

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

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Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

September 2023



“Twists and Turns”
Vacation Bible School
August 6-9, 2023

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish



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From the desk of Deacon Brenda,

What is bringing you life these days? Is it your family? Is it spending time in a special place, fishing or camping or riding horses or roller coasters? Do you find joy and life when you get together with others to watch a parade or observe birthdays or anniversaries? Maybe you are finding joy in seeing a crop endure hail or wind from a storm. The Holy Spirit is moving in and around each of us and God is often revealed in unexpected ways and people. I am always surprised at how sneaky these moments can be and when I finally wake up, I smile and know God was there - that brings me life!



Last week, I found life and joy in the kids' faces at VBS. More than once I heard a parent report that their child got in the car to go home and said, "I'm so tired, but I had so much fun tonight at VBS!" That brings me life and joy. What a treat to see so many people join together to help make VBS a great success! Our Confirmation and High School students stepped into leadership roles to assist our amazing team of adult volunteer teachers and leaders. I will always remember the decorated bags for tic-tac-toe our older students made, Preschool students learning to take turns with the giant bubble maker, (what an accomplishment!) and everyone's energized singing and joy at our closing program "Twists and Turns". I too went home at night and told Andy "I'm so tired, but I had so much fun tonight at VBS!" That brings me life - being with people, sharing joys, playing and singing together and learning of how Jesus is here for each of us.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

1.	Brian and Shelly Ziemer Austin Hanson	17	Jaden Pastian Jerry Torgerson
2	Jason Halvorson		Gavin Stueckrath
3.	Denise Dokken Stacy Lewis	18	Daniel & Jayme Boecker Christian Thoen
4	Larry & Diane Henjum Vicki Hammer Randy Wohlman		Eric Thompson Harper Imdieke
5	Keith Presler	19	Yvette Kirckof Betty Thompson
6	Jeff & Angie Gerhardson		Mark & Theresa Wander
7	Sara Heieie Sylvia Koll	20	Michael Henslin Wyatt Krug
8	Joey & Jodi Pelzer	23	Terry Knight Amberly Martin
9	Andrew Paulson Ryan Peterson Larry Thompson		Travis Szczesniak
12	Jodi Pelzer Chris & Valerie Walstrom	24	Ryan Peterson Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
13	Loren Larson Theodore Kampsen	25	Adam & Megan Imdieke Duane & Tammy Braegelman
14	Diane Hanson Jason Hellickson Debra Anderson Max Heieie Gunnar Heieie Chad & Laura Spanier Tammie Anderson		Jamie Steffensen Lauren Herding Bristol Mueller
15	Eric Johnson Cynthia Torgerson	27	Scott & Jenny Stueckrath
16	Robert & Erica Steffensen Mark Torkelson	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

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

I pray that you can find life in the beauty that surrounds us, the family and friends who we live around and in the knowledge that we are not alone - that Jesus is with us - always!

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 starting on Sunday, September 10th 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 will resume meeting on September 14th. We meet Thursdays at 10 am at Grace. All are welcome.

Summer Worship

Sunday September 3:

8:30 am Big Grove
10:30 am Crow River

Summer Worship

Wednesday September 6:

7:00 pm Grace

Baptism:

Crow River: July 30, 2023, Waylon Lewis, son of Cody Lewis and Makenna Taylor

Crow River: July 30, 2023, Coraline Caswell, daughter of Cody Lewis and Makenna Taylor

Big Grove: August 6, 2023, Hunter Kesteloot, son of Jacob and Alexis Kesteloot

Crow River: August 20, 2023, Affinity Anderson, daughter of Kyle and Victoria Anderson

Grace: August 20, 2023, Bennett Krug, son of Wyatt and Erin Krug

Funerals:

Big Grove: Alys Bakko Barr burial service July 30, 2023

Grace: Mildred Smith funeral August 3, 2023

Crow River: Gail Otteson funeral August 4, 2023

Grace: Editha Adrian funeral August 5, 2023

Crow River: Kenneth & Marlyse Odland Celebration of Life August 13, 2023

New Members:

