

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
320-254-3249

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON - PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage PAID
PERMIT NO. 19
BELGRADE, MN 56312

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

May 2024



May 1st



May 12th



Confirmation

May 12th @ Crow River

May 19th @ Grace



Graduation

May 24th



May 27th



Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

417 Washburn Ave,
PO Box 10
Belgrade, MN 56312



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I drove to church yesterday, I pulled out of my driveway and saw the plants in my front yard had started to bloom. Such a beautiful sign that Spring is here! With spring comes Confirmation, Senior Recognition, Baccalaureate, and Graduation. Students will be celebrating their achievements and moving into new seasons of their lives.

We are blessed with many wonderful students in our three parishes. We have 8 students being confirmed this year, with 3 from Crow River and 5 from Grace. For Graduation, there are 2 students from Big Grove, 8 at Crow River, and 4 at Grace. Each of these students have been nurtured in their faith in our communities. Seeds have been planted. Experiences have been had. Memories have been made. Only God knows how and when these seeds will bloom. As a community of faith, our job is to plant seeds and to show our youth that they are loved and God loves them.

This coming summer we have some incredible youth trips planned for students in 9th through 12th grade. In July, Isaac Johnson will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. He will be going to the gathering with a group from New Ulm and St James, and other towns in Southwest Minnesota. The National Youth Gathering typically happens every 3 years. The last gathering was in Houston, Texas in 2018. The 2021 Gathering was planned for Minneapolis but was cancelled due to the Pandemic. There will be speakers, bands, service work, a synod day, and lots of other adventures.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Ian Szczesniak | 19 | Tia Grundseth |
| 2 | Kylie Terhaar | 22 | Jesi Halvorson |
| 3 | Joel Anderson | | Emma Jo LaPorte |
| | Katie Mohs | | Shirley Olson |
| 4 | Chad Spanier | | Pat & Trish Thieschafer |
| 5 | Levi Anderson | | Gene Wold |
| | Linda Karger | 23 | Anthony Hanson |
| | Barb Anderson | | Natalie Mueller |
| | Aaron Roeder | 24 | Nathan Wander |
| | Emma Prentice | 25 | Cameron Loe |
| 6 | Clark Herding | | Gary & Karen Theis |
| | Kristen Kampsen | 27 | Delmar Jensen |
| 8 | Taylor Knight | | Brenda Wold |
| | Cooper Wold | | Alan & Lori Roering |
| | Tayjah Marthaler | 30 | Ryan Thompson |
| 9 | Ardis Jensen | | Kagan Jakobson |
| 10 | Lucas Voog | 31 | Emmy Hanson |
| 12 | Kevin Petersen | | |
| 13 | James & Linda Nelson | | |
| 14 | Todd Jakobson | | |
| | Ben & Ashley Bonnema | | |
| 16 | Cody Lewis | | |
| | Rich & Ione Pillard | | |
| | Morgan Lewis | | |
| 17 | Todd Heieie | | |
| | Norman Johnson | | |
| | Barbara Plumhoff | | |



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

Crow River

President: Patti Hagen Vice President: Joan Mohs
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: Lyndsay Ampe

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

Parish Council President: Darlene Barchenger (G)
Parish Council VP: Ryan Halvorson (CR)
Secretary: Mark Thompson (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

Also in July is our first trip to Christikon Bible Camp in the mountains of Montana. This trip is also for 9th through 12th graders and there are currently 11 students signed up to attend. We will leave on July 20th and return on July 28th. Students will get the opportunity to spend the week at this beautiful ELCA Bible camp and have one day where they backpack and camp in the woods. Maybe this will become an annual trip for our youth??!

In August, we will have Vacation Bible School from August 4th through the 7th in the evenings at Grace Lutheran Church. It will be a busy summer for our youth. I am thankful for the opportunity to journey with these kids as they deepen their faith. Please join me in praying for all of our students and chaperones as they embark on these summer adventures.

We are always looking for volunteers for Vacation Bible School. Let me know if you are able to help.

