

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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Belgrade MN 56312

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Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

February 2024





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417 Washburn Ave,
PO Box 10
Belgrade, MN 56312



From the Deacon's Desk

What is your favorite verse from the bible?

Last week I had a good visit with a community member who asked for some of the best bible verses that he could share with people he knew in the hospital or Nursing Home. That is a hard question! I had to think carefully because there are so many great verses that I love to hear that are special to me but not necessarily to people I visit. A couple days later I read a sermon from a friend of mine who is very involved in the church Andy and I attended when we lived in Tokyo. She reported survey findings from Japanese and English church members; the number one favorite bible verse was about sheep.

That got me thinking and I remembered a bible study I attended in Japan where each person shared their favorite bible verse and one member carefully wrote each out in English and in Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji (written Japanese is a combination of all of those symbol and language systems) so we could see and read it in both languages. I still carry that card in my bible - a gift and a reminder that we are connected to people around the world who read and lean on scripture - no matter what language. In each of our verses, we heard the love of God spoken for each of us at a time when we often missed home or family.

What is a favorite verse that you hold close to your heart? It is a good winter task - to find that verse that you can say in the middle of the night, or when you need to know God is present. Write it down, put it on your mirror or your fridge and read it every day.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Tracy Detloff Barb Hanson Affinity Anderson	15	Glenn Otteson Skylar Johnson Wesley Norby
2	Paula Thompson Brady Schwinghammer Tanner Viessman Amanda Halvorson Lillian Thompson	16	Jessica Raveling
		17	Wesley Imdieke Taylor Shelton
3	Alice Petersen	20	Aaron Larson Jim Niklaus Carolyn Pelkey
4	Randall Lindahl Reid Dickhoff Myranda Frericks	21	Charles Pelkey Sarah Thoen Braedon Michels
6	Kevin Ball	22	Guy Johnson
7	Richard Nelson Marci Schwinghammer Morgan Pelzer	23	Shelly Ziemer
8	Mark Walsh Jeff Orsten	25	Jordan Bouwman Lydia Deters Shannon & Anton Imdieke Shannon Imdieke
9	Ann Hagen Larry & Paula Thompson	26	Jenny Stueckrath Owen Kampsen
10	Ron & Kay Halvorson Kevin & Kelly Peterson Lillian Thompson	27	Joshua Steffensen Kirsten Kampsen Dylan Kampsen Kole Kampsen
11	Luke & Aleisha Terhaar Bev Skindilien	29	Trevor & Shari Miller
12	Nathan Prentice Macie Jensen Mariah Steffensen		
13	Cary Knight		
14	Christopher Schulz Donovan Johnson Chloe Anderson		

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)
At large member: Laura Spanier (BG)
At large member: Clay Walstrom (CR)
At large member: John Anderson (G)
At large member: Mark Thompson (BG)

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

Here are a few that have been in my head lately:

Be Still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10 (we say this a lot in Confirmation).

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22: 37-39 (a confirmation memory verse).

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27 (one of the top vote getters from the survey in Japan).

"And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." Matthew 28:20 (one of my favorites:).

God's peace!

Deacon Brenda

*Thank
You!*

Thank you to all the generous "givers" who have made so many feel the warmth of the Holiday season. Thanks for all the cash, gift cards, quilts, blankets and food, all graciously received by BBE community members.

LAKELAND CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

WHEN: Sunday, February 4, 2024, 4:30 - 7:30pm
WHERE: Faith Lutheran Church, 310 Medayto Drive, Spicer
SCHEDULE: 4:15 pm Choir rehearsal
4:30 pm Registration
5:00 pm Dinner
5:45 pm Business meeting
Hymn Sing
7:00 pm Light of the World Evening Prayer Service
Curious about what's going on in your church neighborhood. Join us and find out.

Parish News:

Calling all singers!

