

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

Pastor Lisa Meshke: pastorlisaanne@gmail.com
Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson: bandeljohnson@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com
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Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

October 2023

Our Faith in the community



Left: “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, assembling laundry kits for college students.

Right: Singing to residents at the Belgrade Nursing Home .



Below:

All parish outdoor worship.



Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish



417 Washburn Ave,
PO Box 10
Belgrade, MN 56312
Phone: (320) 254-3249
Email: bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com
www.bgcrgparish.org

*When you're down and troubled
And you need some lovin' care
And nothin', nothin' is goin' right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night*

*You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am
I'll come runnin'
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
You've got a friend*

*If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you'll hear me knockin' at your door*

By Carole King

Do you know that song? I just heard an old recording of Carole King singing that 1971 hit this past week and thought of how these words could be coming from so many different places in our church community. As I pass the year anniversary of my time here at BGCRG parish (August 21, 2022) I can name so many ways you have shown and continue to share being the listening friend who is only a phone call or text away. The love people surround their church community members with shows up in so many ways: friends showing up on a holiday morning to share the grief of a loved one passing, providing rides to worship for those who don't drive, cards, meals, raspberries in Cool Whip containers, folks singing with friends at the nursing home,



*From the desk of
Deacon Brenda*

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Robin Carlson	19	Dan & Sharon Struthers
	Eric & Deanna Johnson	20	Brooklynn Lang
2	Colin Evenson		Bill & Deborah Norris
	Chris Walstrom	21	Pastor Lisa Meshke
3	Kacey Fischer	22	Steve Gerhardson
	Josh Walstrom		Rosemarie Walsh
	Nathan & Andrea Prentice		Aaron Ziemer
4	Valinda TeVelde	23	Glenn & Vicki Otteson
5	Inez Anderson	24	Taya Hanson
	Jesse Niklaus		Alisha Mathias
6	David & Sandra Hellickson		Kyle & Tammie Strand
7	Alissa Knight	25	Ione Pillard
8	Tia Halvorson		Cindy Wilson
	Brandon Lang	26	Jim & Janette Niklaus
	Jace Mueller	27	Justine Pelkey
10	Jackson Kirckof		Cody Jakobson
	Raymond Wold	28	Orry Wiechman
11	Paul Halvorson	29	Kathleen Voog
13	Carrie Halvorson	31	Doris Grothem
	Alan Roering		Jared Otteson
14	Quentin Koll		
15	Donald & Pauline Wold		
	Mike & Stacy Steffensen		
	Brian & Melissa Michels		
16	Scott & Julie Jensen		
	Pat Thieschafer		
	Jeremy & Jenna Hanson		
	Liam Kampsen		
17	Terry Clark		
	Julie Hanson		
	Krista & Alex Lautenschlager		
	Scott & Becky Mueller		

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

Crow River

President: Doug Mohs Vice President: Patti Hagen
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: Brenda Kaiser

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

Parish Council President: Darlene Barchenger (G)
Parish Council VP: Ryan Halvorson (CR)
Parish Council Secretary: Megan Imdieke (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
Parish Treasurer: Connie Wold

beautiful vegetables that appear outside people's houses, or at church on a Sunday morning, helping hands that come to assist with setting up for an outdoor worship (and we had a few this summer!)... The list just goes on. That is what community looks like and is what God intended from the beginning.

I have been visiting people from our community throughout the past year thanks to friends like YOU. Occasionally, someone will drop by or call and tell me or Pastor Lisa about a person who is experiencing a time when, as Carole King puts it "the sky above is dark and full of clouds". Those times are when we need God the most - times when we don't know how we're paying this month's bills, or we will live life without a loved one who has left this earth. Hearty midwesterners like us often just hang on tight to those bootstraps and somehow power through. That is who we are. But as I recover from my hip replacement and Covid, I too am learning it is good for everyone (not just me) when I tell someone that I need help. Maybe calling someone to say "come over - I need to figure out____" is God's way of reminding us that a community that shares needs is one that remembers whose they are - a beloved child of God. If you are in a place in your life where you need help - especially if a loved one needs care, call our parish office and ask for someone to come. That is one of the reasons why pastors and deacons are called to serve - to hear and share in the joys and pains of their community and to bring God's healing word into each situation. Don't hesitate - in fact, think of God singing to you - "you just call out my name and you know wherever I am, I'll come runnin'." That is how much you are loved by a God who will show up every time - just call!

