



BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH
THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

“Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights...” Matthew 4: 2

Forty days and forty nights. We are told that Jesus, before beginning his public ministry, spent forty days and forty nights in the wilderness.

We have just begun the forty days before Easter – a time of self-evaluation and preparation for a public celebration of Christ’s resurrection and our continued ministry proclaiming Jesus as our risen Lord.

There is an old hymn that frames this time well:

- 1 Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted and yet undefiled.*
- 2 Burning heat throughout the day, bitter cold when light had fled;
prowling beasts around your way, stones your pillow, earth your bed.*
- 3 Shall not we your trials share, learn your discipline of will;
and with you by fast and prayer, wrestle with the powers of hell?*
- 4 So if Satan, pressing hard, soul and body would destroy:
Christ who conquered, be our guard; give to us the victor's joy.*
- 5 Savior, may we hear your voice keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice at the eternal Eastertide.*

May our observance of these forty days of Lent connect us to our Savior Christ in meaningful ways. May we discipline ourselves for our journey of faith and devote ourselves to following the ways of Jesus. And may we, at the end of these forty days and forty nights, be recommitted to joyfully serving our risen Lord in all that we do.

See you in worship!

Pastor John

Stewardship – MARCH 2020

<u>Big Grove</u>	<u>Crow River</u>	<u>Grace</u>
<p>Readers: 1 Don Segaar, 8 Eric Johnson, 15 Lynne Dalen, 22 Marian Thompsons, 29 Allen Anderson</p> <p>Ushers: 1 Open, 8 Open, 15 Annika Heieie & Gunnar Heieie, 22 Open, 29 Warren & Marian Thompson</p> <p>Acolytes: 1 Tanner Viessman, 8 Ava Deters, 15 Max Heieie, 22 Andrew Spanier, 29 Ava Deters LENT SERVICE MARCH 25 Kiley Viessman</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR: 1 Open, 8 Aleisha Terhaar, 15 Open, 22 Jim & Cathy Thoen, 29 Don Segaar</p>	<p>Ushers: Brian Ziemer, Nathan Prentice, Tyler Walstrom, Kyle Anderson, Ryan Halvorson, Martin Engen, Michael Larson, Chris Walstrom, Doug Mohs Confirmation students on March 15 Wyatt Engen and Wyatt Lewis</p> <p>Readers: 1 Open, 8 Nichole Szczesniak, 15 Theresa Herding, 22 Open, 29 Kayla Engen</p> <p>Acolytes: 1 Cooper Roering, 8 Samantha Cooper, 15 Presley Detloff, 22 Ryan Jensen, 29 Dakota Presler LENT SERVICE March 11 Kora Martinez, April 1 Dalton Hanson</p> <p>Cross Bearers: 1 Ella Halvorson, 8 Odin Jensen, 15 Austin Hanson, 22 Braeden Michels, 29 Brady Schwinghammer</p> <p>Greeters: 1 Todd & Missy Jakobson, 8 Ryan & Jesi Halvorson, 15 Duane & Kathy Swenson, 22 Rick & Kathy Prentice, 29 Kyle & Tammy Quenemoen</p>	<p>Ushers: 1 Jones & Oeltjenbruns, 8 Tom Madsen & Butch Gordhammer, 15 Chuck & Jan Marks, 22 Paige Klaphake & Drew Thompson, 29 Eckstein's'</p> <p>Acolytes: 1 Max Hanson, 8 Reegan Jones, 15 Brooke Mercado, 22 Mariah Koenig, 29 Ethan Mueller LENT SERVICE March 18 Taylor Oeltjenbruns</p> <p>Readers: 1 Rich McCuskey, 8 Dennis Braegelman, 15 Les Thompson, 22 Sande Mathison, 29 Darlene Barchenger</p> <p>Coffee Fellowship: 1 Bruce & Robin Brunette, 8 Alan & Brenda Kaiser, 15 John & Shirley Anderson, 22 McCuskey/Barchenger, 29 Janice Holtberg & Sharon Berg</p>

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesdays in Lent

March 4

11:00am Worship at Grace (lunch after)

6:00pm Soup Supper at Big Grove

7:00pm Worship at Big Grove

March 11

11:00am Worship at Grace (lunch after)

