



# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

## THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

October 2020

### *FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK*

*“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. ~ Romans 12: 9-13*

Greetings,

I think Fall has finally arrived! I don’t know about you, but I enjoy this season and the crisp air. I especially enjoy the changing of the leaves and the beautiful and vibrant colors.

With Fall comes a new programming year, including Confirmation and Sunday School. Things look a little bit different this year, but I think we are adapting to this new environment. When I reflect on the scripture text above, I am reminded of what Jesus calls us to do, to love our neighbor and to love God. And...”be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.” People in our community are affected in different ways during this pandemic. Some are confined to their homes, some are trying to navigate the world of working and having kids home for school, others work in the healthcare industry and are overloaded with responsibilities. It is important for us to remember that our individual experiences may not be the experiences of our neighbors. Grace, love, reaching out to your neighbor, and praying are steps we can take to help our neighbors and to live as a community. I look forward to the day when I can give hugs, see you all without a face mask, and have more activities in person. But until then, stay safe, stay healthy, and check on your friends and neighbors.

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Lisa

515-451-1382

[pastorlisaanne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaanne@gmail.com)

P.S. I invite you to join me for Bible Study at Crow River Lutheran Church at 10 am on Wednesdays beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>. Our first study will be on the book of Ephesians. Bring a bible. If you are interested in an evening bible study, please drop me an email or text.

## BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH

### CONFIRMATION / "EPIC" SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER:

October 7 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade from 6:00-7:00pm

9<sup>th</sup> Grade from 6:30-7:30pm

Supper Servers: Detloffs / Hansons (Max) / Jensen (Odin)

October 14 – No Confirmation or EPIC (MEA)

October 21 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade from 6:00-7:00pm

EPIC from 6:30-7:30pm

Supper Servers: Lundbergs / Martinez / Mueller (Ethan)

October 28 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade from 6:00-7:00pm

EPIC from 6:30-7:30pm

Supper Servers: Nicklaus / Oeltjenbruns / Szczesniaks

### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – October 25

This year, because of limited seating space in our congregations, two of our churches will have special Confirmation Services at separate times from the regularly scheduled worship time.

**Grace** – In addition to the 9:00am service, a Confirmation service will be held at 1:00pm for students and their families.

**Crow River** – In addition to the 8:30am service, a Confirmation service will be held at 10:30am for students and their families.

**Big Grove** will have their Confirmation service at the regular 10:30am worship time.



**Confirmation Students are**

**Big Grove: Annika Heieie, Emmit Kirckof, Ethan Spanier**

**Crow River: Wyatt Engen, Ella Halvorson, Wyatt Lewis, Justin Lundberg, Harley Roering, Brady Schwinghammer, Tanner Shelton, Dacia Szczesniak**

**Grace: Isabella Buckentine, Branton Jones, Paige Klaphake, Donovan Koenig, Paige Mueller, Drew Thompson**

## **WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE IN OCTOBER**

Every Sunday in October, we will provide our On-line services beginning at 8:30am on our Website (BGCRGparish) and our Facebook page.

Our three congregations will all be following their regular schedule of worship services in October. Crow River and Big Grove will rotate between the 8:30 and 10:30 worship times. Grace will worship at 9:00am.

As we gather for worship, here are some basic things to keep in mind:

- If you feel sick or have any symptoms, you should stay at home.
- Masks are to be worn by everyone except those with medical conditions that makes mask-wearing dangerous.
- We will ask everyone to maintain safe distancing at all times.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and you are encouraged to sanitize your hands as you enter and as you leave.
- We will be taking pictures or writing down names to keep a record of who was present in case there is a need for contact tracing.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES-** The parish office would like to put together an email address list for our members. Please send us an email at [bgcrlutheran@frontiernet.net](mailto:bgcrlutheran@frontiernet.net) with your name and current email address. This will be one more way for us to keep in good contact with our members.