God's Peace,
Deacon Brenda

Light of the World Evening Prayer Service

The new Evening Prayer service written by Carol Meier of Eagle Lake Lutheran in the Spicer area will be sung again this fall on the first Sunday of each month. **The next one will be October 1st at 7:00 pm at Eagle Lake Lutheran.** This 25 minute service is a beautiful way to close the day and remember how we rest in God's hands, safe and loved. See Deacon Brenda if you want to join her to go sing this new and fresh work.

Parish News:



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

Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

Parish Council:

Tuesday, October 10, at 6:00 pm

Big Grove, Crow River, Grace Councils:

Tuesday, October 10, at 7:00 pm

Baptism: Crow River: Rowan David Steffensen, son of Jared and Michaela Steffensen

Weddings: Crow River: Cody Lewis and Makenna Taylor on September 16, 2023

Funerals: Grace: Del Adrian Memorial Service on September 2, 2023

Grace: Ben Berg burial service on September 5, 2023

Crow River: Donald Otteson funeral on September 8, 2023

New Members: Crow River: Michaela Steffensen



Halloween Open House: The BGCR parsonage across from Grace will have sloppy joes, chips and lemonade (and a bonfire) for trick-or-treaters who want to take a rest. Families are welcome to stop in for a little while or a long time before heading off to trick-or-treat. Hours: 4:30-8:00 pm.



HAPPY AUTUMN

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
OCT 1	Elliot Spanier	A: Livia Szczesniak C: Aubrey Anderson	Lillian Thompson
Oct 8	Carter Heinen	A: Jaylee Jensen C: Macey Roering	Reid Dickhoff
Oct 15	Lydia Deters	A: Taya Hanson C: Owen Miller	Kamie Fischer
Oct 22	Elliot Spanier	A: Coby Schoumaker C: McCoy Detloff	Jackson Kirckof
Oct 29	Carter Heinen	A: Lauren Herding C: Noah Jensen	Jennah Koenig

Crow River Worship Duties

Ushers:

October 1: Jenna, Jeremy, Austin and Dalton Hanson

October 8: Karla & Randy Anderson and Kevin & David Dokken

October 15: Quentin Koll, Doug Mohs, Ricky Prentice & Gary Theis

October 22: Szczesniak family

October 29: Patti Hagen, Linda Olson, Roxanne Haugen & Karen Theis

Lector/Readers:

October 1: Theresa Herding

October 8: Patti Hagen

October 15: Karen Theis

October 22: Jenna Hanson

October 29: Jodi Schoumaker

Greeters:

October 1: Nicole Cissel & David Dokken

October 8: Roxy Haugen & Mona Jensen

October 15: Todd & Melissa Jacobsen

October 22: Kent & Cindy Bouwman

October 29: John & Theresa Herding

Livestream:

October 1:

October 15:

October 29:

*Thank
You!*

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

CROW RIVER WELCA FALL SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPER AND AUCTION

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Serving from 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Auction will begin at 7:00pm

We will have baked goods, produce and craft sale in the narthex. Please have all items priced. What doesn't sell, will go on the auction. The auction is in the social hall. Baked goods, canned goods, crafts, quilts, produce and much more. Plans are similar to supper and auctions in the past.

Hope to see everyone there!

Any questions, call the co-chairs, Patti Hagen 254-3186 or Betty Cole 320-262-2854.



Crow River WELCA Fall Supper and Auction to do list: Donations are needed for the auction.

Friday 13th: If you signed up to bring anything for the supper please have it at the church by 8:00am.

We will meet at 9:00am to cut up vegetables, cook onions & celery, and do some prep. The church will be open 4-7pm to drop off items.

Saturday 14: The church will be open at 8:00am to drop off items. Supper will be 4-7pm and Auction starts at 7:00pm

Crow River WELCA to host Hospice speaker on October 4th, at 7:00pm at the Crow River Church. This will be open to all BCRG parishioners (men included) who would like to hear Rachel Wenner, a Hospice Consultant, tell us about hospice.

