex is on the schedule to be done; the altar, lectern and baptism font are next projects to be done; railing is up in the sacristy; the new outdoor cross will be put up soon; Deacon Brenda and organists researched a new piano and a decision will be made as to which one is the best choice; a new table is needed for the back of church (14 inches wide by 4 feet long)
- \$200 as budgeted, will be added to the discretionary fund.
- It was approved to purchase a new refrigerator for the one not working.
- Pastor Lisa and Dan Kallevig will look at live stream and see if sound can be fixed.
- Repairs to parsonage can be done while Pastor Lisa is gone.
- Photo directory to be done, Brenda Thompson will represent Grace at mtg.
- July 1st was the deadline to apply for grant. Ideas were discussed.

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>HC = Holy Communion</b> <b>LS = Live Stream</b> <b>SS = Sunday School</b>				<b>1</b> 10:15 pm Naomi Circle at Grace  Deacon Brenda gone	<b>2</b> 2-8 pm Photos at Grace  Deacon Brenda gone	<b>3</b> 10 am-4:30 pm Photos at Grace  10 am Jakobson bridal shower at CR  Deacon Brenda gone
<b>4</b> 8:30 am CR w/HC & LS 10:30 am Grace w/HC & LS  5:30 pm (VBS dinner) 6-8:00 pm VBS	<b>5</b> 1:30 pm Rachel Circle  5:30 pm (VBS dinner) 6-8:00 pm VBS  Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Sarah Circle  5:30 pm (VBS dinner) 6-8:00 pm VBS	<b>7</b> 5:30 pm (VBS dinner) 6-8:00 pm VBS (VBS program @ 7:30)  7:00 pm CR WELCA	<b>8</b> 1:00 pm Daisy Circle	<b>9</b> 1:00 pm Pansy Circle	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 11:00 am August Fest community worship and lunch at Belgrade City Park	<b>12</b> Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm Parish Council at Grace  7:00 pm Council Night at Grace	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Lily Circle 1:00 pm Rose Circle 7:00 pm Bonfire worship at BG	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10 am CR hall Anderson Bridal Shower brunch  1:30 pm CR Bonnie Freese funeral
<b>18</b> 11:00 am All Parish Event at the Brooten City Park	<b>19</b> 5:15 pm Sing Along at Belgrade Nursing Home  Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	<b>20</b> 6:30-8 pm Grief Support Group at Parish Office	<b>21</b> 5:30 pm Parenting, Prayer and Play Bible Study at Grace	<b>22</b> 3:00 pm Nursing Home Worship  Deacon Brenda gone	<b>23</b> Deacon Brenda gone	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 am Big Grove with LS 10:30 am Crow River with LS  Deacon Brenda gone	<b>26</b> Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	<b>27</b> 3:00 pm Bowling at the Belgrade Nursing Home	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm worship at Grace	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>