

# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

April 2021

## PASTORAL PONDERINGS



Big Grove Lutheran  
Church

Crow River  
Lutheran  
Church



Grace Lutheran  
Church



*“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus  
it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy  
and singing.” Isaiah 35: 1*

I wish there was space to print the entire chapter of Isaiah (35). It is a wonderful vision of hope and new life. I encourage you to read it through.

To me, this sounds like spring – when brown things turn green, when buds turn into blossoms, when ice turns to gentle ripples on the water.

To me this (especially later in the chapter) sounds like the end of a pandemic – when things begin to turn around and the threat of sickness abates.

To me it sounds like an end to sorrow and isolation – when joy and singing are restored and enjoyed together.

To me this sounds like Easter – when a crucifixion leads to a resurrection, when death turns into life

To me this sounds like a new beginning – when our church life can grow more vibrant and enriching.

To me it sounds like hope – and that is something we all need; that is God’s greatest gift to us all.

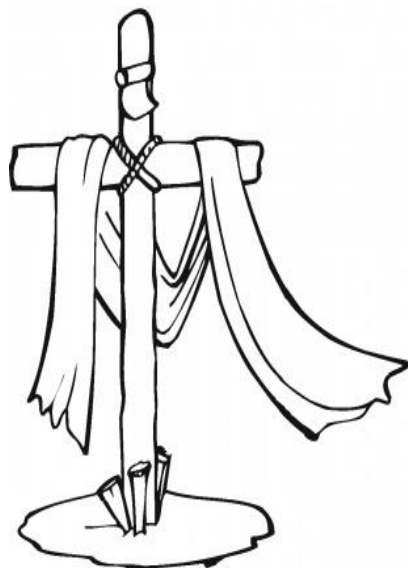
May God bring this about in our day and in our midst.

See you in worship.

**Pastor John**

## Holy Week Service Schedule:

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Big Grove  
Friday, April 2: Good Friday 1:00pm Grace  
7:00pm Crow River



## Easter Sunday:

6:30am Crow River  
6:30am Grace  
8:30am Big Grove  
9:00am Grace  
10:30am Crow River

Please remember that everyone is encouraged to wear masks and maintain social distancing as we worship together during this holy week.

## MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE

It is not too late to help our local food shelf. But if you want to help them receive additional proportional grants, get your gift in ASAP! You can send your gifts directly to the food shelf by mailing to:

**BBE Food Shelf, P. O. Box 136, Brooten MN 56316.**

## COUNCIL MEETINGS IN APRIL

Parish Council 5:30pm  
April 6 at Grace

Grace Council 7:30pm  
April 7 at Grace

Big Grove Council -  
6:30pm April 11 at Big  
Grove

Crow River Council –  
7:00pm April 13 at  
Crow River

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class:**

This is an opportunity for students to learn about the Bible. 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders can join Pastor Lisa on April 18, at 4:00pm at Grace.

Students will receive their Bibles during worship on:

April 25, 10:30-BG  
May 9, 9:00-G  
May 16, 10:30-CR

Do Day at Grace  
April 12 and 13 at  
9:00am



Grace GLCW mtg  
Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:00am

**ON-LINE GIVING AT CROW RIVER AND GRACE**

In addition to the offering plates at church and mailing in your offerings, two of our congregations now have On-line giving options as well. We encourage you to check them out on the front page of our Website (bgcrgparish.org).

Crow River -- Venmo. You can either download the app or you can click on the button on the website to give.

Grace -- Tithe.ly. You can either download the app or you can click on the button on the website to give.

Thank you for your generosity!!

New Mission Community chair for Crow River WELCA is Doris Schoeppach. 254-3331. Please let her know who she needs to send cards to.