Big Grove Fall Supper and Auction

Friday, October 20, 2023

Serving from 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Auction will begin at 7:00pm

Serving: Hot beef sandwiches, calico beans, Rommegrot, macaroni salad, bars and beverages.

Auction starts at 7:00pm

Everyone is welcome!



Big Grove WELCA to do list for the Supper and Auction:

We will need help setting up for the supper and auction, working the auction and clean up after the auction. There is a wedding the next day so we need to make sure everything is cleaned up. There will be a sign-up sheet at church. Please sign up for a shift or two.

*Thank
You!*

Special thanks to Jan Martin and Ann Hagen for their leadership and work on the "God's Work, Our Hand" laundry love project, and to the many helping hand who so graciously helped assemble them. We were able to assemble over 250 laundry packets to give to area college students.

Thank you to everyone who has been helping out with the Shores of St. Andrew cabin clean up and renovations. Everything will look great when completed!

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our faith community in any way. Whether it is serving on the church council, teaching our youth, working for church gatherings, ushering, lecturing, participating in our music for worship, praying for those in need or any of the other things that make us a congregation. Everything you do is offered up to God. Thank you!

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - September 2023 (Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

August Income: \$19,734.33
August Expenses: \$19,082.40
General Fund Balance: \$33,896.96

- Pastor's report: Confirmation curriculum ordered for \$350. 6th graders will have pre-confirmation in JAM which starts Sept 13th. "God's Work, Our Hands" projects will be held throughout September. The ERTC bill will not be paid until remainder of refund is received. \$10,000 will be invested in a short term CD. Deacon Brenda is recovering from hip surgery and Covid.
- Worship schedule has been set for year.
- The fall Theological Conference will be October 8-10, 2023.

BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - Sept. 2023 (Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

August Income: \$3,238.15
August Expenses: \$8,678.34
General Fund Balance: \$20,195.17
Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 8/31/23: (\$21,799.98)

- Eric's reported that expenses exceeded revenue by \$21,800 so far this year. Ideas were discussed raising funds including a raffle in the spring, using Tithely and direct deposit options.
- It was approved to purchase a new Paschal Candle.
- Pipes are unclogged and working properly.
- The well is being treated after the Dept of Health identified e coli in the well. It will be retested. Recommendation is to refrain from drinking the water until all clear is given.
- The Roomba vacuum is installed but needs some programming adjustments.
- WELCA asked for fund approval to spray for bugs. Approved.
- WELCA donated \$2000 to go towards church heating and \$2000 to go towards the new sound system. Also that the Altar Guild could use additional members and that potluck lunches will resume soon on the 1st Sunday with late service of the month. We still need someone for December church cleaning.
- Sunday school starts September 24th and volunteers for JAM are needed.
- Council Elections coming up. Let a council member know if you are interested.

Big Grove Notes:

Big Grove has Venmo: @BigGroveLuth2022

Big Grove needs to replace the sound system at church in order to provide quality audio for livestreaming and services. The system will cost about \$9300. Any donations would be appreciated. Please designate your donation is for the sound system. Donations can be sent to the church office at PO Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312. Thank you to everyone who has donated!

Johanna Thompson has a new address and would appreciate visits and correspondence.

719 2nd St. SE RM 316
Glenwood MN 56334

Crow River Notes:

Crow River WELCA has a Mission Project each month. The Mission for October is Hospice. There will be a free will offering taken at the WELCA meeting and envelopes will be available on the stand by the nursery. If you use an envelope put it in the collection plate.

Lily Circle will meet on October 11th at the home of Joan Mohs.

Workday change: Because of our Fall Soup and Sandwich Supper, we will have our work days on October 23rd and 25th starting at 9:00am. Bring a sack lunch.

Old Offering Envelopes? Return them to the church or parish office.

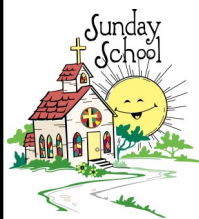
Grace Notes:

Note the change in schedule: Do Day will be at 9:00 am on October 24th.

Grace October Altar Guild:

Janet Marks and Lorraine Raveling

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.



JAM (Jesus and Me) fall session for kids in

Kindergarten through 6th grade.