We are forming an **All-Conference choir for our Conference Assembly on Sunday, February 4th** at Faith Lutheran Church, Spicer. Our only rehearsal will be the day of the assembly at 4:15 pm. We will share the choir piece during the 7 pm *Light of the World* prayer service (open to the public). This is a great opportunity to unite our Lakeland conference voices in song together! We hope you can join us! Questions? Talk to Deacon Brenda.



Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

Parish Council:

Tuesday, February 13, at 6:00 pm

Big Grove, Crow River, Grace Councils:

Tuesday, February 13, at 7:00 pm

Births: Crow River: Gage Don Bonnema, son of Ben and Ashley Bonnema

Deaths:

Crow River: Joyce Johnson, December 28, 2023

Big Grove: Vickie Torgerson, January 14, 2023

Crow River: Cassie Mithaugen, January 22, 2024

Funerals: Crow River: Joyce Johnson, January 6, 2024

Big Grove: Vickie Torgerson, January 19, 2024

Crow River: Cassie Mithaugen, January 29, 2024



All parish bible study meets on Thursdays at 10:00 am at Grace. All are welcome.



Ash Wednesday, February 14th

11:00 am at Grace with Holy Communion

7:00 pm at Grace with Holy Communion and Livestream

ACOLYTE & CROSSBEARER SCHEDULE

Plan to be at church 20 minutes before service time on the day you are scheduled. If you are unable to be there, try to switch with someone else or find someone to fill in for you.

Date	BIG GROVE	CROW RIVER	GRACE
FEB 4	Carter Heinen	A: Macey Roering C: Taya Hanson	Jackson Kirckof
FEB 11	Elliot Spanier	A: Owen Miller C: Coby Schoumaker	Jennah Koenig
FEB 14 7 PM	X	X X	Aiden Mueller
FEB 18	Lydia Deters	A: McCoy Detloff C: Lauren Herding	Karlee Loe
FEB 25	Elliot Spanier	A: Noah Jensen C: Jace Mueller	Lillian Thompson
FEB 28 7 PM	Carter Heinen	X X	X

Crow River Worship Duties

Ushers:

Feb 4: Patti Hagen, Linda Jensen, Roxanne Haugen, Mona Jensen

Feb 11: Jeremy Hanson family

Feb 18: Rick & Diane Gerhardson, Randy & Karla Anderson

Feb 25: Jeff Lundberg family

Lector/Readers:

Feb 4: Doug or Joan Mohs

Feb 11: Jenna Hanson

Feb 18: Karla Anderson

Feb 25: Paige Prentice

Greeters:

Feb 4: Kyle and Tanny Quenemoen

Feb 11: Jeremy Hanson family

Feb 18: Rick & Diane Hanson

Feb 25: Jeff Lundberg family

Livestream:

Feb 4:

Feb 18

*Thank
You!*

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

We express our sympathies and prayers for family and friends of LeRoy Sordahl who passed away January 6, 2024 and whose funeral was January 27, 2024. Blessed be the memory of LeRoy Sordahl.



We express our sympathies and prayers for family and friends of Vickie Torgerson who passed away January 14, 2024 and whose funeral was January 19, 2024. Blessed be the memory of Vicky Torgerson.



We express our sympathies and prayers for family and friends of Cassie Mithaugen who passed away January 22, 2024. Blessed be the memory of Cassie Mithaugen.



The
Season
of
Lent



Lenten Services Schedule:

February 14:	11:00 am Grace
Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm Grace
February 21:	11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm Crow River
February 28:	11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm Big Grove
March 6:	11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm Grace
March 13:	11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm Crow River
March 20:	11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm Big Grove
March 28:	7:00 pm Crow River
Maundy Thursday	
March 29:	1:00 pm Grace
Good Friday	7:00 pm Big Grove



Chili and Soup Supper at Grace: Everyone is welcome to join us for our annual Chili and Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, serving 4:30 - 7:00pm.