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Lisa

~~~~~  
**A Poem from “*Speak it Plain: Words for Worship and Life Together*” by Meta Herrick Carlson**

### ***Going to Camp:***

These are days for outdoor voices, long sprints, and splashes that sweat and cool like freedom.

These are nights for wild noises and the crackle of bright campfires, eyes that find heaven’s starry banner above.

These are the foods, songs, and spaces that help stick faith to our bones, that locate God’s love so near after all.

These are good ways to practice rejoicing, to notice Christ in mud on your feet and on the face of friends with flashlights and the steady buzz of a bug in your ear.

This life is a gift. This faith is an adventure. Blessed are you, who explore with awe.

## Parish News:

### **Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade**

**Parish Council:** Tuesday, May 14, at 6:00 pm

**Big Grove, Crow River, and Grace Councils:** Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 pm

**Baptism:** Crow River: Gage Don Bonnema, son of Ben and Ashley Bonnema.

### **Congratulations to our youth who will be affirming their faith in Confirmation.**

May 12th at Crow River

Taya Hanson  
Owen Miller  
Coby Schoumaker

May 19th at Grace

Reid Dickhoff  
Kamie Fischer  
Jackson Kirckof  
Jennah Koenig  
Aiden Mueller



### **Congratulations to our graduating Seniors:**

**From Big Grove** - Aiden Johnson and Tanner Viessman.

**From Crow River** - Madeline Carroll, Mason Commerford, Presley Detloff, Austin Hanson, Odin Jensen, Ryan Jensen, Braeden Michels, and Dakota Pelzer.

**From Grace** - Maximus Hanson, Reegan Jones, Brooke Mercado, and Taylor Oeltjenbruns.



**Everyone is invited:** The June 5th worship service at 7pm at Crow River will be a combination worship and tea party with refreshments, including English tea and finger sandwiches. This should be a new and fun experience. Hope to see you there!

Summer worship schedule cards will be in your mailboxes at church.

## **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         |
|--------|----------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| MAY 5  | Carter Heinen  | A: Noah Jensen<br>C: Jace Mueller         | Jennah Koenig |
| MAY 12 | Lydia Deters   | A: Livia Szczesniak<br>C: Aubrey Anderson | Aiden Mueller |
| MAY 19 | Elliot Spanier | A: Jaylee Jensen<br>C: Macey Roering      | Karlee Loe    |
| MAY 26 | Carter Heinen  | A: Taya Hanson<br>C: Owen Miller          | (No Worship)  |

### **Crow River Worship Duties**

#### **Lector/Readers:**

May 5: Jodi Schoumaker  
May 12: Sarah Shelton  
May 19: Barb Anderson  
May 26: Lora Larson

#### **Livestream:**

May 5:  
May 12:  
May 26:

#### **Ushers:**

May 5: Tony and Jodi Schoumaker family  
May 12: John and Sarah Shelton family  
May 19: Jeff and Angie Gerhardson family  
May 26: Brian and Shelly Ziemer family

#### **Greeters:**

May 5: Tony and Jodi Schoumaker family  
May 12: John and Sarah Shelton family  
May 19: Jeff and Angie Gerhardson family  
May 26: Brian and Shelly Ziemer family

*Thank  
You!*

**Thanks to Quentin Koll** for volunteering to help with mowing at Crow River this summer.

**Parish Office Hours:**

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

**Crow River Memorial Day Dinner May 29th**

Serving 11:00am - 1:00pm

We will be serving Meatballs and Gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, coleslaw and dessert.

Adults \$10.00  
Children 5-12 \$5.00  
Under 5 free

Everyone is welcome!  
(Take-outs are available)



**Grace Brotherhood thanks everyone** for their free will donations to the Easter breakfast. In 2023, \$726 was given, plus a single donation of \$224, for a total of \$1000 in donations. In 2024, \$945 was given, plus a single donation of \$200 for a total of \$1145.

Thrivent contributed \$250 to help with food expenses. All donations will be used for various needs of the church. Thanks again for your generous support.

**Glenwood Retirement Village** is a locally managed, independent, non-profit organization located right across from Barsness Park. We offer comfortable independent living, assisted living, and skilled care. Currently our assisted living has 2 one bedrooms open, and availability is always changing at our care center so please call to check for openings. If you would like more information or have questions, reach out to Ashley, the Admissions Coordinator: 320-634-5802.

**Grief Support Group:**

Whether you are grieving a recent loss or one from years ago, all are welcome to meet with others who have known similar losses, including loss of a parent, child, sibling, spouse, job, or health. This group meets once each month for 90 minutes on the third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be May 21st at the BGCRG parish office from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. All faiths are welcome.

**Crow River WELCA June meeting** will be June 4th at 7:00 pm. We will also be preparing and setting up for the Worship/Tea on June 5th.



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



**Jaguar Coffee Club** invites any senior citizen in the community to join a free monthly coffee club on the third Wednesday morning (9:30 am) in the BBE Elementary cafeteria. Bring a friend and enjoy coffee or water and a small treat in the company of BBE elementary students. Next date is May 15th.



**Belgrade Nursing Home sing a long** on May 20th at 5:15pm. Mark your calendars. All singers are welcome.



**Light of the World Evening Prayer at Crow River on May 5:** Candles, scripture, song and quiet are all part of the beautiful new Evening Prayer setting which will be shared on Sunday, May 5 at 7 pm at Crow River in the Sanctuary. This 35 minute prayer service was written by local composer Carol Meier, Music Director at Eagle Lake Lutheran church, Willmar. It is easy to sing and has a beautiful message that includes Mary's Magnificat and a setting of Psalm 139. Fellowship and treats will follow in the Crow River fellowship hall. Invite your friends!

## **PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - April 2024

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

March Income: \$18,632.78

March Expenses: \$18,790.98

General Fund Balance: \$11,086.18

- There was not a quorum at this meeting.
- Summer Worship Schedule finalized.

## **BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - April 2024

March Income: \$7,948.38

March Expenses: \$6,327.86

General Fund Balance: \$35,167.73

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 3/31/2024: -\$672.36

- There was not a quorum at this meeting.

## **CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - April 2024

March Income: \$12,089.14

March Expenses: \$9,872.20

General Fund Balance: \$24,331.59

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 3/31/2024: -\$1975.22

- Discussion on planting an acre of native grasses to reduce mowing and getting volunteers to help with other mowing.
- Pastor Lisa has made a jump drive of the cemetery map. We will review funeral and cemetery procedures/costs/bylaws next month.
- Safety deposit contents were inspected by Doug Mohs and Pastor Lisa (various documents and coins). Rental is \$20 per year.
- Reviewed Synod contributions (\$8,700 for the year).
- Some pews from Grace may be available for use in our balcony.
- Church steeple needs some repairs due to hail and a few spots in ceiling need paint touch ups.
- It was approved for Crow River to host Light of the World Evening Prayer service on May 5th at 7:00 pm. Only cost is refreshments.
- Jordyn Jakobson was approved as a new member.
- Basement reserved by Bonnemas on April 14th and Hansons May 12th.

## **Big Grove Notes:**

**Big Grove has Venmo: @BigGroveLuth2022**

**Bonfire at Big Grove:** on Saturday, May 18th at 6:00 pm. RSVP to Jenny at 320-796-8249 so they can plan for food and games.



**Quilting:** May 6th and 20th at 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

## **Crow River Notes:**

**Crow River Mission** for May and June is the Eagle's Healing Nest. Item's they need: laundry soap, bathroom cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, window cleaner, paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, napkins, ziplock bags, and men's and ladie's toiletries.

**WELCA meeting:** May 1st at 7:00 pm at church.

**WELCA will also be meeting on May 17th** to prepare food for the Otteson auction and Senior Brunch, and on **May 24th** to prepare for the Memorial Day Dinner.

**Crow River Work Days:** May 13th and 14th. Potluck lunch on Monday.

**Graduating Senior recognition brunch** will be on May 19th after worship.

## **Grace Notes:**

**The Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Fund Committee is now accepting grant and scholarship applications.** Grants can be requested in writing for outreach projects, missions of the ELCA, capital improvements, remodeling projects, furnishings, or equipment at Grace. Scholarship requests should be written and include a summary of your involvement at Grace, the school you will be attending, your possible major, and future plans. All applications must be submitted to the Parish Office by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Grace Do Day** will be May 21st at 9:00 am.



**Naomi Circle will be meeting on Thursday, May 9th at 10:15am.**

## **Grace May Altar Guild:**

Janet Marks and Lorraine Raveling

## YOUTH HAPPENINGS:



### **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)** Spring session for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade, end February 7th. Volunteers are needed for sessions which start April 10-May 15th as teachers and assistants.

Contact the office at 320-254-3249 if you can help.

### **JAM serving schedule for May**

May 1st - Crow River  
May 8th - Grace  
May 15th - Big Grove



### **Join us to Celebrate Austin Hanson**

2024 NL-S Graduate

Saturday, June 1st from 2-6:00 pm

at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning



**Everyone is welcome** to help us celebrate the graduation of **Aiden Johnson** on Saturday, May 25th, 12-3:00 pm at the Prairie View Golf Course.



The youth will be serving lunch at the Donnie Otteson auction on May 18th for a fundraiser for Christikon.

The auction will start at 10:00 am at the Otteson home at 401 3rd St. N, Brooten.

### **Got Cans?**

The Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish Youth has taken over aluminum can collection at three locations in Belgrade, Brooten, and Elrosa. Cans will be recycled in Glenwood and all funds will be used for youth events for our Parish.

#### **The locations are:**

Belgrade: by Casey's; Brooten: by County Line Market/Liquor

Elrosa: by Harry's Pizza

## GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - April 2024

March Income: \$13,612.82

March Expenses: \$10,234.69

General Fund Balance: 76,781.33

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 3/31/2024: -\$788.71

- The Brotherhood will serve coffee fellowship on Mother's Day.
- It was approved to spend up to \$250 for graduate gifts.
- Renovation project: A \$20,000 donation was received. It was approved to purchase the baptism bowl. The pew chairs are in transit. They need to be inspected before accepting. It was approved to donate to Crow River any pews that will work for them. Lighting samples will be sent so a decision can be made on what to order. It was approved to use Freetly Electric for electrical work, up to \$40,000.
