Why do you come to church? How would you answer this question? Some people would say that they come to church because it is what they have always done. Others may say they come because they like the food at fellowship time, or seeing and visiting with friends. Perhaps children come because they like Sunday school classes and teachers and being with friends. Youth may come so they can hang out with friends, or because they need to get sermon note sheets filled out to get confirmation points. Some parents and grandparents come because they want to see the children sing in church. Perhaps some people come to hear Pastor John’s sermon illustrations, or to sing favorite hymns or songs.

What about participating in church activities not on Sundays? Some people come for choir practice or confirmation classes. Others come to quilt or put together kits of different kinds. Some come for Bible studies, or FCA breakfast, men’s breakfast, or women’s circles. Children and youth may attend Bible Camp, or a junior high or senior high youth gathering. Some only darken church doors for a wedding or funeral. And there are always the church dinners!

All of these are legitimate reasons for coming to church, but I hope that you get more out of church than just these activities! I hope you get to make a new friend – Jesus. There are many places where you can see friends, eat food, and see children do special performances. There are many opportunities for people to do service projects, or go to camp and have fun. But these places do not usually have the opportunity to learn about Jesus, get to know Jesus and how he can be an important part of your life. The hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” describes some of the benefits of getting to know Jesus – sharing our good things and worries, concerns, and grief. Sharing the good and bad in life is something that people often do with friends or spouses, but there is a limit to what human beings can do to help in such situations. A listening ear or a word of advice is always welcome, but not always available. That’s where having a relationship with Jesus comes in. Jesus is always available, and willing to listen. As the hymn says, you can always take your joys and concerns to Jesus in prayer. And there is no one way to pray! Prayer can be formal or informal. Prayer can be out loud, or in your head. There is no one right or wrong way to pray! God hears ALL prayer, whatever it sounds like!

So, if a person wants to learn how to pray, how to share their life with God, what advantages there are to having Christ in their life, where would they go? Why, to church! In the midst of all of the events and activities of why people may come to church, they learn about Jesus. They learn about God’s love for us. They find people who are on the same journey as they are, also putting their trust in God, and supporting one another as they go through life. So, come to church for the reasons listed above, and in the process learn about how Jesus is in your life. And, invite others to come with you!

See you in church!
Pastor Ann
BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE CONFIRMATION SUNDAYS

CONFIRMATION SUNDAYS

Crow River – October 21 (10:30)
Morgan Kay Pelzer

Grace – October 28 (9:00)
Jebadia S. Jones
Karissa G. Jones
Benjamin Dale Waller
Cooper J. Wold

Big Grove – October 28 (10:30)
Allisa Kathryn Knight
Kylie Jetta Terhaar

Celebrate with us as these young people affirm the covenant God made with them in Baptism!
God’s blessings to our Confirmands as they continue to grow in their faith.
**BIG GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

JOIN US AT 9:30 for coffee, juice and treats in the back of church. Wanted: Volunteers to serve coffee and treats Sundays at 9:30 am. Please sign up in the back of church or see Julie.

GOD’S BLESSINGS on the marriage of Miranda Roberts and Donovan Johnson. Miranda and Donovan married on Saturday, September 15th. Congratulations, Miranda and Donovan.

WE WELCOME INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD Wilfred David Wiechman, son of Orry and Shayla Wiechman.
Welcome, Wilfred, to God’s Kingdom.

**BIG GROVE WELCA FALL SUPPER AND AUCTION** will be held on Friday, October 19th serving from 5:00p.m.-7:00 p.m. with auction to start at 7:00 p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar.

**CROW RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

WELCA WORK DAY on Monday, October 8th starting at 9:00 a.m. We will be working on quilts and weighted blankets. Potluck will be at noon.

NOTICE: The WELCA Fall Supper and Auction date this year is on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH please mark your calendar.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYS for family and friends of David Thorson. David died on Wednesday, September 5th and his service was held on Monday, September 10th at Crow River Lutheran Church. Blessed be the memory of David Thorson.

There will be an OPEN HOUSE 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY for Dan and Sharon Struthers on Saturday, October 13th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Belgrade Municipal Building. Please come and help them celebrate their Anniversary. No gifts, please.

THERE WILL BE AN OPEN HOUSE 90th Birthday for Doris Grothem on Saturday, October 20th from 1:30-4:00 p.m. at Crow River Lutheran Church.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by Baptismal Font on Sunday, September 9th was given in memory Austin Young’s 18th Birthday on September 4th, given by Nancy Young and family.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYS with family and friends of George Kuperus. George died on Sunday, September 9th and his service will be held on Friday, September 14th at Faith Lutheran Church in Eagle Bend, MN. Blessed be the memory of George Kuperus.

NOTICE TO ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS: There will be a meeting in the month of October. Watch for a postcard in the mail. We will be in need of one person for the paraments committee, please let Roxanne know if you will be staying on Altar Guild or if you are interested in becoming a member of Altar Guild. Please call the office at 320-254-3249 and ask for Roxanne.

GLCW CHILI/SOUP SUPPER: If you would like to donate items for the Annual Chili/soup supper on Sunday, November 4th there is a donation sheet in the narthex. Funds from the Chili/Soup Supper will help with various GLCW projects. Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Chili/Soup suppers, it is very much appreciated.

GOD’S BLESSINGS on the marriage of Amanda Braegelman and Greg Mortenson. Amanda and Greg were married on Saturday, September 23rd. Congratulations, Amanda and Greg!

**LIBRARY NEWS:**
By Maxine Jensen
The Gift is a novel by Wanda Brunstetler. Leah Mast and her family have always considered her to have a healing touch and a special gift for reflexology. This is treating people’s ailments by massaging certain places on their feet. But other scoff at the notion saying the very idea of curing people of illness through their feet is absurd. Adam Beachly is one of those scoffers, even though his own mother used to practice reflexology. Then she left the Amish
faith and walked out on her family, leaving Adam’s father to raise Adam and his sister alone. Now Adam mocks reflexology and balks at the idea of ever marrying and having a family of his own. When tragedy strikes Adam is suddenly a father figure to his nieces. He finds himself a wife right away despite their differences. Leach seems to best options to fill that role. Can they hope to find peace and love in modern-day marriage of convenience?

BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH

PRAYER WALKS

Saturday, October 6 – Belgrade
7:30am Meet at Grace Lutheran Church (Weather permitting)

Saturday, October 13 – Brooten
8:00am Meet at Trinity Lutheran Church (Weather permitting)

Each Prayer Walk should last between 45-60 minutes. A great way to get some exercise and bless our communities as we stop for prayer at various places!

YOU HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER? As crazy as it may sound, some of you are already making plans to head south to a “warmer” climate, if you are planning on going south for the winter please contact the church office as soon as possible of your change of address. The sooner you are able to contact us the easier it will be to get it to you. If we do get the newsletter back, we will not be able to send again and we will have some copies in the office for you to pick up in the spring. Thanks!

CHECK YOUR BULLETIN BOARDS AT CHURCH for information on area fundraisers, suppers, bazaars, dinners, brunches.

FALL FOR THE LINK: Friday October 5th 4:00-7:00 pm Alley on Ash: $2.00 for each pizza + Alley will match total DQ in Spicer: 10% of sales benefit the Link. Wednesday, October 17 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. Goat Ridge Brewing Co: $1.00 of each pour _ all tips Model Citizen Restaurant: 10% of sale.

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY
10:30am on Fridays at Grace! On October 5, 12, and 26
We will be using a series called, “How Lutherans Interpret the Bible.” It will include a 20 minute DVD presentation by Professor Mark Allen Powell and plenty of good discussion. Everyone is invited to come and join us.
Bring a sack lunch if you like, and we can eat together after the study.
(I’ll make some coffee)

MISSION OF THE MONTH: Each month, our BGCRG Parish will be highlighting a mission that we can support with our prayers and our donations.
October – ELCA WORLD HUNGER
October 16 is World Food Day, a day for raising awareness and taking action as we work toward ensuring food security for all people. With hunger around the world on the rise after a decade of steady decline, these efforts are more important than ever.
We will be collecting a monetary offering throughout the month to support this effort!