The Grace Lutheran Church Ladies will serve lunch following the 11:00 a.m. Lenten worship services beginning Wednesday, February 21. Free-will offering. Everyone is welcome.



Free Spirit Lenten Soup Suppers

The youth will be serving soup and sandwiches starting at 6:00pm on Wednesdays during Lent.



PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - January 2024

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

December Income: \$5,941.00

December Expenses: \$18,138.70

General Fund Balance: \$9,937.05

- Annual reviews for Pastor Lisa and Deacon Brenda were conducted on January 2nd.
- Grace and Big Grove livestreams will be moved from Facebook to YouTube. Kody Bertram will be contracted to make the change.
- Discussed summer worship events (Community worship after August Fest and All Parish event).
- Developed policy for requesting time off.

BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - January 2024

December Income: \$14,366.40

December Expenses: \$2,929.75

General Fund Balance: \$35,840.09

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 12/31/2023 (\$6,155.06)

- December offerings were very generous.
- WELCA dontributing \$2000 for utilities expenses in January.
- Old business; sound system, paschal candle, processional cross, directional signs and raffle were all discussed.
- Mark Thompson will audit Big Grove Financials.
- Motion made to direct Shannon Wander to research options for new costumes for children's programs.
- Motion made to use CAB funds for new children's bibles.
- Aleisha will research cost of easels to be used for funerals.
- Shannon was asked to research cost of a new printer at church.
- Anthony will check on easement on north side of church.
- Will continue to use Luke Terhaar for snow removal.
- Council thanked Scott for his service as Council President.

Big Grove Notes:

Big Grove has Venmo: @BigGroveLuth2022

Crow River Notes:

Crow River WELCA has a Mission Project each month. The mission project for January and February is personal care kits. Items we need: 20 x 40 inch to 27 x 52 inch dark, light weight towels, 8 to 9 oz. bath bar-sized soap, sturdy combs (no picks or fine tooth combs) and nail clippers.

We need help hemming quilts and sewing lullaby quilts. If you are able to help with quilts, they are in the small closet next to fabric room and lullaby kits are in a tub by the handicap door. Thank you!

Crow River Work Days: will be February 12th and 13th at 9:30 am. Bring a sack lunch.

Grace Notes:

Grace February Altar Guild:

Sande Mathison and Carol Kinzel

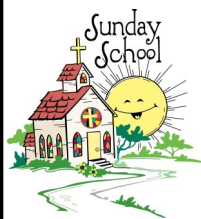
February is "I Love To Read Month".

Grace GLCW will be having a book sale at the end of February. There will be a free will offering. All proceeds will go to the Belgrade Library. If you would like to donate books, please bring them to the parish office, or Grace. You could also contact Judy Dickhoff or drop them in her entryway. The sale will be February 17th & 24th, 8-11 am. Coffee, rolls and doughnuts will be served.

Jaguar Coffee Club invites any senior citizen in the community to join a free monthly coffee club on the third Wednesday morning (9:30 am) in the BBE Elementary cafeteria. Bring a friend and enjoy coffee or water and a small treat in the company of BBE elementary students. Next date is February 21st.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS:



Big Grove Sunday School:

Sunday School will be held from 9:30 am - 10:15 am on late worship Sundays.

Crow River Sunday School:

Sunday School will be held 9:45 am - 10:30 am on late worship Sundays.



FCS (Fellowship of Christian Students) Breakfast

Fridays, when school is in session,
7:30 am - 8:00 am at Grace Lutheran.
Grades 7-12 are all welcome.

FREE SPIRITS (Grades 7-12): Tentative Events - Watch the announcements and Facebook for updates.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Skiing on President's Day

Curling in Willmar

Bean Bag Tournament

JAM (Jesus and Me) winter session for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade, end February 7th. Volunteers are needed for sessions which start April 10-May 15th as teachers and assistants. Contact the office at 320-254-3249 if you can help.