6:00pm Soup Supper at Crow River

7:00pm Worship at Crow River

March 18

11:00am Worship at Grace (lunch after)

6:00pm Soup Supper at Grace

7:00pm Worship at Grace

March 25

11:00am Worship at Grace (lunch after)

6:00pm Soup Supper at Big Grove

7:00pm Worship at Big Grove

April 1

11:00am Worship at Grace (lunch after)

6:00pm Soup Supper at Crow River

7:00pm Worship at Crow River



BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH

First Communion Sundays

The 5th Grade students of our congregations will be receiving their First Communion on the following Sundays:



March 1 – Grace (9:00 service)
March 8 – Crow River (10:30 service)

We welcome our 5th grade youth to the table of the Lord! May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus feed you richly!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

7:30am -- Saturday, March 14 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.

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Our Transition Team and our Call Committee have met with Pastor Steve Cook. Our Ministry Site Profile has been completed and submitted to the ELCA.

Our Call Committee includes three members from each congregation – Big Grove: Amber Deters, Don Segaar, Warren Thompson; Crow River: Kayla Engen, Doug Mohs, Kyle Quenemoen; Grace: Bruce Wing, Stephanie Fischer, Brenda Thompson. The Call Committee will soon be considering candidates for our second pastoral position.

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

MEN'S CANADA FISHING TRIP: July 6-11

There are still a few spots remaining for our trip to incredible Lac Seul (near Ear Falls) this summer. The cost is \$750 per person, plus a few incidentals (license, tackle, etc). You can reserve your spot by getting a deposit of \$200 to Pastor John. You don't want to miss this!



FLOWERS FOR EASTER Please watch for information in the bulletins for ordering Easter Flowers. There will be forms inserted in the bulletins with deadlines to order.

PARISH CHOIR

Calling all voices!!

Come, sing with the Parish Choir during Lent. Practices will be at 7:00pm on Sundays: March 1 & 29

We will sing on Wednesdays: March 4 & April 1

WOMEN OF THE ELCA: The Lakeland Conference Women Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at Grace Lutheran Church, Belgrade, MN Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and treats served. Program begins at 9:30 a.m. Theme "This is Livin' ". Door Prizes; Lunch following Program. Deadline for registering is March. There are sign-up sheets at the churches to register. Cost is \$10.00 please; pay your treasurer of your WELCA. Treasurer for Big Grove is Deanna Johnson; Crow River Treasurer is Theresa Herding and Grace Treasurer is Brenda Thompson. If you have any questions contact your President of your WELCA.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Each month, our Parish will highlight a mission that we can support with our prayers and our donations. This month we support...

The BBE Food Shelf

March is Minnesota Food Share month and is a great time to support our local food shelf. Every dollar given locally to our food shelf qualifies it for percentage grants from other sources during this month. So, our gifts are multiplied. Be generous! **The BBE Food Shelf could also use some items, as:** shampoo, crème rinse, Kleenex, combs, disposal razor blades, brushes, assorted cleaning supplies.

Save the Date! The Sisters in Christ Bible Study Group will host OVERCOMER as a Free Community Movie at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooten on Sunday, April 5th @ 7 pm with Coffee Fellowship to follow. Plan now to attend!

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.BGCRGPISH.ORG and give us any feedback on what additions, corrections, or things that would be great to see on the site. Feel free to send pictures and information to bgcrgparish@gmail.com as well. Any immediate or timely information should go to Trish Thieschafer (320-248-4558) or Deanna Johnson (320-808-8511) for our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/bigroveandcrowriverlutheranchurches if you struggle finding it). Thanks again and God bless.

BIG GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WANTED: Volunteers to serve coffee and treats Sundays at 9:30 am. Please sign up in the back of church. List of volunteers is posted in the back of church.

THE BIG GROVE CEMETERY ASSOC. is updating its schedule of charges for burials in Big Grove Cemetery and perpetual care effective on March 19, 2020. Grave space for Big Grove church rostered members remains free. Perpetual care, per burial is increased to \$150. Non-members grave space is increased to \$350 per grave space. Perpetual care per burial is increased to \$300. To make arrangements for burials please contact cemetery superintendent Lyle Johnson at 320.262.0732. To make arrangements for perpetual care please contact cemetery treasurer Jim Thoen at 320.268.3317. Updated copies of the amended cemetery by laws are being printed and when complete, notice will be published in the church bulletin and the parish newsletter.

