



Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

“Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good? Keep your tongues from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.” Psalm 34: 12-14

“Keep pluggin’ along.” That’s what the psalmist seems to be saying to us. Just keep on keepin’ on. Keep doing what is good and working for peace.

We’ve been living in trying times – what with Covid, social justice protests, political polarization, etc. And it all gets confusing and frustrating and downright discouraging sometimes. I know I sometimes feel overwhelmed and even a little depressed by everything that’s going on in our world.

It seems to me that phrase is good advice for this time: “keep pluggin’ along.” We know that God loves us. That’s not in question. His love is secure and constant – even in times such as these. So trusting God’s love in Jesus Christ, we daily put our noses to the grindstone and commit ourselves to doing good and seeking peace. We seek to do what is right and just. We watch our tongues and strive to follow Martin Luther’s words about our neighbors: “speak well of him(them) and explain his(their) actions in the kindest way.” (Explanation to the 8th commandment)

There will come a time when all this will be behind us. And the world will have changed – for the better, I hope. In the meantime, we look to God for the courage to continue to let our faith lead us in our daily lives.

See you in worship!

Pastor John

CROW RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS for Norman Johnson and family on the death of Lorraine Johnson. Lorraine died on Saturday, July 25th and her service was held on Friday, July 31. Blessed be the memory of Lorraine Johnson.

CONGRATULATIONS and GOD's BLESSINGS on the marriage of Kristin Buysee and Jeremy Lieser on Friday August 21st at Crow River Lutheran Church.

FALL AUCTION AT CR has been cancelled for this year. See you in 2021.

THE QUILT RAFFLE will take place and please pick up your tickets from your Circle President. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Struthers. (More information about the Quilt Raffle in article below).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CROW RIVER WELCA MEETING AUGUST 5, 2020

Voted to not have the soup/sandwich supper/auction this fall, because of COVID-19. We will still have the quilt raffle as Jan Martin has made and machine stitched a quilt called "Paws for Reflection." Karla Anderson will be in charge of tickets. Drawing for the quilt will be held at our 7:00 PM WELCA meeting on November 4th at the church.

Voted to hold over the present officers for one more year, because of the inactivity this year.

Susie Johnson volunteered to work on the theme: "I Am Grateful" for a special offering to benefit our Conference, Synod and National WELCA organizations in November. More information will be forthcoming.

Quilting will resume on September 15th, 9:00 AM with two frames up. Those not quilting can organize, cut, iron fabric. Bring YOUR OWN LUNCH. Set up time will be 1:00 on September 14th.

WELCA will meet on Wednesday September 2nd at 7 p.m. at church.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE WELCOME INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD Nathan Thomas Lindsay, son of Ben and Katey Lindsay. Welcome Nathan to God's Kingdom.

CONGRATULATIONS and GOD's BLESSINGS on the marriage of Wyatt Krug and Erin Anderson on Saturday, August 15th at John and Shirley Anderson's.

DO DAY will be held Monday, September 21 and Tuesday, September 22nd starting at 9:00 a.m. Please watch the bulletin announcements for information on Do-day.

RACHEL CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, September 8th at Loey Maroschek at 6:30 p.m. We will be doing Lesson #3.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday September 1st at 9:30 am in Brooten.

BIG GROVE CROW RIVER GRACE PARISH

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!

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE IN SEPTEMBER

Every Sunday in September, 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 September. Crow River and Big Grove will rotate between 8:30 and 10:30 worship times. Grace will worship at 9:00am.

Each of our congregations have Covid Preparedness Plans in place to do what we can to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.

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 to keep a visual record of who was present in case there is a need for contact tracing.
- Pastors will not be shaking hands after worship.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The parish office would like to put together an email address list for our members. Please send us an email at bgclutheran@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.

CHURCH OFFERINGS

We would like to thank those who have been sending in their offerings during the closures and cancellation of services. 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.

CONFIRMATION PLANS

Making plans for this fall's Confirmation program has been incredibly difficult. There are so many things to consider. Our hope is to provide a meaningful program and keep everyone safe as we do so. Our initial plans (things could change as we go along) are as follows:

1. Wednesday, September 2 we will have a Zoom meeting with parents of our 7th and 8th grade students to discuss our plans for the fall.
2. Our 7th and 8th grade students will rotate by week – coming at 6:00pm on Wednesdays. One week, 7th grade only; the next 8th grade. Watch the calendar carefully.
7th grade -- September 9 & 23 8th grade -- September 16 & 30
3. Our 9th grade students will come at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month (starting in October). The other weeks they will be able to participate in EPIC, our 9-12th grade Youth Group.
4. Suppers – we will be signing up parents to help serve the suppers at both 6:00 and 6:30. Parents should keep in mind good health practices in preparing the meals. Parents will plate the meals and slide the plates to the students. Between the two groups, the parents will need to disinfect the tables. Parents should plan to serve up to 35-40 youth (and teachers).
5. For those who are uncomfortable meeting together, we will provide options for lessons to be done at home.
6. All students will be required to wear masks (except when eating). We will space our seating out at tables and in our class settings.
7. We will try to communicate any changes that come along in these plans.

