

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

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Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

JULY 2024





Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

417 Washburn Ave,
PO Box 10
Belgrade, MN 56312

Greetings Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish,
Happy Summer! I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about the upcoming youth trips and Vacation Bible School. First up, the National Youth Gathering (NYG) in New Orleans for students in grades 9 through 12. Isaac Johnson from Big Grove is attending the gathering and traveling with Our Savior's Lutheran Church from New Ulm. Isaac was the only one interested in attending the NYG, so we found a way for him to go! Isaac will leave on July 13th. He and the group from New Ulm and also from St. James, will do some site seeing along the way, arriving in New Orleans on Monday, July 15th. The NYG begins on July 16th and ends on July 20th. There are three main days of the gathering. One day for interactive learning. One day for service work. And a third day for meeting with everyone from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. The last gathering was held in Houston in 2018. A NYG was supposed to be held in Minneapolis in 2021 but was cancelled due to COVID. Every evening there is a large group gathering where thousands of 9th through 12th graders gathering for worship and to listen to speakers. I will be flying down on July 15th to join the group Isaac is with and will return on July 19th.

Our Christikon Bible Camp trip will begin the very next morning on July 20th! Christikon Bible Camp is located in the mountains of Montana and is within a couple of hours of Yellowstone National Park. There will be nine 9th through 12th graders on the trip. Taylor Shelton, Natalie Mueller, Ashton Terhaar, Owen Miller, Coby Schoumaker, Logan Oeltjenbruns, Jesse Niklaus, Reid Dickhoff, and Ian Szczesniak.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	James Paulson	17	Kylie Halvorson
2	Cindy Bouwman	18	Travis Wold
	Jordan Anderson		Arlen Netland
	Adam Imdieke		Gary Oeltjenbruns
3	Robert Gerhardson		Sonia Dougherty
4	Doran Schoeppach	19	Darren Lundgren
5	Ethan Spanier		Richard Kirckof
6	Michael Johnson	21	Warren Thompson
	Donovan Solbreken	22	Kyle Olson
7	Justin Lundberg		Jason & Amanda Halvorson
	Lisa Thompson		
8	Dean Grothem	23	Melissa Jakobson
	Nicole Cissell		Kwill Anderson
	Rance White	25	Joan Mohs
9	Al Braegelman		Stacie Hansen
	Brian Detloff		Taylor Braegelman
10	Teresa Wander		Shawn Karger
11	Dale & Deb Anderson	27	Roxanne Haugen
12	Don Segaar	28	Louise Ziemer
	Brian & Barb Anderson	29	Aubrey Anderson
	Aaron Schulz		Dacia Szczesniak
13	Kaia Anderson	30	Noah Hellickson
	Tom Peterson	31	Lyle Johnson
14	Ava Mueller		
15	Luke Terhaar		
16	Roger Walsh		



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

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

We leave on July 20th and will head to Spearfish, South Dakota. The next day we will travel to Christikon and will be there until Saturday morning, July 27th. July 27th we will go the northern route home, stopping in Bismarck, North Dakota, for the evening. We are staying at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. July 28th we will worship and then drive the rest of the way home. Christikon Bible Camp is an ELCA Bible Camp, similar to Green Lake Bible Camp. Christikon is situated in the mountains and the views are breathtaking (so I've heard). I am excited to journey with these kids over the nine day trip. We have some wonderful volunteers on the trip – Darlene Barchenger, David Johnson, and Brenda Thompson. I am thankful for their servant hearts and their willingness to embark on this journey.

One week after we return from Christikon Bible Camp is Vacation Bible School. Whew! It is going to be a busy time.

I look forward to sharing about these trips when we return.

Please pray for our students and chaperones going on these trips. These trips help students grow in their faith and experience new things, while fostering friendships.

Thank you to all three churches for the ways you have financially supported our youth to go on this trip.

We received funds from the Big Grove Carrie Olson Baalson Fund, Crow River WELCA, Grace GLCW, Grace Sunday School Fund, Grace Congregational Fund, aluminum can collection, and funds from serving at the Donnie Otteson auction. Kids paid for a portion of the trip as well. The rest will be picked up by our Free Spirits (7-12 Youth Group) account.