MARVIN IMSDAHL HAS A NEW ADDRESS: GlenOaks Personal Care Suites, 102 GlenOaks Drive, New London, MN 56273. Marvin's apartment number is 302

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS FOR YVONNE KJEDAHL and family on the death of her sister, Sally Welte. Sally died on January 20, 2020. Funeral services were held on Monday, January 27th at Scandia Lutheran Church, rural Glenwood. Blessed be the memory of Sally Welte.

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS FOR family and friends of Zona Baalson. Zona died on Saturday, February 22nd and her service was held on Wednesday, February 26th. Blessed be the memory of Zona Baalson.

CROW RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

CROW RIVER WORK DAY on Monday, March 9th starting at 9:00 a.m. (Quilting) Please bring a dish to pass for noon meal.

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS FOR family and friends of Randy Wold. Randy died on Monday, January 27th and his service was held at Crow River Lutheran Church on Friday, January 31st. Blessed be the memory of Randy Wold.

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS FOR family and friends of Phyllis Smith. Phyllis died on Tuesday, January 28th and her service was held on Saturday, February 1st at Crow River Lutheran Church. Blessed be the memory of Phyllis Smith.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE OFFERING ENVELOPES, please contact Jerry Torgerson or the Parish Office.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS for Chuck and Jan Marks and family on the death of Jan's mom, Lois Muhle. Lois died on Friday, January 24, 2020 and her service was held on Monday, February 3rd, at Glyndon Lutheran Church, Glyndon, MN. Blessed be the memory of Lois Muhle. We thank Chuck and Jan for sharing a flower arrangement with us.

PLEASE CHECK YOU MAIL BOXES AT CHURCH FOR THE BBE FOOD SHELF ENVELOPES. If you would like to donate, please use the envelope and place it in the offering on Sunday morning, anytime during the month of March. GLCW will match up to \$500.00 dollars. **The BBE Food Shelf could also use some items, as:** shampoo, crème rinse, Kleenex, combs, disposal razor blades, brushes, assorted cleaning supplies

THANK YOU to Pastor John, Lynne, Alisha, Shelly, Tyler and to the Free Spirits for the delicious Valentines Supper held on February 14th. And a huge thank you to the Kailey, Ella, Emery and Kylie who served the supper. What a great evening of fellowship, devotions and laughter.

Here is the recipe for the Raisin Sauce that was enjoyed on our ham.

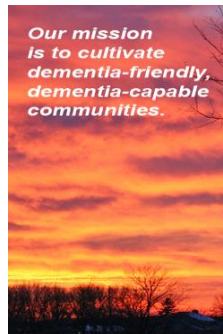
This was shared with us by Lynne Dalen:

- 1 cup raisins
 - 1 1/2 cup water
 - 1/3 cup brown sugar
 - 1 1/2 Tablespoon corn starch
 - 1 Tablespoon vinegar
 - 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
 - 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
1. Boil raisins five minutes in water
 2. Add sugar mixed with corn starch, spices, mustard and salt
 3. Cook until thick a few minutes
 4. Blend in the vinegar, spread on ham
 5. Enjoy!

REMINDER-MARCH 31 DEADLINE TO DIRECT CHOICE DOLLARS

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31st. Eligible Thrivent Financial member who have available Choice Dollars have until March 31 2020, to direct them. Don't miss the opportunity to Recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to the church of your choice. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** Together we can make a difference though Thrivent Choice. A heartfelt thanks to all of you who directed Choice Dollars to the church of your choice. Thrivent Financial and its members once again show us, together we can make a difference by helping to strengthen community's

CROW RIVER WELCA will



THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

be having an Educator, Pat Berg, "Dementia Friends" from the West Central Dementia Awareness Network on Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Crow River Lutheran Church. Below is

some information about the WCDAN on their mission. **Everyone is invited to attend this event.**

Members of the West Central Dementia Awareness Network (WCDAN) live, work, and volunteer in or near Kandiyohi County, located in West Central Minnesota. We come from a variety of towns and professions in the area, but we are all linked in some way by the subject of memory loss. Some of us have family members who received a diagnosis of dementia, and others connect with people living with dementia during our work day or while out in the community.