SYNOD THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE: Pastor John and Pastor Ann will be out of the office on October 8-9 as they attend the Synod Theological Conference at Mt. Carmel Bible Camp
THE BIG GROVE WELCA FALL SUPPER AND AUCTION!!
Friday, October 19
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
MENU: Barbecues, Ham Sandwiches, Calico Beans, Rommegrot, Macaroni Salad, Bars
FREE WILL OFFERING
The auction begins at 7:00 pm.
Auction includes: cozy quilts, cute crafts, yummy baked goods, and many other must-have items. Hope to see you there!!! Everyone is Welcome!

Crow River Fall Auction, Soup and Sandwich Supper
October 13, 2018
Serving from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Auction starts at 7:00 p.m.
Menu: Hot turkey sandwiches, sloppy joes, chili, chicken noodle soup, cream of potato /ham soup, desserts, beverage.
Free will offering.
This is a Thrivent Action Project.

Grace Lutheran Chili/ Soup and Sandwich Supper
Sunday November 4, 2018
Serving from 4:30 p.m-7:00 p.m.
Menu: Wisconsin cheese soup, homemade chicken noodle soup homemade chili, egg salad sandwiches, pie, milk, coffee
Free will offering w/ proceeds going to GLCW projects.
Everyone welcome.
Good food and great fellowship/
This is a Thrivent Action Project.

Please check you bulletin boards at church for any area bazaars, suppers, dinners or event that are happening in our area.
YOUTH & SUNDAY SCHOOL

CONFIRMATION MEALS IN OCTOBER
Wednesdays
6:00pm Supper / 6:30-7:30pm Class
Supper Servers:
October 3
Becky Mueller, Jackie Koenig, Stacey Lewis

October 10
Melanie Lundberg, Megan Klapheke, Celestie Matter

October 17 – NO CLASS

October 24
Kayla Engen, Sarah Shelton, Amanda Jensen

October 31
NO CLASS

JR. HIGH YOUTH GATHERING
November 16-17
Remember that the deadline to register is October 31! You don’t want to miss this.

10-12TH GRADE RESTAURANT NITE
Sunday October 28
Time and place to be determined. Watch for postcard.

9th Grade Confirmation Lock-In
On Friday, October 26-Saturday October 27
at Grace starting at 7:15pm on Friday night till Saturday till 7:45am.

FCA3 FIFTH QUARTER
Friday, October 12
(after the football game 11:00pm)
Grades 9th -12th
Location to be determined and announced soon.

FREE SPIRITS
SCAVENGER HUNT
Sunday, October 14
3:30pm at Grace

This is our annual effort to collect items for organizations that provide assistance to people in our area. This year we will be supporting Safe Avenues (domestic violence shelter), Eagles’ Healing Nest (veteran housing), the local Food Shelf and other agencies. We will meet at Grace to set up teams that will go out in our communities. We will return to the parish office by 6:00 to enjoy some pizza! We sill also need adult drivers!!!

FCA BREAKFASTS
Thursdays at 7:30 at Grace
If there is school on a Thursday, there is an FCA Breakfast at Grace. Start your day off with some good food, fellowship, and fun before school.
**PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

September  
(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer’s Report: (July - August)

- **Beginning Balance**: $6,275.43
- **Income**: $37,858.00
- **Expenses**: $36,121.74
- **Ending Balance**: $8,011.69

Scheduled a Planned Estate Giving Event with Amy Bigot from the ELCA on Sunday, November 11 at 3:00pm.

Approved Continuing Education requests and heard an update on the website.

Reviewed information from a local accountant on the costs associated with hiring an accountant to do parish payroll.

Discussed the possibility of a Youth Ministry Co-op with Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.