So much support! I am grateful for all of you!

Peace,
Pastor Lisa

Parish News:

Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

Parish Council: Tuesday, July 9, at 6:00 pm

Big Grove, Crow River, and Grace Councils: Tuesday, July 9, at 7:00 pm

Congregational Data:

Deaths: Crow River: Kenneth Otteson on May 23, 2024

Crow River: Johanna Orsten on June 6, 2024

Funerals: Crow River: Kenneth Otteson on June 1, 2024

Crow River: Burial, Vicki Otteson, June 1, 2024

Crow River: Prayer service for Johanna Orsten on June 18, 2024

We express our sympathies and prayers for the family and friends of Kenny Otteson who passed away on May 23rd. Blessed be the memory of Kenny Otteson.



We express our sympathies and prayers for the family and friends of Johanna Orsten who passed away on June 6th. Blessed be the memory of Johanna Orsten.



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

Grace July Altar Guild: Judy Dickhoff and Shirley Anderson

Grace Sandwich and Ice Cream Social

Grace will be hosting a Sandwich and Ice Cream Social with a Silent Auction on July 7th as a fundraiser for their church renovations. They will be serving BBQ's, potato salad, coffee/juice and ice cream with loads of toppings. They will be serving lunch from 11:00am - 1:00pm. The silent auction will have many interesting items and will end at 1:30 pm. If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction, please contact Darlene Boie at 320-522-3256. All are welcome!

Thank you BGCRG Parish FCS volunteers

During the past school year breakfast has been served to any hungry BBE Junior and Senior high students at Grace on Friday mornings. Delicious and healthy food from pancakes, waffles and sausages to eggs and rolls have powered our kids through their day. Students gathered, shared conversation and heard a short devotion led by Deacon Brenda or another volunteer. A highlight was usually the highly anticipated drawings each week when fun and occasionally useful items were given away. A special thanks to the FCS (Fellowship of Christian Students) team: Aleisha Terhaar, Travis Szczesniak, Bruce Wing, Doug Mohs, Ryan Halvorson, Grant Anderson, Andy Johnson and Deacon Brenda.



Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction

The 40th annual Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction will take place Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27 at the Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer! Visit Green Lake Bible Camp to see over 200 handmade quilts, enjoy quilting demonstrations and live music, shop in the Makers Market for your next crafting supplies, enjoy a hotdish supper or pulled pork lunch, a silent auction, bounce house and so much more! Events take place 3:00-8:00 PM on Friday, and 9:00-11:00 AM Saturday, and the live auction starts at 12:00 PM! All proceeds benefit the ministry happening at camp. For more information and schedule of events, visit www.gllm.org!

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

Summer Worship

Wednesday July 3rd:

7:00 pm Crow River

***Sunday July 7th:**

8:30 am Crow River

10:30 am Grace

***Wednesday July 10th:**

7:00 pm Big Grove

***Sunday July 14th::**

8:30 am Big Grove

10:30 am Crow River

***Wednesday July 17th:**

7:00 pm Grace

Sunday July 21st::

8:30 am Grace

10:30 am Big Grove

Wednesday July 24th:

7:00 pm Crow River

Sunday July 28th:

10:00 am Parsonage Lot

Wednesday July 31st:

No 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

Summer Worship

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.

Please pray for our youth and adult leaders as they venture out on summer worship trips.

National Youth Gathering, New Orleans, July 13-21:

Isaac Johnson and Pastor Lisa Meshke - adult leader



Christkon Bible Camp, July 20-28:

Students; Ashton Terhaar, Reid Dickhoff, Logan Oeltjenbruns, Jesse Niklaus, Ian Szczesniak, Owen Miller, Taylor Shelton, Natalie Mueller, Coby Schoumaker and adult leaders; Pastor Lisa Meshke, Darlene Barchenger, David Johnson, and Brenda Thompson.