In addition to our community member volunteers, some of our team members represent long-term care, specialized memory care, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, and non-medical home care as well as Lutheran Social Services, Minnesota River Agency on Aging, faith communities, Atwater Area Help for Seniors, adult day services, and counseling services.

Big Grove Crow River Grace Youth Page

YOUTH SKI DAY – March 14

All youth are invited to go skiing on Saturday, March 14. The cost is \$20 for skiing / \$30 for snowboarding. You will also need money for lunch in the chalet. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, March 4. Registration forms have been mailed and are also available from Pastor John or in the Parish Office. (Note: We must have at least 10 youth to get the discounted group rate.)

FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAYS

Our 5th Grade students will receive their First Communions on Sunday, March 1 at Grace and on Sunday, March 8 at Crow River.



NO CONFIRMATION or "EPIC" IN MARCH:

All youth will be encouraged to participate in the Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten Services during March.



SOUP SUPPERS IN LENT:

Youth will be serving the Soup Suppers on the Wednesday nights in Lent. Plan to be in the kitchen as close to 5:30 as possible. These are great fundraisers and all youth who help will be given fundraising credit in their accounts.

March 4 at Big Grove
March 11 at Crow River
March 18 at Grace
March 25 at Big Grove
April 1 at Crow River



FCA3 BREAKFASTS: (Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Artists, and Academics)

Thursdays at 7:30am. All 7-12th grade youth are invited to come.

BIBLE CAMP – Summer 2020 GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Youth can still sign up for Bible Camp this summer. Though the Early Bird Deadline is passed, you can still access the discounts and assistance funds by registering through the Parish Office.

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	1. Thu	2. Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:30a Worship-CR 9a Worship- Grace w/ 1st Communion 9:30a S.S.-BG 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30a Worship BG w HC Potluck @ BG to follow 7p Parish Choir @ Grace</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30p Rachel Circle (G)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30am Sarah Circle(G)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11a Lenten Worship @ Grace w/ Lunch to follow 4p J.A.M. 6p Soup/Supper @ Big Grove 7p Lenten Worship @ Big Grove</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30a FCA 5:45p Naomi Circle (G) 7p CR WELCA Prog. (West Central Dementia Awareness) 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am GLCW March Brunch</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30am Worship-BG 9am Worship-Grace w HC 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30am Worship CR w/ 1st Communion 6:30p Big Grove Council</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9a Work Day @ Crow River (Quilting)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7p CR Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30a Lily Circle (CR) 11a Lenten Worship @ Grace w/ Lunch to follow 1p Rose Circle (CR) 4p J.A.M. 6p Soup Supper @ Crow River 7p Lenten Worship @ Crow River</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30a FCA 1p Daisy Circle (CR) 3p Pastor John @ BNH 6:30p GLCW Ex Board mtg. 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30a Men's Breakfast 9:30a Youth Skiing Day at Ande's Tower Hill</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30am Worship-CR w HC 9am Worship-Grace 9:30am S.S.-BG 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30am Worship- BG</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am Do day at Grace</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11a Lenten Worship @ Grace w/ Lunch to follow 4p J.A.M 6p Soup Supper @ Grace 7p Lenten Worship @ Grace 7:45p Grace Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30a FCA 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10a Grace Altar Guild mtg & polishing altar ware</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30am Worship-BG 9am Worship-Grace 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30am Worship- CR</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11a Lenten Worship @ Grace w/ Lunch to follow 4p J.A.M 6p Soup Supper @ Big Grove 7p Lenten Worship @ Big Grove</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30a FCA 9a Newsletter Assembly 7p AA Open Mtg. @ Grace</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Sr High Youth Gathering</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30a Lakeland Women's Spring Gathering @ Grace</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30am Worship-CR 9aWorship-Grace 9:30am S.S.-BG 9:45am S.S.-CR 10:30am Worship- BG 7p Parish Choir @ Grace</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

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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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)

Pastors Pastor John Dalen

Parish Treasurer/Office Secretary Roxanne Oeltjenbruns