**WELCA program**

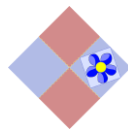
**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm at  
Crow River

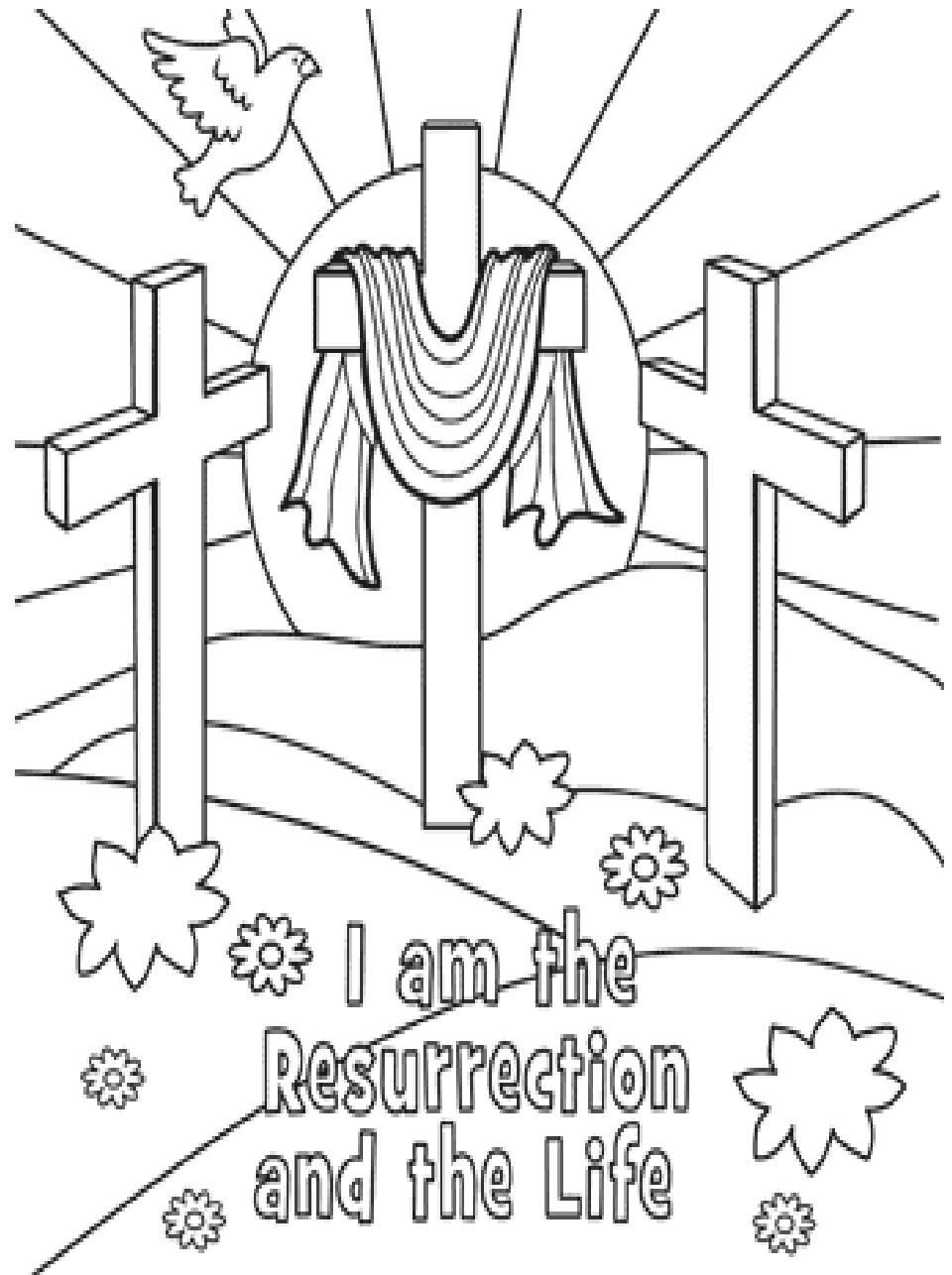
Lily Circle will  
be providing  
program and  
Lunch

**April 21-6:00pm at Crow River:**

Planning for Memorial Day  
dinner for all Board members  
and circle presidents



April 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am  
Work Day at Crow River  
Bring your own bag lunch