Big Grove: Paige Benson

Crow River: Michaela Steffensen

Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

Parish Council: Tuesday, September 12, at 6:00 pm

Big Grove, Crow River, Grace Councils:

Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00 pm

ACOLYTE & CROSSBEARER SCHEDULE

Date	BIG GROVE	CROW RIVER	GRACE
SEPT 10	Carter Heinen	A: McCoy Detloff C: Lauren Herding	Karlee Loe
SEPT 24	Lydia Deters	A: Noah Jensen C: Jace Mueller	Kaleb Torkelson
OCT 1	Elliot Spanier	A: Livia Szczesniak C: Aubrey Anderson	Lillian Thompson

Vacation Bible School -

This year's theme was "Twist and Turns". Our Bible stories included Peter following Jesus, Jesus walking on water, Peter denying Jesus, and Peter meeting Cornelius. We had wonderful attendance, with 56 kids attending VBS. A huge thank you to our volunteers for making this VBS possible. Volunteers included Amanda Halvorson, Nancy Young, Angie Gerhardson, Nichole Szczesniak, Shannon Imdieke, Shannon Wander, Lyndsay Ampe, Katie Boie, Abbey Schoumaker, Coby Schoumaker, Emery Halvorson, Emma Foster, Aiden Mueller, Cameron Loe, Aubrey Anderson, Jackson Kirckof, Reid Dickhoff, Livia Szczesniak, Karlee Loe, Jen Johnson, and Nicole Cissel. Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson led music and a wonderful program was held on Wednesday. Huge thank you to Pastor Lisa for organizing and leading VBS this year.

Thank You to our crew who assisted with Community Worship during August Fest in Belgrade.

Thank You!

A big thank you to all of the hands that made the Community worship service and picnic in the Belgrade City Park happen.

Set up: Ryan Halvorson, John Anderson

Music: Doug Mohs, Michael Larson, Annaeka Johnson, Andy Johnson, Marla Adrian, Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson

Picnic: Denise Dokken, Lora Larson, Tracey Kirckof

Meal servers: Jackson Kirckof, Jennah Koenig, Reid Dickoff, Coby Schoumaker, Noah Jensen, Jace Mueller, Aiden Mueller, Owen Miller

City workers: Connie and Darren - thank you for your extra work!

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

Crow River Worship Duties

Ushers:

September 3: Karla & Randy Anderson, Kevin & David Dokken

September 10: Ryan, Jesi, Ella, Ron Halvorson

September 24: Patti Hagen, Trish, Bree, and Pat Thieschafer

Lector/Readers:

September 3: Doug Mohs

September 10: Dan Struthers

September 24: Jan Martin

Greeters:

September 3: Jim and Linda Nelson

September 10: Trevor and Shari Miller

September 24: Chris and Val Walstrom

Livestream:

September 3:

September 10:

*Thank
You!*

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 need volunteers the night before to set up for the supper and auction. We will also need donations for the auction. 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. Any questions, call the co-chairs, Patti Hagen or Betty Cole.



St Donatus Catholic Church in Brooten will be holding their annual Turkey and Ham Fall Dinner (with all the fixings) on September 17th serving from 11am -1:30pm.

It will be held in the Padua Reception Hall.

Adults: \$14, kids 6-10 \$8, under 5 are free.

Big Grove Fall Supper and Auction Friday, October 20th.



We are looking for baskets and workers. There will be a work schedule posted at church. If you have empty baskets laying around and would like to donate them, please give them to Tammie or Aleisha.

Big Grove Bonfire and Sunday School Kickoff

Saturday, September 9th

Kids games begin at 4:30

Meal at 6:00

Meat and drinks provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

Come and have some fun with your church family!

The first Sunday School for the fall will be at 9:30 am on September 24th. Shannon Wander is the Sunday School Coordinator.



"God's Work. Our Hands" - Sunday, September 17, 2023

The BGCRG parish will join congregations around the country for **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**. This year marks the 10th anniversary of this annual day of service. Our churches will have opportunities to serve on that day and throughout the week in a number of different ways:

1. Assembling Laundry kits following worship on Sunday, September 17th. Donations of laundry pods and dryer sheets are needed.
2. Singing, visiting and playing cards with friends at the Belgrade Nursing Home during the week of September 17-23.
3. Making freezer meals for Ridgewater College students.
4. JAM and Confirmation kids will be able to serve in September too!

Worship is at 10 am at the Parsonage lot and all are invited to a Pot Luck that will follow worship at 11 am. We are asking people to share the following foods:

Main Dish: Big Grove members

Salads and/or Sides: Grace members

Desserts: Crow River members

Stay tuned for more details!

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - August 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

July Income: \$32,029.39

July Expenses: \$15,976.04

General Fund Balance: \$33,245.03

- A grant for \$1000 rec'd to go toward childcare needs. Needs to be used by November 2024.
- Still have \$1000 from community outreach grant to use this yr.
- Approved \$195 to pay for Pastor Lisa continuing education.
- Deacon Brenda requested medical leave September 5-10th.
- God's Work, Our Hands activities discussed.
- VBS went well. Attendance was great!
- Parish concert/event is August 20 at Brooten Pavilion.
- Employee Retention Tax Credit: \$14,211.88 received. Still waiting on 4th Quarter 2020 payment. Still owe \$1,250 to consulting firm.

BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - August 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

July Income: \$5,458.14

July Expenses: \$5,773.41

General Fund Balance: \$25,635.36

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 7/31/23: -\$16,359.79

- It was approved to use CAB funds for 2 campers on the Bemidji Mission trip.
- A slide will be added to the weekly PowerPoint with the mailing address to mail donations and the Venmo account.
- A motion was approved to open a Tithe.ly account.
- The drain pipe was clogged and has now been replaced.
- The new sound system is ordered and waiting to be installed.
- We have decided to pass on the baby grand piano due to the amount of repair work that it required. We will continue to look.
- Additional windows at the parsonage to be installed in September.
- Still need to get the Rhumba vacuum installed.
- Wedding rates were approved: Facility Use - Member \$0, NM \$125; Reception - Member \$0, NM \$125; Custodian - Member \$100, NM \$100; Minister - Member \$200, NM \$200..
- Back door of basement left open.
- Approved to pay \$25 a month for lawn mowing at the parsonage.
- Still waiting to hear back on parsonage claim for damage from the storm.

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!

Crow River Notes:

Crow River WELCA has a Mission Project each month. We have decided to extend Eagles Healing Nest as September's Mission of the month. Items they need are paper towels, toilet paper, heavy duty paper plates, laundry soap, household cleaning supplies, shampoo and cash donations.

Crow River workdays are September 11 and 12. We will start at 9:00 am but join us when you can. Please bring a sack lunch.

Thank You! **Thank you to everyone** who helped clean the church yard after the storm that went through the end of July. Special thanks to Ricky and Jeff Gerhardson for bringing their equipment to remove the two large trees that went down! Lots of picking up sticks and raking occurred to get the yard back in shape.

Old Offering Envelopes? Bring them and turn them in at church.

Grace Notes:

Our mission for August and September will be School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We need the following items; 70 sheet notebooks, rulers, pencil sharpener's, blunt scissors, boxes of 16 or 24 crayons, 2 1/2 inch erasers, and black or blue ballpoint pens. We do not need pencils at this time. Many of these items are on sale right now!

Grace September Altar Guild:

Darlene Barchenger and Darlene Boie

YOUTH HAPPENINGS:



Big Grove Sunday School:

Sunday School will start on September 24th at 9:30 am

Crow River Sunday School:

Sunday School will start on October 1st at 9:45 am



FCS (Fellowship of Christian Students) Breakfast Will resume on September 22, 2023

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 will start September 20th 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.