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

We will be doing a new photo directory for the parish. The last one was done in 2015. Each church will have a coordinator to set up appointments and get information for the directory. The schedule to take photos is:

At Big Grove on July 29th: 2:00pm - 8:30pm

At Grace on August 2nd: 2:00pm - 8:30pm

At Grace on August 3rd: 10:00pm - 4:30 pm

You can go to any of the times listed that are convenient for you, no matter what church you belong to.

Sign up at www.ucdir.com

Church Code: MN485

Church Pwd: photos

Crow River Worship Duties

Lector/Readers:

July 3: Lora Larson

July 7: Sylvia Koll

July 14: volunteer

July 24: volunteer

Ushers:

July 3: volunteers

July 7: Quentin & Sylvia Koll

July 14: Larry & Diane Henjum

July 24: volunteers

Greeters:

July 3: Lora Larson & Mona Jensen

July 7: Quentin & Sylvia Koll

July 14: Larry & Diane Henjum

July 24: Delores Walstrom & Linda Olson

Thank You!

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - June 2024

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

May Income: \$18,741.77

May Expenses: \$17,252.03

General Fund Balance: \$12,477.69

- Pastor's report: 8 students were confirmed, VBS sign-up is underway, she attended Synod Assembly in St. Peter.
- Deacon's report: completed marriage preparation course, about 25 people attended Vaping & Opioid community presentation, JAM & FCS finished in May.
- August Fest & Parish Event planning are continuing.
- A motion was passed to do a new Parish Directory. Last one done was in 2015.
- There is an opportunity to have a booth at "Breakfast on the Farm" at Anderson Farms on Labor Day.
- There is now an opportunity to resubmit plans for the use of grant monies received last August for a childcare feasibility study. Pastor Lisa will work on a proposal.

BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - June 2024

May Income: \$5,750.84

May Expenses: \$8,455.52

General Fund Balance: \$30,284.85

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 5/31/2024: (\$5,555.24)

- Trustee report: AC will be set at 80 weekdays and 71 on weekends, bats may be coming in when doors are left open for events, the water softner needs repair, still waiting for contractor regarding shingles.
- New headsets will be installed. Mark will address cost with congregation.
- We will be getting a Processional Cross
- Justin Deters will make a new directional sign for HWY 18.
- The quilting ladies have expressed interest in making new costumes for Sunday School Christmas programs.
- Diane will check on condition of current printer.
- The Funeral Hosting Guidelines have been amended to add the Facility Coordinator role. Fees will be \$100 for members, \$200 for non-members.
- Diane has agreed to be point person to coordinate times and information for our members for the new church directory.
- Jenny Stueckrath will coordinate the VBS lunch on August 6th.
- A Do Day will be planned for Fall to cleanout old furniture from basement.
- The August 14th service at Big Grove will be a bonfire worship. Mark will coordinate with clergy.

Big Grove Notes:

We need people to sign up for church cleaning for the months of July, August, November and December.

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 and partnership in providing supplies to BBE Classrooms. Listed are items that are needed in our classrooms..

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
- Wired Headphones

Grace Notes:

The GLCW will be going to the Bavarian Gardens in New Munich on July 10th for an outing. We will meet at church at 10:00am and we will plan to have lunch around 11:00am at the gardens. There is a gift shop with plants, garden decorations and other items for sale. RSVP to Loey Maroschek at 320-527-3148.

Calling all BGCRG Musicians: We are looking for any interested musicians who would like to try their hand at playing hand chimes for worship in July and August. We would like to put together small groups of ringers who could commit to 2 rehearsals and a Sunday morning to play. It is helpful to be able to read music so if you ever played piano or a band or orchestra instrument, you could be a literal 'ringer'.

Bells Practice: Wednesday, July 10 at 6 pm at Grace. Adults and kids are welcome!

Choir Practice: Wednesday, July 17th at 6 pm at Grace
We will rehearse music for August Fest worship and for another Sunday worship service. Bring your friends!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS:

Vacation Bible School - Camp Firelight



“A Summer Camp Adventure with God”

August 4-7 (Sunday-Wednesday)

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 by clicking on the VBS tab, or by contacting the parish office at bgcrqparishmn@gmail.com or at 320-254-3249.

Bible Study: Parenting, Prayer and Play

A new gathering for families from the BBE area

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.