**“WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO.”**

**LUKE 12: 34**

We would like to thank those who have been sending in their offerings during the past months. We truly appreciate your help in meeting our ongoing expenses. If you would like to mail in your offerings, send them to Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish, P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312.

If you are a member of Crow River, you can also send your offerings electronically. On the BGCRGParish.org website, there is a page under Crow River that will guide you in this.

**PASTOR LISA WILL BE HAVING A Bible Study** at Crow River Lutheran Church at 10 am on Wednesdays beginning October 14th. Our first study will be on the book of Ephesians. Bring a bible. If you are interested in an evening bible study, please drop me an email or text.

**WE EXPRESS OUR SMPATHYAND PRAYERS** for Vern Bigalk and family on the death of Karen Bigalk. Karen died on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and her service was held on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clara City, MN. Blessed be the memory of Karen Bigalk.

## **DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST,**

What a fellowship and joy divine to be adopted into the worshipping family that is the BGCRG Parish. Thank you with all my heart for your invitation to join my worship of the Great God we serve with all of yours. Your kind words and thoughtful support encourage me to always Thank God for each and every one of you! Sincerely, Dave Clark 😊

**B-B-E OPERATION WARM:** The B-B-E Clothes Closet will again be sponsoring Operation Warm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 10/14-10/17 (MEA week) from 10 am to 4 pm at the Brooten City Hall room. Winter gear including coats, snow pants, Boots, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, for infants to adults will be distributed. Blankets and quilts are also available. Everyone is welcome and everything is free. If you need items but unable to attend, you may drop off a request list with your name and contact information, or if you have new or gently used items to donate, please drop them off at the Brooten City Hall anytime during business hours. If you have any questions/concerns, call Jeanne at 320-346-2524. Let's make sure no person or family goes without warm clothing this winter. Across our Bonanza Valley area!

## **BIG GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**THERE WILL BE NO BIG GROVE WELCA FALL SUPPER AND AUCTION.**

**WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** for family and friends of Ivadell Strande. Ivadell died on Tuesday, September 8th and her service will be held on Saturday, September 19th at Big Grove Lutheran Church. Blessed be the memory of Ivadell Strande.

## **CROW RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WE WELCOME INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD** Avah Lynn Garvick Mireles, daughter of Cassandra Garvick. Welcome Avah to God's Kingdom.

**WELCA WORK DAY** on Monday, Oct. 12 at 9am with potluck lunch. Will do whatever you feel like doing: cutting blocks, weighted blankets and maybe quilting if you are up to it.

**THERE WILL BE NO CROW RIVER WELCA FALL SUPPER AND AUCTION.**

**CROW RIVER WELCA: YOUR CIRCLE PRESIDENTS** have the quilt raffle tickets. Please turn in the ticket stubs and money to Karla Anderson as you sell them.

**“I AM GRATEFUL OFFERING”** 2020 has been an eventful year with many missed opportunities to raise funds to help others. So, in place of serving a dinner or placing a bid at our auction we are suggesting a “Grateful Offering.” You will find envelopes for that purpose in your church mail box and they can be returned in the offering plate at any time. The executive board will disperse of the funds. Thank you and God’s Blessing. Crow River WELCA.

**WE EXPRESS OUR SMYPATHY AND PRAYERS** for family and friends on the death of Rick Olson. Service was held at Colfax Cemetery on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Blessed be the memory of Rick Olson.

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WE EXPRESS OUR SMYPATHY AND PRAYERS** for Megan and Klaphake Shawn family and Shawn family on the death of Megan’s sister Bridget Mack, Bridget died on Sunday, September 6th in Livingston, MT. A memorial service was held on Saturday, September 12th at the First Presbyterian Church in Willmar, MN. Blessed be the memory of Bridget Mack.

**FLOWERS BY BAPTISMAL FONT IN MEMORY OF LYLE BOIE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH.** We thank Darlene and family on sharing flowers with us. Lyle would have turned 80 on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Blessed be the memory of Lyle Boie.

**GLCW** will be held on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**GLCW** Ex Board will meet on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at church.

### **VIRTUAL WRAP TRAINING**

Wellness Recovery Action Plan – Seminar 1

St Cloud Minnesota Area Residents

Nov 9-10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 4:30

WRAP is a 15 hour evidence based seminar that assists participants in creating their own wellness plan. Each plan is personally designed and managed by the participant. WRAP participants have reported an increase in personal empowerment and improved quality of life. This virtual course is free to attend thanks to funding provided by Lake Area Medical Development Fund. It is taught by Copeland Center trained facilitators. Registration is required. Upon registration completion you will receive materials via USPS and along with Zoom log-in details.

## AUGUST COUNCIL MINUTES

### I DID NOT GET THESE IN SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

#### PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – August (Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report: (July)    Income:    \$ 14,080.00  
   Expenses: \$ 15,849.72  
   General Fund End Balance:    \$ 6,558.48

- \*\*Approved purchasing a copyright license for our services.
- \*\*Approved a cellphone and internet allowance for the pastors.
- \*\*After comparing the latest statistics from each congregation, the council approved a recommendation to the congregations of a revised parish agreement that would change the percentages of payment to: Grace 39%, Crow River 39%, Big Grove 22%.

#### BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – August (Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report: (July)    Income:    \$ 4,945.92  
   Expenses: \$ 4,330.54  
   General Fund End Balance:    \$ 54,504.36

- \*\*Council decided to continue outdoor worship on the lawn until further notice.
- \*\*Council discussed plans for indoor worship including a cleaning schedule. Council members will be on teams, but others are encouraged to volunteer with them.
- \*\*Council discussed options for Christian Education this fall. Plans may need to be very flexible as we see what happens over the next few weeks/months.

#### CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – August (Complete minutes available at parish office.)

Treasurer's Report: (July)    Income:    \$ 5,075.38  
   Expenses: \$ 5,790.08  
   General Fund End Balance:    \$ 18,269.62

- \*\*Council considered some options for Confirmation Sunday to allow for spacing: a second service, splitting into two groups, changing dates, etc.
- \*\*Reviewed how our Covid plan is working. No changes are necessary at this time.
- \*\*Will look into the cost of Organ service and copyright licensing.

#### GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – August (Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report: (July)    Income:    \$ 10,387.96  
   Expenses: \$ 7,681.50  
   General Fund End Balance:    \$ 51,588.82

- \*\* Moving to in person worship on August 16th. Extra seating will be set up in fellowship hall and curtains will be taken down. Communion will also resume on August 16th using prepackaged elements.
- \*\* Discussed ongoing work at the parsonage: siding, window, basement flooring and bathroom.
- \*\* Discussion held in regards to the parish agreement. Council members expressed their concerns over Grace's percentage paid to the parish. Parish council will begin discussions in August.
- \*\* Approved welcoming as new members Ben and Katy Lindsay, and son Nathan (baptized Aug. 16).



# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
(V)				1 6:30p GLCW EX BOARD  7p Grace Council (Note day change)	2 5:30p Wedding Rehearsal for Ritt/Kelish	3 3p Wedding Brandon Ritt/Mickenzie Kelish @ CR
4 8:30a Worship BG 9a Worship Grace (HC) 10:30a Worship CR (HC)  6:30pm BG Council	5 6:30p Rachel Circle (G)  (V) Pastor Lisa	6 9:30a Sarah Circle (G) @ Brooten  (V) Pastor Lisa	7 6p 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  6:30p 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  NO EPIC 7p WELCA CR) (V) Pastor Lisa	8   (V) Pastor Lisa	9   (V) Pastor Lisa	10   11a Baptism of Delilah ??? @ Grace  (V) Pastor Lisa
11 8:30a Worship CR 9:00a Worship Grace (HC) 10:30a Worship BG (HC)  (V) Pastor Lisa	12 9a CR Work Day  Synod Theol. Conference	12 9a CR Work Day  Synod Theol. Conference	14 10a Bible Study w Pastor Lisa @ Crow River  <b>No Confirmation</b>  (V) Pastor John	15 7:30p GLCW @ Grace   (V) Pastor John	16   NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  (V) Pastor John	17     (V) Pastor John
18 8:30a Worship BG 9:00a Worship G 10:30a Worship CR  (V) Pastor John	19 9a Do-day @ Grace  (V) Pastor John	20 9a Do-Day @ Grace  5:30p Parish Council Mtg @ Grace	21 10a Bible Study w Pastor Lisa @ Crow River  6p 8 <sup>th</sup> Grace Confirmation 6:30p 9-12 Gr EPIC	22	23	24
25 8:30a Worship CR  9:00a Worship Grace  10:30a Worship BG w/ HC and Confirmation  10:30am Confirmation w/HC @ Crow River  1:00pm Confirmation w/HC @ Grace	26	27	28 10a Bible Study w Pastor Lisa @ Crow River 8 6p 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  6:30p 9-12 Grade EPIC	29	30	31