- The Phil and Lucile Olson family has come forward to donate money towards a baby grand or grand piano. Deacon Brenda and some congregation members, Megan Klaphake and Lyndsay Ampe will do some research.
- It was approved for June Templar to use the facility in July for a \$250 fee, with \$100 being returned if there is no damage to facility.

### **BGCRG assisting with upcoming public presentation on Opioids and Vaping - May 6**

How do we keep our beautiful BBE communities healthy so we can care for each other as Jesus teaches? We start with being informed. Recently Officer Jansky with the Belgrade Police Dept shared his concern over Opioid and Vaping use in our communities. We have collaborated with the Stearns County Public Health Department, BBE schools and the Belgrade Police Department to organize a public presentation to share facts and ask questions.

**What:** "Keeping Our Community Healthy", A Public Presentation on Opioid and Vaping use in our neighborhood

**When:** Monday, May 6, 6:30-8 pm

**Where:** BBE High School Auditorium

**Who:** BBE communities, parents and students

**This event is free.**

# May 2024

| Sunday                                                                                                                                           | Monday                                                                                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                                                            | Thursday                                                                                            | Friday                                                                                                             | Saturday                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HC = Holy Communion</b><br><b>LS = Live Stream</b><br><b>SS = Sunday School</b>                                                               |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                         | <b>1</b><br>3:45 pm Jam - Crow River serves snack<br>6:30-8 pm Confirmation<br>AGAPE concert at Calvary Lutheran<br>7:00 am CR WELCA | <b>2</b><br>10:00 am Bible Study at Grace                                                           | <b>3</b><br>7:30 am FCS at Grace<br><br>Pr. Lisa - Sabbath                                                         | <b>4</b>                                                               |
| <b>5</b><br>8:30 am CR w/HC & LS<br>9:00 am Grace w/HC<br>9:30 am BG SS<br>10:30 am BG w/HC & LS<br>7:00 pm CR Light of the World Evening Prayer | <b>6</b><br>1:30 pm Rachel Circle<br>6:30-8 pm Opioid and Vaping awareness presentation at High School<br>Deacon Brenda-Sabbath | <b>7</b><br>9:30 am Sarah Circle                                                        | <b>8</b><br>9:30 am Lily Circle<br>1:00 pm Rose Circle<br>3:45 pm Jam - Grace serves snack<br>6:00 pm Confirmation 7-8               | <b>9</b><br>10:00 am Bible Study at Grace<br>10:15 pm Naomi Circle at Grace<br>1:00 pm Daisy Circle | <b>10</b><br>7:30 am FCS at Grace<br>1:00 pm Pansy Circle<br><br>Pr. Lisa - Sabbath                                | <b>11</b>                                                              |
| <b>12</b><br>8:30 am BG w/LS<br>9:00 am Grace w/HC<br>10:30 am CR w/HC, LS , Baptism & Confirmation                                              | <b>13</b><br><br>Deacon Brenda-Sabbath                                                                                          | <b>14</b><br>6:00 pm Parish Council<br>7:00 pm Council Night                            | <b>15</b><br>9:30 am Jaguar Coffee Club at Elementary<br>3:45 pm Jam - BG serves snack<br>6:00 pm Confirmation 7-8                   | <b>16</b><br>10:00 am Bible Study at Grace                                                          | <b>17</b><br>7:30 am FCS at Grace<br>9:00 am CR WELCA meets to prepare for Auction & Senior Brunch                 | <b>18</b><br>6:00 pm BG Bonfire<br><br>10:00 am Donnie Otteson Auction |
| <b>19</b><br>8:30 am CR w/Senior Recognition & Brunch<br>9:00 am Grace w/LS & Confirmation<br>10:30 am BG w/LS                                   | <b>20</b><br>5:15 pm Belgrade Nursing Home Sing Along<br><br>Deacon Brenda-Sabbath                                              | <b>21</b><br>9:00 am Grace Do Day<br><br>6-7:30 pm Grief Support Group at Parish Office | <b>22</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>23</b><br>10:00 am Bible Study at Grace<br>3:00 pm Nursing Home Worship                          | <b>24</b><br>BBE Graduation<br>9:00 am CR WELCA meets to prepare for Memorial Day Dinner<br><br>Pr. Lisa - Sabbath | <b>25</b>                                                              |
| <b>26</b><br><b>Summer worship schedule begins</b><br>8:30 am BG<br>10:30 am CR w/LS                                                             | <b>27</b><br>Office Closed<br>11am - 1pm Memorial Day Dinner at Crow River                                                      | <b>28</b>                                                                               | <b>29</b><br>7:00 pm Worship at Grace                                                                                                | <b>30</b><br>10:00 am Bible Study at Grace                                                          | <b>31</b>                                                                                                          |                                                                        |