JAM serving schedule for February

February 7 - Crow River



**First Communion Class will be held on
February 21st, 3:45 - 5:15 pm at Grace.**

Registration for Green Lake Bible Camp opened on December 16th. There are discounts for early registration (by February 15th).

Spots fill up fast so check it out at gllm.org.

CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - January 2024

December Income: \$19,366.93

December Expenses: \$3,755.66

General Fund Balance: \$26,306.81

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 12/31/2023 \$6,901.07

- Church and parsonage storm repairs will be done at a later date. Will continue insurance with Church Mutual.
- 2024 elections: new ballot has been completed.
- Will complete the Richard Hanson nursery/gathering room with new ceiling tiles.
- Cemetery mapping is continuing. There is a new form to be used for funerals that includes plot mapping and fees.
- Motion made to give \$200 gift cards to organists Linda, Stacey and Doran who donated their time.
- Annual meeting is January 21st with a potluck to follow.
- Motion made to remove Doug Mohs from Kensington bank account and add Patti Hagen.

GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - January 2024

December Income: \$11,794.99

December Expenses: \$2,165.05

General Fund Balance: \$77,570.04

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 12/31/2023 \$9,695.38

- The Synod Convention is June 7-8. Delegates are needed.
- Insurance will be with Church Mutual. Deductible is 5% of property value.
- Paul Halvorson and Clay Walstrom will be doing snow removal.
- Need people to volunteer for ushering.
- Youth programs are going well. First communion class will be on February 21st.
- There will be an informational meeting regarding proposed Sanctuary renovations on January 21st after worship and voting on the project will be at the Annual meeting on January 28th.
- Discussion was held regarding having a financial cushion for unexpected expensed such as insurance deductible.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HC = Holy Communion LS = Live Stream SS = Sunday School				1 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 4:00 pm Naomi Circle	2 7:30 am FCS Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	3
4 8:30 am BG 9:00 am Grace w/HC & LS 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/HC & LS 4:30 - 7:30 pm Lakeland Conference Assembly	5 1:30 pm Rachel Circle Deacon Brenda-Sabbath Pastor Lisa out of office	6 9:30 am Sarah Circle Deacon Brenda gone Pastor Lisa out of office	7 6:00 pm Confirmation grades 7-9 3:45 pm JAM Pastor Lisa out of office	8 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 1:00 pm Daisy Circle Pastor Lisa out of office	9 7:30 am FCS 1:00 pm Pansy Circle Pr. Lisa - Sabbath Pastor Lisa out of office	10 Pastor Lisa out of office
11 8:30 am CR w/HC & LS 9:00 am Grace w/HC 9:30 am BG SS 10:30 am BG w/HC & LS and Potluck	12 9:30 am CR Work Day Bring a lunch meeting at noon Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	13 9:30 am CR Work Day Bring a lunch 6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Council Night	14 Ash Wednesday 9:30 am Lily Circle 11: 00 am Grace w/HC 1:00 pm Rose Circle 4:30-7 pm Chili & Soup Supper at Grace 7:00 pm Grace w/HC & LS <i>Confirmants required to attend</i>	15 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace	16 7:30 am FCS Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	17 6-9:30 pm Free Spirit Curling
18 8:30 am BG w/LS and baptism 9:00 am Grace 9:45am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/LS	19 5:15 pm Belgrade Nursing Home Sing Along Free Spirit Ski Trip Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	20 9:00 am Do Day at Grace	21 9:30 am Jaguar Coffee Club at Elementary 11: 00 am Grace 3:45 pm 1st Comm. Instruction at Grace 7:00 pm CR w/HC & LS <i>Confirmants required to attend worship</i>	22 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 3:00 pm Nursing Home	23 7:30 am FCS Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	24
25 8:30 am CR 9:00 am Grace w/LS 9:30 am BG SS 10:30 am BG w/LS	26 Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	27	28 11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm BG w/LS - <i>Confirmants required to attend worship</i>	29 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace		