

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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Belgrade MN 56312

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Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

April 2024





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417 Washburn Ave,
PO Box 10
Belgrade, MN 56312



From the desk of Deacon Brenda

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

I once worked with a pastor who stopped everyone on Easter to see if they would respond appropriately to the prompt “Christ is Risen!” with “He is risen indeed, Alleluia!”. If we forgot one word, or didn’t say it with energy and a fair amount of VOLUME, he would make us practice it until we got it right. He had a deep passion for people and Jesus, and would remind us that even if we didn’t feel like responding to his cue, we had to finish the phrase. I later learned this ancient Orthodox greeting is an act of unity around the belief in Christ’s resurrection. Jesus’ life, death and resurrection happened with people around him. They too had to tell each other of this most remarkable news - God, who came to earth in flesh and blood, lived and died and the third day he rose again.

I thought about that the other day because I was talking with my friend who always reminds me that we need to live our lives in response to this amazing news that “Christ is Risen!” But on days when it seems nothing is going right, my attitude is much more this: ‘christ is risen’ or “Christ is risen?” or even **christ is risen**. Those are the days I need people in my life - I need my community of people, I need my church - my fellow followers of Jesus around me.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Sarah Freese Jaylee Jensen	20	Kamie Fischer Ryan Jensen
2	Esther Presler David Dokken Ava Deters	21	Tristan Nelson Scott Mueller
3	Linda Olson Lois Maroschek	22	Richard & Cathy Prentice Nicholas Benton Ernie Ruchti
4	Randy Anderson James Nelson Michael Sand	23	Margaret Trustheim
6	Jim & Jean Paulson Gary & Roxanne Oeltjenbruns	25	Brian Anderson
8	Kyle & Tammy Quenemoen	26	Mallory Imdieke Kaleb Torkelson
9	Larry Freese Dalton Hanson	27	Gary Hanson Theresa Herding Michael Larson Logan Oeltjenbruns Brian Ziemer
11	Ardyce Lundgren Shari Miller	28	Mark & Lori Ziemer Kurt & Yvette Kirkof
12	Kenneth Otteson Amanda Steffensen Ellie Imdieke	29	Allen Anderson
13	Neal Heieie Kim Trustheim Emmit Kirckof	30	Cynthia Braegelman Kyle Quenemoen
14	Tammy Braegelman Vicki Freese		
16	Tyler Jensen Kiley Viessman		
17	Donovan & Mary Solbreken		
18	Jocelyn Commerford Nathan Lindahl Randy & Karla Anderson		



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)

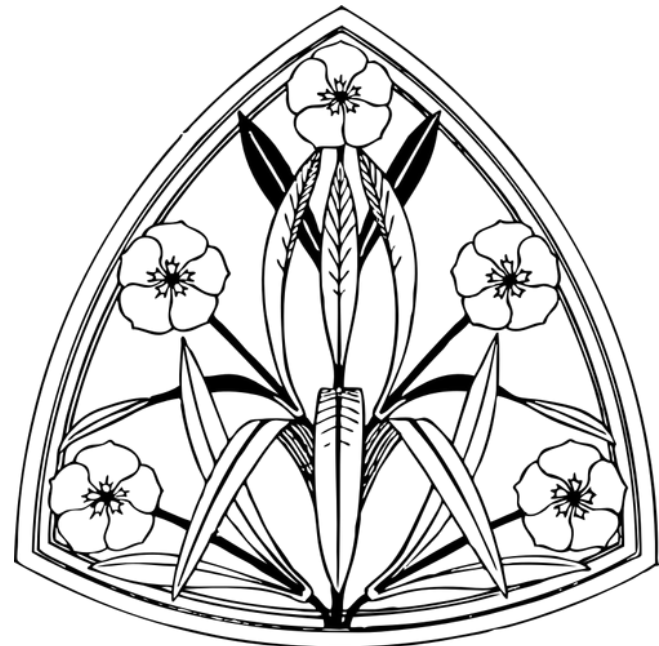
Lead Pastor: Pastor Lisa Meshke
Deacon: Brenda Handel-Johnson
Office Secretary: Sue Wiener

I need to be reminded that when I can't see the light of Christ because of something that has been said, or the hole in my life because of a broken relationship or a death, I feel better when I am around people who know the hope and joy that death does not have the last word. That word of hope is not just spoken in words but in all of creation. As Martin Luther wrote "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." We need to hear ourselves say "**He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**" precisely at those times when we don't feel like it. It is a way the Holy Spirit is moving amongst us, bringing us closer to Jesus - so that we might know the presence of God and the hope of the resurrection.

When you hear that ancient greeting "Christ is Risen!" can you say? "**He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**"

Happy Easter!

Deacon Brenda



Parish News:

Pastor Lisa will be away April 1-8th.

Deacon Brenda will be away April 12-15th.

Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

Parish Council: Tuesday, April 9, at 6:00 pm

Big Grove, Crow River, and Grace Councils: Tuesday, April 9, at 7:00 pm

Baptisms: Grace: Gage McDonough Geyer, son of John Geyer and Mariah McDonough Geyer.

Deaths: Big Grove: Allen Lee February 19, 2024

Funerals: Big Grove: Allen Lee, April 6, 2024



Belgrade Nursing Home sing a long on April 1st and May 20th at 5:15pm. Mark your calendars. All singers are welcome.



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

Recognition of our graduating Seniors will be on April 28th at Big Grove and Grace, and on May 19th at Crow River. Congratulations and best wishes to all our graduating Seniors!



We express our sympathies and prayers for family and friends of Mary Dunn who passed away in March. Blessed be the memory of Mary Dunn. Mary is the mother of Amy Prentice.



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
APR 7	Elliot Spanier	A: Aubrey Anderson C: Jaylee Jensen	Lillian Thompson
APR 14	Carter Heinen	A: Macey Roering C: Taya Hanson	Reid Dickhoff
APR 21	Lydia Deters	A: Owen Miller C: Coby Schoumaker	Kamie Fischer
APR 28	Elliot Spanier	A: McCoy Detloff C: Lauren Herding	Jackson Kirckof

Crow River Worship Duties

Lector/Readers:

April 7: Val Walstrom
April 14: Krista Lautenschlager
April 21: Trish Thieschafer
April 28: Deb Anderson

*Thank
You!*

Ushers:

April 7: Chris Walstrom family
April 14: Taylor Shelton family
April 21: Pat Thieschafer family
April 28: Jim & Linda Nelson and Dale & Deb Anderson

Greeters:

April 7: Chris Walstrom family
April 14: Taylor Shelton family
April 21: Pat Thieschafer family
April 28: Jim and Linda Nelson

Livestream:

April 7:
April 14:

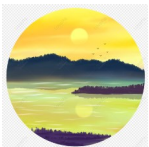
Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

YOUTH LOCK-IN:

Our 9th through 12th graders have been invited to participate in a Survivor Lock-In at Peace Lutheran Church in New London on April 19th and 20th. There will be realistic "Survivor" game show experience, worship, board games, and food. Space is limited and you need to be in 9th through 12th grade. Cost will be \$20 and Free Spirits credit can be used. If kids have worked at any Free Spirit soup suppers, they have money in their account, which can be used to cover the fee. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, April 10th, or until space is filled. Looks to be a fun event and includes kids from Peace Lutheran Church in New London, Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer, Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church in Olivia and our three churches.

A registration form and the liability waiver from Peace Lutheran have been emailed to eligible students but if you still need them, you can pick them up in the Parish office. Contact Pastor Lisa if you have any questions.



Light of the World Evening Prayer: April 7th at 7:00 pm at Tripolis Lutheran Church, Kandiyohi. See Deacon Brenda if interested in attending.



Grief Support group will begin in April

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 beginning on April 16 at the BGCRG parish office from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. All faiths are welcome. Questions? See Deacon Brenda.

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 April 17th.



Everyone is invited to come to Crow River Church on April 3rd at 7:00 pm to hear Kay Levesque, director of Parent Life for Teens. Parent Life for Teens is a program impacting the lives of teen parents through mentoring relationships.



PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - March 2024

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

February Income: \$18,714.84

February Expenses: \$17,484.88

General Fund Balance: \$11,244.38

- Pastor's report: Pastor Lisa attended the Synod Senior High Youth gathering with 3 students. All three parishes are using YouTube for livestreaming and training is underway. Midweek Lenten services have been having good attendance. Pastor Lisa attended the Conference Assembly.
- Deacon's report: Deacon Brenda attended the Conference Assembly. She is working on developing a community presentation on vaping and opioid use with Stearns County and BBE school district as potential partners.
- Ryan Halvorson is working on availability of the Brooten Pavilion for the August 18th parish event in case of inclement weather.

BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - March 2024

February Income: \$5,661.87

February Expenses: \$9,067.16

General Fund Balance: \$33,847.21

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 2/29/2024 (\$1,992.88)

- Motion passed to put insurance claim money in Parsonage fund to zero it out, and balance to go into building fund.
- Donny will see about bracing the center railing and will contact Mort Arneson to see about replacing some church shingles.
- WELCA will purchase two new easels and Aleisha will donate two.
- We are still working on the sound system, Christmas program costumes, and Processional cross.
- Jenny will head up a brunch to recognize graduating seniors on April 28th.
- We are planning a bonfire for May 18th.
- Laura is checking on fiber optic internet options for the church.
- There was discussion on adding a facility coordinator fee to the funeral guide.
- A motion was passed to use CAB funds to help 1 student attend the Senior Youth Gathering.

Big Grove Notes:

Big Grove has Venmo: @BigGroveLuth2022

There will be a brunch following worship on April 28th to acknowledge our graduating seniors.

We will be quilting on April 8th and 22nd at 1:00pm. Hope to see you there.

Crow River Notes:

Crow River WELCA has a Mission Project each month. In March and April we will be collecting diapers size 3, 4 and 6, baby wipes (any kind) and Walmart gift cards for Parent Life for Teens.