# OCTOBER

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1	Robin Carlson Eric & Deanna Johnson	17	Terry Clark Julie Hanson Krista & Alex Lautenschlager Scott & Becky Mueller
2	Chris Walstrom		
3	Joshua Walstrom Nathan & Andrea Prentice	18	Kayla Anderson
4	VaLinda TeVelde	19	Dan & Sharon Struthers
5	Inez Anderson Madisen Rock Jesse Niklaus	20	Bill & Deb Norris
6	David & Sandra Hellickson	22	Steve Gerhardson Rosemarie Walsh Aaron Ziemer
7	Sig & Ardy Lundgren Alissa Knight	23	Glenn & Vicki Otteson Nicholas Hagen
9	Ivadell Strande	24	Alisha Mathias Kyle & Tammie Strand
8	Tia Halvorson Jace Mueller	25	Andy & Cheri Weichman Ione Pillard Cindy Wilson
10	Marilyn Gerhardson Raymond Wold		
11	Paul Halvorson	26	Jim & Janette Niklaus
13	Carrie Halvorson Martin & Kayla Engen Alan Roering Janice Rapp	27	Justine Pelkey Cody Jakobson
14	Quentin Koll	28	Orry Weichman Shane Delaney
15	Donald & Pauline Wold Mike & Stacy Steffensen Brian & Melissa Michels	29	Kathleen Voog
16	Scott & Julie Jensen Pat Thieschafer Jeremy & Jenna Hanson	31	Doris Grothem Jared Otteson

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish  
PO Box 10, Belgrade MN 56312 |320-254-3249  
Pastor John Dalen [prjohnd59@gmail.com](mailto:prjohnd59@gmail.com)  
Lisa Meshke [pastorlisaanne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaanne@gmail.com)  
Parish Secretary [bgcrlutheran@frontiernet.net](mailto:bgcrlutheran@frontiernet.net)

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# God's Work, Our Hands!

### Church and Parish Councils

#### Big Grove

<b>President</b>	Jim Thoen	<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Scott Stueckrath /Jenny Stueckrath
<b>Secretary</b>	Megan Imdieke	<b>Treasurer</b>	Deanna Johnson
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Tammie Strand		

#### Crow River

<b>President</b>	Kayla Engen	<b>Vice President</b>	Ryan Halvorson
<b>Secretary</b>	Melanie Lundberg	<b>Treasurer</b>	Travis Szczesniak
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Jerry Torgerson		

#### Grace

<b>President</b>	Stephanie Fischer	<b>Vice President</b>	Dennis Braegelman
<b>Secretary</b>	Bruce Brunette	<b>Treasurer</b>	Connie Wold
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Tom Madsen		

#### Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish (BGCRG)

<b>Council Members:</b>	Allen Anderson (BG)	Eric Johnson (BG)
	Jan Martin (CR)	Brian Ziemer (CR)
	Connie Wold (G)	Megan Klaphake (G)
<b>Pastor</b>	John Dalen	
	Lisa Meshke	
<b>Parish Treasurer/Office Secretary</b>	Roxanne Oeltjenbruns	