3:45 - 5:00pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

(No class on October 18th due to MEA)

Sign up on our website:

<https://www.bgcrgparish.org/youth.html>

Volunteers are needed for one or more sessions as teachers and assistants. Contact the office at 320-254-3249 if you can help.

JAM - Fall serving calendar

October 4 - Grace

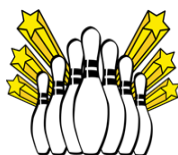
November 1 - Grace

October 11 - Big Grove

November 8 - Big Grove

October 25 - Crow River

November 15 - Crow River



Free Spirits Overtime will be held after the football game on October 6th (9:00-11:00 pm) at the Brooten bowling alley. This is open to all kids in grades 7 - 12.

Junior High Synod Youth Gathering in Willmar will be

November 17-18. All youth in grades 6-9 are invited.

Registration deadline is October 6th. Contact the office or Pastor Lisa for more information or a registration form. Office: 320-254-3249.

CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - Sept. 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

August Income: \$7,005.87

August Expenses: \$12,391.24

General Fund Balance: \$11,672.89

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 8/31/23: (\$7,732.85)

- Council/Cemetery Board/Pastor Lisa to meet Sept. 24th after worship to discuss updating processes and communication.
- Doug is working with Heritage Construction regarding storm damage to church and parsonage.
- Hanson family reserved fellowship hall for May 12, 2024.
- Bring suggestions to next council mtg regarding council positions to be open in 2024.
- Approved to have 2 church pianos tuned.
- Approved to have Doug added as signer on Edward Jones account.

GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - Sept. 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

August Income: \$10,967.36

August Expenses: \$13,392.30

General Fund Balance: \$67,773.77

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 8/31/23: (\$100.89)

- We will plan to shingle next year. Check from hail damage claim will go in a CD until job is done. Les Thompson will check with the insurance company about the insurance deductible amount.
- Confirmation starts September 13.
- There was discussion about a glass finish by the cross to reduce carpet fading. There will be a sample at the next meeting.
- It was recommended to remove the pews and replace with chairs. Les will bring this, and sanctuary updates to the congregation for approval.
- "God's Work, Our Hands" service is September 17th with potluck and service project (laundry kits for college students) to follow.
- Pastor Lisa asked to have plastic basement window covers replaced that were broken in hail storm.
- Who ever serves coffee after services should make sure doors get locked.

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am BG 9:00 m Grace w/HC & LS 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/HC & LS	2 1:30 pm Rachel Circle Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	3 9:30 am Sarah Circle	4 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7-8th Grade Confirmation 7:00 pm CR WELCA	5 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 4:00 pm Naomi Circle	6 7:30 am FCS 9-11 pm Free Spirits Overtime at Brooten Bowling Alley Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	7
8 8:30 am CR 9:00 am Grace w/HC & LS 9:30 BG SS 10:30 am BG w/HC & LS	9 Deacon Brenda -Sabbath Pr. Lisa Gone	10 6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Council Night Pr. Lisa Gone Deacon Brenda gone	11 9:30 am Lily Circle 1:00 pm Rose Circle 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7-9th Grade Confirmation	12 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 1:00 pm Daisy Circle	13 7:30 am FCS 1:00 pm Pansy Circle Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	14 4-7pm CR WELCA supper 7pm CR WELCA Auction
15 8:30 am BG w/LS 9:00 am Grace 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/LS	16 Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	17	18	19 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace	20 5-7 pm BG WELCA Supper 7:00 pm BG WELCA Auction Zenner/Hanson rehearsal at BG Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	21 4:00 pm BG Zenner/Hanson Wedding
22 (Hymn Sing Sunday) 8:30 am CR 9:00 am Grace w/LS 9:30 am BG SS 10:30 am BG w/LS	23 9:00 am CR work day bring a sack lunch Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	24 9:00 am Grace Do Day	25 9:00 am CR work day bring a sack lunch 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7-9th Grade Confirmation	26 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 3:00 pm Nursing Home	27 7:30 am FCS Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	28
29 8:30 am BG 9:00 am Grace 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/LS	30 Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	31 4-8 pm Halloween open house at Parsonage			HC = Holy Communion LS = Live Stream SS = Sunday School	