Confirmation informational meeting will be held on

Wednesday, September 6th at 6:00pm at Grace. We ask that all 7th through 9th grade students attend with their parents. Please contact Pastor Lisa if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Confirmation classes will start on September 13th.

Free Spirits Youth Group Happenings:

Free Spirits Overtime will be held after football games on September 15th and October 6th (9:00-11:00 pm) at the Brooten bowling alley. This is open to all kids in grades 7 through 12.



CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - August 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

July Income: \$9,018.38

July Expenses: \$10,558.23

General Fund Balance: \$17,058.26

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 7/31/23: -\$2,347.48

- Approved moving \$8000 from Deb Halvorson endowment in a 13 month CD.
- The sound system repairs/updates have been completed.
- Due to repairs being done on the parsonage roof, gutters have been postponed to be done after roof repairs.
- Michaela Steffensen was approved for new membership.
- Doug contacted insurance about July 25th storm damage.
- Approved to pay Paffy Bug Control to spray parsonage and church if pricing is <\$200.
- John H. working on caulking/painting church basement windows. He noted that cement pillars in front of church should be looked at.

GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - August 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

July Income: \$12,102.49

July Expenses: \$9,705.31

General Fund Balance: \$70,198.71

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 7/31/23: \$2,324.05

- A refund of \$3,978.40 was received from Excel for overpayment.
- We received a check from insurance to pay for hail damage to the church and parsonage.
- The fuel barrel has been removed from the parsonage and the deck is finished.
- Membership for Andy Johnson and Brenda Handel-Johnson was approved. Will have a new member coffee in the near future.
- Some of the metal doors were painted and confirmation rooms are ready.
- General consensus was to proceed with plans to do some updates to the Sanctuary. A committee should be formed for this process.

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pr Lisa - Sabbath	2 11:00 am Del Adrian Memorial Pr Lisa Gone
3 8:30 am BG w/HC & Livestream 10:30 am CR with 1st HC, Baptism & Livestream Pr Lisa Gone	4 Office Closed Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	5 9:30 am Sarah Circle Deacon Brenda gone	6 6:00 pm Confirmation orientation @ Grace 7:00 pm Grace w/ Livestream 7:00 pm CR WELCA Deacon Brenda gone	7 4:00 pm Naomi Circle Deacon Brenda gone	8 1:00 pm Pansy Circle Deacon Brenda gone Pr Lisa - Sabbath	9 5:00 pm Bonfire at BG Deacon Brenda gone
10 8:30 am CR w/HC & Livestream 9:00 Grace w/HC 10:30 BG w/HC & Livestream Deacon Brenda gone	11 9:00 am CR Work Day 1:30 pm Rachel Circle Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	12 9:00 am CR Work Day 6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Council Night	13 9:30 am Lily Circle 1:00 pm Rose Circle 6:00 pm 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation 6:45 pm 9th Grade Confirmation	14 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 1:00 pm Daisy Circle	15 7:30 am FCS Lewis/Taylor rehearsal at CR Pr Lisa - Sabbath	16 4:00 pm CR Lewis/Taylor Wedding
17 10:00 am Outdoor worship at Parsonage lot (God's Work, Our Hands)	18 Pr Lisa Gone Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	19 9:00 am Grace Do Day Pr Lisa Gone	20 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Pr Lisa Gone	21 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace Pr Lisa Gone	22 7:30 am FCS Pr Lisa - Sabbath	23 1:00-4:00 pm Jerry Rapp 90th Open House/ Birthday party at Grace Pr Lisa Gone
24 8:30 am CR 9:00 am Grace with Livestream 10:30 am BG with Livestream 9:30 am BG Sunday School	25 Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	26	27 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation 6:45 pm 9th Grade Confirmation	28 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 3:00 pm Nursing Home	29 7:30 am FCS Pr Lisa - Sabbath	30 12:00 pm LaPorte Baptism