Grief Support Group:

Whether you are grieving a recent loss or one from years ago, all are welcome to meet with others who have experienced similar losses. This group meets once each month for 90 minutes on the third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be July 16th at the BGCRG parish office from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. All are welcome.

A retirement celebration for Pastor John Dalen: All are invited to join him to celebrate on Sunday, July 28th at 9:00am for worship at Bethany Lutheran Church in Nevis. Cards and memories can be sent to: John Dalen
21834 County Rd 2, #5, Nevis, MN 56467

CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - June 2024

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

May Income: \$11,179.91

May Expenses: \$10,725.73

General Fund Balance: \$22,039.47

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 5/31/2024: (\$4,267.34)

- Trees on west lawn have been treated and may require a series of treatments. Trees are fragile, do not climb on them when cutting.
- Church basement bathrooms project is still being worked on.
- John Herding is working on getting estimates for pillars.
- Mowing volunteers should coordinate with John Herding.
- Photo directory pictures set for July 29th at Big Grove and August 2nd and 3rd at Grace. In order to get a Saturday time, one place had to have two days in a row.
- Cody Jakobson is approved to use church hall on August 3rd.
- Doug Mohs will contact someone about repairing “Bunker” door.
- By-laws need to be integrated into the constitution.
- Pastor Lisa is talking to someone about a new funeral banner.
- Deacon Brenda will talk to Cody Bertram about speaker volumes to the overflow area.

GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - June 2024

May Income: \$9,241.24


May Expenses: \$16,601.38

General Fund Balance: \$66,339.25

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 5/31/2024: (\$7,360.14)

- Pastor’s report: Baptism banner has arrived; the Parenting Bible Study project starts June 19th; Deacon Brenda and the piano committee will be looking at pianos; there are some repairs needed at the parsonage.
- Deacon’s report: ushers are needed and there will be a GLCW church renovation fundraiser on July 7th.
- VBS will be August 4th-7th at Grace.
- The roof is not leaking. Shingling due to hail damage will be done this fall.
- Renovations: lighting and stone work almost done; flooring to start June 24th; painting and resurfacing are progressing; damaged pew chairs have been replaced; motion sensor lights are installed in the sacristy and a hand rail still needs to be installed and a railing in the choir loft.
- A new parish directory is in the works.
- July 1st is the deadline for applying for a grant. Ideas were discussed. Megan Klaphake and Lyndsay Ampe will discuss with Pastor Lisa.

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HC = Holy Communion LS = Live Stream SS = Sunday School	1 1:30 pm Rachel Circle Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	2 9:30 am Sarah Circle Deacon Brenda Vacation	3 7:00 pm CR worship Deacon Brenda Vacation	4 Office Closed 	5 Pastor Lisa - Sabbath	6
7 8:30 am CR w/HC & LS 10:30 am Grace w/HC & LS	8 Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	9 6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Council Night	10 9:30 am Lily Circle 1:00 pm Rose Circle 7:00 am BG worship HC	11 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 10:15 am Naomi Circle at Grace 1:00 pm Daisy Circle	12 1:00 pm Pansy Circle Pastor Lisa - Sabbath	13
14 8:30 am BG w/HC & LS 10:30 am CR HC & LS	15 Pastor Lisa at National Youth gathering 15th - 19th Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	16 6:30 –8 pm Grief Support Group at Parish Office Pastor Lisa at National Youth gathering	17 7:00 pm Grace worship w/HC Pastor Lisa at National Youth gathering	18 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace Pastor Lisa at National Youth gathering	19 Pastor Lisa at National Youth gathering	20 Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon 20th - 28th
21 8:30 am Grace & LS 10:30 am BG & LS Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon	22 Deacon Brenda-Sabbath Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon	23 Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon	24 7:00 pm CR worship Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon	25 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 3:00 pm Nursing Home Worship Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon	26 Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon	27 Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon
28 10:00 am Worship at Parsonage Lot Pastor Lisa with youth at Christikon	29 Deacon Brenda Vacation Photo Directory Pictures at Big Grove, 2 to 8:30 pm	30 Deacon Brenda Vacation	31 No Worship Deacon Brenda Vacation			