EPIC Returns!! (September 9)

9th-12th Grade Youth: We will be kicking off a new year of EPIC (Encouraging People in Christ). Beginning on September 9, EPIC will begin with supper at 6:30pm and continue through 7:30pm. We do not have a Green Lake Youth Associate this year, but your pastors will do their best to provide some engaging activities and faith discussions. Come and join us!!

NOTE: EPIC will not meet on the first Wednesday of each month as 9th graders will have confirmation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PLANS FOR FALL:

A number of our Christian Education leaders met on Wednesday, August 19th to discuss our plans for this fall. Because of the uncertainty of life with Covid, we make decisions knowing that things could change rapidly. Plans we make today, may not work tomorrow, so we need to be flexible and willing to adapt to whatever is happening around us. Our primary concern is keeping our families safe while providing some good opportunities to grow in our faith.

Our elementary JAM program was a big hit last winter before things shut down in March. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide this opportunity this fall. We hope to begin again in January, but we will have to wait to see.

Our Sunday Schools in each congregation may also look a little different this year. To begin, our intent is to provide some Sparkhouse video links and activity packets that can be used in the home. We will continue to consider other options as we go forward.

If you are interested in receiving a monthly packet of Sunday School activities, please call our office at 320-254-3249 or email Pastor Lisa at pastorlisaanne@gmail.com or send Pastor Lisa a text at 515-451-1382

Greetings from all of us at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries!

We sure missed seeing you all at camp this summer. We have heard from many of you that you are making plans, adapting, and re-making plans for your fall ministry. We know it's exhausting in so many ways, and want to help if we can! Below you can read about what we have to offer as you experiment and try new things to reach your youth and families.

Are you going to need some kind of digital programming? We've got you covered!

Faith Formation Openings: We will have weekly YouTube videos that can be used in person or digitally as an opening for your Faith Formation time. These videos will be 8-12 minutes long, and will include 3 camp songs and a faith-based question of the day. Ideal for a variety of ages, these can be used Wednesdays, Sundays, or any day of the week!

Camp at Home: Did you miss the daily worships from the summer? We think they can still be useful this fall! There are 8 themes, 40 worships (each with a dynamic special guest), and countless fun activities like crafts, snacks, and challenge activities that could be shared with families. There are many ways to use these resources!

Music: There are a ton of fun music resources available on our [YouTube channel](#) as well! Your favorite camp songs, silly songs just for fun, and other fun ways to enjoy music are easily accessible and shareable with your Faith Formation families.

If you are interested please check out their website for more opportunities for family and youth at www.gllm.org

GLLM Program Team

Mandy Severtson, Associate Director - msevertson@gllm.org

Tina Magner, Hospitality and Retreat Director - tmagner@gllm.org



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Brian & Shelly Ziemer
Austin Hanson
Lynne Dalen
Chad & Marian Torgerson

2 Donald & Gail Otteson
Jason Halvorson

3 Denise Dokken
Stacy Lewis

4 Larry & Dianne Henjum
Vicki Hammer
Randy Wohlman

5 Keith Presler
Makaylie Lohn

6 Jeff & Angie Gerhardson

7 Reynold & Leota Tollefson
Sara Heieie
Sylvia Koll

8 Joey & Jodi Pelzer

9 Kenneth Petersen
Andrew Paulson
Ryan Peterson
Larry Thompson (Grace)

11 Jacob Olson
Wayne Wold

12 Jodi Pelzer
Chris & Valarie Walstrom

13 Loren Larson

14 Diane Hanson
Jason Hellickson
Debra Anderson
Max Heieie
Gunnar Heieie
Chad & Laura Spanier
Tammie Anderson

15 Cynthia Torgerson
Eric Johnson

16 Robert & Erica Steffensen
Kaylee Torgerson
Sawyer Olson
Mark Torkelson

17 Jaden Pastian
Jerry Torgerson

18 Daniel & Jayme Boecker
Christian Thoen
Chad & Kathy Nelson

19 Betty Thompson
Mark & Theresa Wander

20 Wayne Hagen
Michael Henslin

22 Wayne & Ashley Wold

23 Terry Knight
Amberly Martin
Travis Szczesniak

24 Ryan Peterson

25 Duane & Tammy
Braegelman
Jamie Steffensen
Lauren Herding

26 Ruth Kirckof
Alvin & Angie Schenk
Dale & Carol Steffensen

27 MaryAnne Hammer

28 Benjamin Thompson

29 Doug & Joan Mohs
Nancy Olson
Jerry Rapp
Orry & Shayla Wiechman

30 Caroline Otteson
Kevin & Denise Dokken
Whitney White
William White
Courtney Henjum
Kent & Cindy Bouwman
Jerry & Janice Rapp

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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	John Dalen	Lisa Meshke
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Parish Treasurer/Office Secretary Roxanne Oeltjenbruns