



Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

January 2020

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

*"...The free gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6: 23b*

Here's an old one: Two worn out bills were moving along the conveyor belt to the shredder. The Twenty Dollar bill said, "I've had a pretty good life. I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, to the finest restaurants, to performances on Broadway, and to the concession stands at NFL games." Then it was the One Dollar bill's turn, "I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church, and the Catholic Church." "Oh," answered the Twenty Dollar bill, "what's a church?"

God's gift of grace and salvation is a free gift; Scripture makes that clear. We do not earn it or buy it. It comes from God out of love.

It is the church's "job" to share God's free gift of grace and to make God's love known in as many ways as possible – by reflecting his love in worship, in Sunday School and youth programs, in pastoral care during significant life experiences, in outreach and service to our community and world, and so on.

However, as we all know, doing this "job" in today's world requires financial resources to do this effectively. And these financial resources come primarily through the offerings and tithes of the members of the church.

At the beginning of this new year, I would like to encourage (or challenge) each of you to consider how your offerings and tithes can reflect the joy you know because of God's free gift of grace. Please prayerfully consider whether you could increase your giving this year as an expression of your gratitude and commitment to the church's mission in the world.

See you in worship!

Pastor John

Stewardship – January 2020

<u>Big Grove- January</u>	<u>Crow River- January</u>	<u>Grace- January</u>
<p>Ushers: January 19 Gunnar Heieie and Annika Heieie</p> <p>Readers: 5 12 19 26</p> <p>Acolytes: 5 Tanner Viessman, 12 Aiden Johnson, 19 Max Heieie, 26 Ave Deters</p>	<p>Ushers: Jerry Torgerson, Paul Halvorson, Dave Clark, Scott Jensen, Ron Halvorson, Kyle Quenemoen, Dave Dokken, Kevin Dokken, Ernest Ructhi, Gary Theis: Confirmation Students January 19 Wyatt Engen and Wyatt Lewis</p> <p>Readers: 5 Jenna Hanson, 12 Theresa Herding, 19 Wyatt Engen and Ana Engen, 26 Ann Lundgren</p> <p>Acolytes: 5 Cooper Roering, 12 Kora Martinez, 19 Ryan Jensen, 26 Braeden Michels</p> <p>Cross bearer: 5 Odin Jensen, 12 Presley Detloff, 19 Austin Hanson, 26 Dakota Pelzer</p> <p>Greeters: 5 Delno and Linda Jensen, 12 Lora Larson Family, 19 Dale and Deb Anderson, 26 Brian and Barb Anderson</p>	<p>Ushers: 5 12 19 26</p> <p>Confirmation Students Ushering January 19 are: Paige Klaphake & Drew Thompson</p> <p>Acolytes: 5 Ethan Mueller, 12 Carson Savage, 19 Max Hanson, 26 Reegan Jones</p> <p>Readers: 5 Open, 12 Lois Evenson, 19 Open, 26 Roxanne Oeltjenbruns</p>

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:30am-3:30pm

Vinje and Bethel Lutheran Churches, Willmar, MN



All are welcome!
Congregation Members, Council Officers, Christian Educators,
Worship & Youth Leaders, Pastors... Everyone!

BIG GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 for coffee, juice and treats in the back of church. This is a Free Will offering with proceeds going to the General Fund. Wanted: Volunteers to serve coffee and treats Sundays at 9:30.

THANK YOU to the Big Grove Sunday School Christmas Program, presented on Sunday, December 8th. Thank you also to the teachers and all who participated in the program.

THE BIG GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION will be having a special congregational meeting to propose changes to the by-laws. This will take place immediately after 10:30AM services on Sunday, January 5th. Eric Johnson, Chairman

CROW RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

THANK YOU to the Crow River Sunday school Christmas Program, on Sunday, December 15th. Thank you also to the children, teachers and all who participated in the program.

CROW RIVER WELCA WORK DAY: We will be having a quilting and weighted blankets workday on Monday January 14th starting at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a dish to pass for a noon lunch.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS for family and friends of Rena Herman. Rena died on Saturday, November 24th and her service was held on Saturday, November 30th. Blessed be the memory of Rena Herman.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOTICE: THE 2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in your mail boxes to be picked up. If you did not receive a box and would like to have envelopes, please contact Tom Madsen.

YOU CAN HELP BOX is in the narthex if you are interested in helping out the Do-day ladies with sewing the blocks together. The blocks are already cut and there are instructions in the bundle. Thanks for helping.

WE ARE IN NEED OF USHERS please help us out and sign the sheets in the Social Hall. Thanks for helping us in the past.

THANK YOU to everyone who attended, planned the program, decorated and served lunch for the Women's Annual Christmas Event. What an inspiration evening of music, a meaningful message through puppets and ventriloquist and great fellowship.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with decorating the church.

WE EXPRESS OUR SMPATHY AND PRAYERS for Henry Roos's family and friends. Henry died on Thursday, December 12th and his service was held on Monday, December 16th. Blessed be the memory of Henry Roos.

THANK YOU to the Grace Sunday school Christmas Program, on Sunday, December 8th. Thank you also to the teachers and all who participated in the program.

BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH
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MEN'S BREAKFAST on 7:30am -- Saturday, January 11 At Grace. French toast, pancakes, sausage, OJ, and coffee. Add in some conversation around the Word of God. Sound good? Come, join us. You can even stay to do some dishes if you like.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS: Big Grove: Sunday, Jan. 19 after the 10:30 Service
Grace: Sunday, Jan. 26 after the 9:00 Service
Crow River: Sunday, Jan. 26 after the 10:30 Service. Each congregation will be electing officers, approving budgets, and conducting other business. Please plan to attend! It is very important to have all three congregations' reports in by **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 7TH** so we can get the annual reports printed and assembled. Please email all the information to bgcrlutheran@frontiernet.net Attention Roxanne.

CALL PROCESS UPDATE: Our Transition Team is currently working on writing our Ministry Site to the Synod by the end of January.

Soon we will be forming a Call Committee of three individuals from each congregation. We would hope to be able to start interviewing candidates beginning in February.

Keep this process in your prayers, that God may gift us with a faithful pastor who will serve well in our parish.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's preparation to celebrate the Season of Our Savior's Birth at our churches. There are so many helping hands to make the season special and we are thankful for all of them. Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish Office.

Have a Blessed New Year!!

From Pastor John, Dave Clark and Roxanne

NOTICE PARENTS: THERE IS A NOTICE ON THE YOUTH PAGE REGARDING BIBLE CAMP FOR THIS UP COMING YEAR. PARENTS MAKE SURE YOU CHECK IT OUT!!!

J.A.M.

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish is happy to introduce Wednesday J.A.M (Jesus and Me). J.A.M is being offered as a Wednesday after school Sunday school program for our parish kids ages

4 years old – 6th grade at Grace Lutheran church.

J.A.M will run from January 15th – April 29th from 4:00-5:15pm. Kids will be able to ride the bus right to Grace after school. The time will consist of snack, music, bible story, crafts and games. **In order to adequately plan for this, we need you to register by January 1st if you plan to send your child.** Letters and registration forms have been sent via email to families if you have not received one please

contact Nichole Szczesniak 320-295-1899, Julie Loe 320-248-7661 or Laura Spanier 320-249-4494.

We are excited to offer this new education opportunity for our parish youth!

YOUTH PAGE

CONFIRMATION IN JANUARY:

7-8th Grade Students will meet from 6:00-7:30pm on January 8, 15, 22, 29



Supper Servers:
Jan. 8 – Sarah Oeltjenbruns, Tracy Detloff, Amy Prentice

Jan. 15 – Sarah Shelton, Lori Roering, Cassie Mithaugen
Jan. 22 – Jesi Halvorson, Laura Spanier, Jennifer Mueller

Jan. 29 – Missy Michels, Val Walstrom, Melanie Lundberg

“EPIC” YOUTH GROUP (9-12th Grades)

“EPIC” – Encouraging People In Christ” – will start up again on Wednesday, January 8. 6:30pm at Grace. Come, join the fun! It is epic!!

YOUTH CHOIR (7-12th Grades)

Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:00pm.

Sing to the Lord a new song!!

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



Bible Camp

**VIKINGS
PLAYOFF
PARTY** – Watch

for date and time!

BIBLE CAMP – Summer 2020
**GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES**

We have some exciting news this year!
With our Youth Ministry Associate

contract with Green Lake, we have reimbursement funds available for our children who will be going to camp this summer. Each of our congregations will also support our children with additional funds. Camp costs will be extremely low for each family. At each congregation there is information that will show what the costs will be. Check with the Parish Office or your Green Lake representative for more information: Big Grove – Aleisha Terhaar, Crow River – Denise Dokken, Grace – Julie Loe.

In order to receive all the reimbursement funds and discounts, you must register for camp this year through the Parish Office. In order to get the “early bird” discount you will want to do this by February 1.



Sunday, December 29 will be a Lay-led service of worship.

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

December: No meeting

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Council was thanked for hosting the Thanksgiving service coffee hour.

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Treasurer’s Report: (November)
 Gen. Fund Balance \$18,747.89
 Income \$ 19,354.00
 Expenses \$ 14,440.06
 Gen. Fund Balance \$23,661.83

**Christian Stewardship
 is living out
 our commitment
 to Christ.**

GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL

HIGHLIGHTS: December

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer’s Report: (November)
 Gen. Fund Begin Balance \$ 36,348.58
 Income \$12,785.85
 Expenses \$11,855.85
 Gen. Fund End Balance \$ 37,278.58

**God gives not one star, but millions.
 God gives not one sunset in a lifetime, but
 one every day. God gives us not manna
 alone, but great varieties of foods to eat. God
 gives liberally and abundantly. May our
 response in thanksgiving be liberal and
 abundant as well.**

The new lights along the sidewalk and in the fellowship hall are very nice! Thanks to those who made that happen!!

BIG GROVE CHURCH COUNCIL

HIGHLIGHTS: December

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Deacons are reviewing our membership roster and will update after January 1.