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**BIG GROVE CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: September**

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer’s Report: (August)

- **Gen. Fund Balance**: $2,641.48
  - **Income**: $6,902.80
  - **Expenses**: $8,077.03
  - **Gen. Fund Balance**: $1,467.25

Council approved the dates of the Raffle for November 1 – May 27. Will continue to seek volunteers to work together as a committee on this project.

Approved placing the Margaret Herbrandson estate gift ($50,000) and $50,000 of the Norma Mueller estate gift in CD’s.

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**CROW RIVER CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: September**

(Complete minutes available at parish office.)

Treasurer’s Report: (August)

- **Gen. Fund Begin Balance**: $9,778.64
  - **Income**: $6,741.43
  - **Expenses**: $9,116.50
  - **Gen. Fund End Balance**: $7,403.57

Council voiced their support of the Parish hiring an accountant to do the payroll for the Parish and the three congregations.

Plans were discussed for the Men’s Supper on September 30.

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**GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: September**

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer’s Report: (August)

- **Gen. Fund Begin Balance**: $37,749.31
  - **Income**: $9,327.98
  - **Expenses**: $11,765.16
  - **Gen. Fund End Balance**: $35,312.13

Considered options for getting people to volunteer to usher on Sundays. Will ask parents of acolytes if they might be willing.

Will look into a new phone and internet contract.

Scheduled the Sunday School Christmas program for December 9 (with back-up of December 16).
# October 2018
## Anniversaries & Birthdays

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<td>Robin Carlson</td>
<td>Eric &amp; Deanna Johnson</td>
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<td>Joshua Walstrom Nathan &amp; Andrea Prentice</td>
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<td>Inez Anderson Madisen Rock Jesse Niklaus</td>
<td>David &amp; Sandra Hellickson</td>
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<td>Quentin Koll</td>
<td>Donald &amp; Paulina Wold Mike &amp; Stacy Steffensen Brian &amp; Missy Michels</td>
<td>Scott &amp; Julie Jensen Pat Thieschafer Jeremy &amp; Jenna Hanson</td>
<td>Terry Clark Julie Hanson Krista &amp; Alex Lautenschlager</td>
<td>Kayla Anderson</td>
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<td>Steve Gerhardson Rosemarie Walsh Aaron Ziemer</td>
<td>Glenn &amp; Vicki Otteson Nicholas Hagen</td>
<td>Alisha Mathis Kyle &amp; Tammie Strand</td>
<td>Andy &amp; Cheri Wiechman Ione Pillard Cindy Wilson</td>
<td>Jim &amp; Janette Niklaus</td>
<td>Justine Pelkey Cody Jakobson</td>
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<td>7-8 Confirmation</td>
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<td>WELCA (CR)</td>
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<td>8:30a Worship BG</td>
<td>9:00a Worship Grace w HC</td>
<td>9:30a S.S. (BG)</td>
<td>9:45a S.S. (CR)</td>
<td>10:15a S.S. (Grace)</td>
<td>10:30a Worship CR HC</td>
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God’s Work,
Our Hands!

Church and Parish Councils

**Big Grove**

President: Kurt Kirckof
Vice President: Lisa Pastian
Secretary: Deanna Johnson
Treasurer: Janet Raveling
Financial Secretary: Scott Stueckrath

**Crow River**

President: Doug Mohs
Vice President: Ryan Halvorson
Secretary: Kathy Swenson
Treasurer: Travis Szczesniak
Financial Secretary: Jerry Torgerson

**Grace**

President: Dennis Braegelman
Vice President: Sandra Westaby
Secretary: Megan Klaphake
Treasurer: Connie Wold
Financial Secretary: Tom Madsen

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

Council Members: Ron Halvorson (Crow River), Jan Martin (Crow River), Bruce Thompson (Big Grove), Eric Johnson (Big Grove), Stephanie Fischer (Grace), Bruce Wing (Grace)

Pastors: Pastor John Dalen, Pastor Ann Zastrow

Parish Treasurer/Office Secretary: Roxanne Oeltjenbruns