We need help hemming quilts and sewing lullaby quilts. If you are able to help with quilts, they are in the small closet next to fabric room and lullaby kits are in a tub by the handicap door. Thank you!

Crow River Work Days: will be April 8th and 9th. Bring a sack lunch. The WELCA meeting will be at noon on the 8th.

Grace Notes:

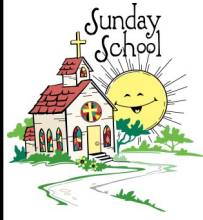
The Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Fund Committee is now accepting grant and scholarship applications. Grants can be requested in writing for outreach projects, missions of the ELCA, capital improvements, remodeling projects, furnishings, or equipment at Grace. Scholarship requests should be written 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 15th.

Grace Do Day will be April 16th at 9:00 am. Hope to see you there.

Grace April Altar Guild:

Judy Dickhoff and Shirley Anderson

YOUTH HAPPENINGS:



Big Grove Sunday School:

Sunday School will be held from 9:30 am - 10:15 am on late worship Sundays.

Crow River Sunday School:

Sunday School will be held 9:45 am - 10:30 am on late worship Sundays.



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 April and May

April 10th - Grace	May 1st - Crow River
April 17th - Big Grove	May 8th - Grace
April 24th - Crow River	May 15th - Big Grove



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

Confirmation in April

April 10th, 17th and 24th for grades 7-9.

CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - March 2024

February Income: \$10,524.07

February Expenses: \$18,605.21

General Fund Balance: \$22,114.65

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 2/29/2024 (\$4,192.16)

- Memorials are being used for new baptism & funeral banners.
- Projects: Visiting room ceiling tiles completed; costs are being checked on for fixing pillars out front of church; bathroom renovations need to be done; investigating planting some native grasses to cut down on some of the mowing.
- ASCS program reactivated for church owned property.
- Piano will be tuned before Easter.
- Motion passed to donate \$200 to the food shelf
- Church groups invited to do the lunch at Donnie Otteson auction for a fundraiser.
- There was discussion about fees and responsibilities after the cemetery committee meeting. Pastor Lisa will make a list of duties and the church and cemetery councils need to determine which responsibilities lie where, and update bylaws.

GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - March 2024

February Income: \$9,771.27

February Expenses: \$11,106.21

General Fund Balance: \$73,403.20

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 2/29/2024 (\$4,116.84)

- Volunteers are needed for lecturing and livestreaming. Sign up sheets are in the entry.
- VBS will be in August, Senior Recognition Sunday is April 28th and Confirmation is May 19th.
- Motion passed to allow June Templer to use church facilities on July 28th. Fees will be discussed at April meeting.
- There is \$83,158.55 available so far for the renovation project. Approximate start date is May 20th. We are still getting bids and options for different aspects of the project.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HC = Holy Communion LS = Live Stream SS = Sunday School	1 1:30 pm Rachel Circle 5:15 pm Belgrade Nursing Home Sing Along Deacon Brenda-Sabbath Pastor Lisa gone	2 9:30 am Sarah Circle Pastor Lisa gone	3 No Confirmation 6:15 CR WELCA meeting 7:00pm CR WELCA Program Pastor Lisa gone	4 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 4:00 pm Naomi Circle Pastor Lisa gone	5 7:30 am FCS at Grace Pr. Lisa - Sabbath Pastor Lisa gone	6 Pastor Lisa gone
7 Hymn Sing Sunday 8:30 am CR w/HC & LS 9:00 am Grace w/HC 9:30 am BG SS 10:30 am BG w/HC & LS and potluck Pastor Lisa gone	8 9:00 am CR Work Day Bring a lunch Deacon Brenda-Sabbath Pastor Lisa gone	9 9:00 am CR Work Day Bring a lunch 6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Council Night	10 9:30 am Lily Circle 1:00 pm Rose Circle 3:45 pm Jam - Grace serves snack 6:00 pm Confirmation 7-9	11 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 1:00 pm Daisy Circle	12 7:30 am FCS at Grace 1:00 pm Pansy Circle Pr. Lisa - Sabbath Deacon Brenda gone	13 Deacon Brenda gone
14 8:30 am BG 9:00 am Grace w/HC & LS 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/HC & LS Deacon Brenda gone	15 Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	16 9:00 am Do Day at Grace	17 9:30 am Jaguar Coffee Club at Elementary 3:45 pm Jam - BG serves snack 6:00 pm Confirmation 7-9	18 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace	19 7:30 am FCS at Grace Youth Lock In at Peace Lutheran	20 Youth Lock In at Peace Lutheran
21 8:30 am CR 9:00 am Grace w/LS 9:30 am BG SS 10:30 am BG w/LS	22 Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	23 Deacon Brenda out of office	24 3:45 pm Jam - CR serves snack 6:00 pm Confirmation 7-9	25 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 3:00 pm Nursing Home Worship Deacon Brenda out of office	26 7:30 am FCS at Grace Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	27
28 8:30 am BG w/LS, Senior Recognition & Brunch 9:00 am Grace w/LS and Senior Recognition 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR	29 Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	30				