Treasurer’s Report: (November)
 Gen. Fund Balance \$ 29,072.21
 Income: \$ 6,174.12

Expenses: \$ 7,692.38
 Gen. Fund Balance: \$ 27,553.95

(Complete minutes available at parish office.)

Treasurer's Report: (November)
 Gen. Fund Begin Balance \$ 1,884.57
 Income \$ 9,493.00
 Expenses \$ 9,737.40
 Gen. Fund End Balance \$ 1,640.17

Approved a proposed budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee has begun their work on presenting a slate of nominees. Renewing the Parish Agreement will also be on the agenda of the Annual Meeting.

Received update on storm damage claim and approved going with Heritage for repairs.

Approved a proposed budget to present to the Annual Meeting.

CROW RIVER CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: December

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed Happy New Year!!!	2 7:30a FCA 5:45p Naomi Circle (G) 7p AA Open Mtg. Grace	3	4
5 8:30a CR Worship 9a Worship-Grace w H/C 10:30a BG Worship w H/C 6:30p Big Grove Council	6 6:30p Rachel Circle (G)	7 9:30a Sarah Circle 5p Parish Council Print Ready Annual Reports for Big Grove, Crow River and Grace Due	8 9:30a Lily Circle (CR) 1p Rose Circle (CR) 6p 7-8 grade Confirmation 6:30p EPIC 7:30p Y Choir 7:45p Grace Council	9 7:30a FCA 1p Daisy Circle (CR) 3p BNH 5:45p Naomi Circle (G) 6:30p GLCW Ex Board 7p AA Open Mtg. Grace	10	11 7:30a Men's Breakfast @ Grace
12 8:30a BG Worship 9a Worship-Grace w H/C w Installation of GLCW Officers 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30a CR Worship HC	13 9a CR WELCA Work Day	14 7p CR Council	15 4p P-6 Gr JAM 6p 7-8 grade Confirmation 6:30p EPIC 7:30p Youth Choir	16 7:30a FCA 7p AA Open Mtg. Grace NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17	18

19 8:30am Worship-CR w H/C 9a Worship-Grace 9:30am S.S.-BG 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30am Worship- BG BG Annual Meeting & Potluck	20	21 9a Do day at @ Grace	22 4p P-6 Gr JAM 6p 7-8 grade Confirmation 6:30p EPIC 7:30p Youth Choir	23 7:30a FCA 7p AA Open Mtg. Grace	24	25
26 8:30am Worship-BG 9a Worship-Grace 10:15am Grace Annual Meeting 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30am Worship-CR CR Annual Meeting & Potluck	27	28	29 4p P-6 Gr JAM 6p 7-8 grade Confirmation 6:30p EPIC 7:30p Youth Choir	30 7:30a FCA 9a Newsletter Assembly 3p BNH 7p AA Open Mtg. Grace	31	

2020 BGCRC PARISH MEN'S CANADA FISHING TRIP

****14 yrs. & older (teens must be with parent)**

MONDAY, JULY 6 – SATURDAY, JULY 11

LAC SEUL / EAR FALLS, ONTARIO

If you love walleye fishing, you will love this adventure to
one of Ontario's finest walleye lakes!

Leaving **early** on the morning of July 6 should get us there in time to wet a line in
the evening. (10-11 hour drive) We will have full days of fishing Tuesday –
Friday. Saturday will be our return day.

Pastor John will serve as our devotion leader, cook, and guide.

We will rent a cabin at Little Beaver Lodge, a drive-in resort on Goose Bay of Lac
Seul. We have a limited group size this year – the first to sign up and pay the
deposit (\$200 non-refundable) will get to go.

Price for the trip this year will be \$750 and will include lodging, boat docking, minnows, boat gas, car gas, and food.
Not included: Ontario fishing license and outdoor card (about \$60), tackle, and incidental food enroute.

Special Discount: *If you bring your own boat and drive, you will receive a \$35 discount.*

Do not delay! Sign up today with Pastor John.
Let him know if you will be able to drive and bring your boat.

** Deposit checks should be made out to: BGCRG PARISH.

NOTE: A passport or passport card is required to cross the border. We are asking for registrations early so that everyone will have time to get one.

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

CHURCH AND PARISH COUNCILS

President	Kurt Kirckof	<u>Big Grove</u>	
Secretary	Megan Imdieke	Vice President	Lisa Pastian
Financial Secretary	Tammie Strand	Treasurer	Deanna Johnson

		<u>Crow River</u>	
President	Kayla Engen	Vice President	Ryan Halvorson
Secretary	Kathy Swensen	Treasurer	Travis Szczesniak
Financial Secretary	Jerry Torgerson		

		<u>Grace</u>	
President	Dennis Braegelman	Vice President	Sandra Westaby
Secretary	Bruce Brunette	Treasurer	Megan Klaphake
Financial Secretary	Tom Madsen		

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish (BGCRG)

Council Members: Brian Ziemer (Crow River), Jan Martin (Crow River)
Allen Anderson (Big Grove) Eric Johnson (Big Grove)
Connie Wold (Grace), Bruce Wing (Grace)

Pastor Pastor John Dalen

Parish Treasurer/Office Secretary Roxanne Oeltjenbruns