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Sarah Freese	18	Alex Roeder
2	Esther Presler		Nathan Lindahl
	David Dokken		Randy and Karla Anderson
	Ava Deters		Julia Lindquist
3	Linda Olson	19	Hayden Otteson
	Lois Maroschek	20	Ryan Jenson
4	Roxanne Oeltjenbruns		Madison Strom
	Randy Anderson	21	Tristan Nelson
	James Nelson		Scott Mueller
	Laverne C. Nelson	22	Richard and Cathy Prentice
	Michael Sand		Nicholas Benton
6	Jim and Jean Paulson	23	Margaret Trustheim
	Gary and Roxanne Oeltjenbruns		Michele Thompson
8	Sonja Bergerson	24	Pastor John Dalen
	Jared Torgerson	25	Brian Anderson
	Kyle and Tammy Quenemoen	26	Carol Steffensen
9	Larry Freese	27	Theresa Herding
	Dalton Hanson		Cathy Lester
11	Ardyce Lundgren		Gary Hanson
12	Kenneth Otteson		Brian Ziemer
	Amanda Steffensen		Michael Larson
13	Neal Heieie	28	Mark and Lori Ziemer
	Margaret Herbrandson	29	Allen Anderson
	Kim Trustheim		Tom Wold
	Emmit Kirckof	30	Cynthia Braegelman
14	Tammy Braegelman		Kyle Quenemoen
	Vicki Freese		
16	Michelle Welte		
	Wayne and Patti Hagen		
	Tyler Jensen		
	Kiley Viessman		
17	Donovan and Mary Solbreken		



## CONFIRMATION and EPIC YOUTH

April 7 – 6:00pm 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
 6:30pm 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
 Supper Servers:  
 Michels / Pelzer / Detloff

April 14 – 6:00pm 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
 6:30pm EPIC Youth  
 Supper Servers:  
 Heieie / Koenig / Lundberg

April 21 – 6:00pm 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
 6:30pm EPIC Youth  
 Supper Servers:  
 Johnson / Loe / Nicklaus / Terhaar

April 28 – 6:00pm 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
 NO EPIC  
 Supper Servers:  
 Martinez / Mueller / Prentice

### FREE SPIRITS (7-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:00pm at Grace  
 April 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:00pm at Grace

### FCA BREAKFASTS

Thursdays at 7:45 – every Thursday that there is in-person school. All 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grade students are invited. Bring a friend. It's a great way to start the day!

**ACOLYTE, USHER, & CROSSBEARER SCHEDULE**

**Plan to be at church at least 20 Minutes before service time on the Sunday you are scheduled.**

**NOTE: If you are unable to be there, try first to switch with someone or find someone to fill in for you. If this does not work and you cannot be there, call the Parish Office by Friday evening (320-254-3249).**

**PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY**

**BIG GROVE**

**CROW RIVER**

**GRACE**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**April 4**

Isaac Johnson

6:30 Acolyte: Ian Szczesniak  
6:30 Cross: Pressley Detloff

6:30 Kacey Fischer

10:30 Acolyte: Dalton Hanson  
10:30 Cross: Auston Hanson

9:00 Carson Savage

**April 11**

Ashton Terhaar

Acolyte: Parker Prentice  
Cross: Ryan Jensen

Max Hanson

**April 18**

Ava Deters

Acolyte: Bree Thieschafer  
Cross: Josh Walstrom

Reegan Jones

**April 25**

Gunnar Heieie

Acolyte: Abbey Schoumaker  
Cross: Cooper Roering

Brooke Mercado

The Lord is risen, the stone is rolled away,  
But not by human hands.  
The morning breaks, night's shadows flee away,  
And broken are death's bands.

The Lord is risen; and buried in His tomb,  
The weight of sin He bore  
Upon the cross for me.  
The fear, the gloom of death haunt me no more.

The Lord is risen; blest proof that God in heaven  
Accepts the sacrifice.  
The work is done, my sins are all forgiven,  
My Saviour paid the price.



He  
is  
Risen

## Church and Parish Councils

### Big Grove

President: Scott Stueckrath

Vice President: Jenny Stueckrath

Secretary: Megan Imdieke

Treasurer: Deanna Johnson

Financial Secretary: Tammie Strand

### Crow River

President: Doug Mohs

Vice President: Ryan Halverson

Secretary: Melanie Lundberg

Treasurer: Travis Szczesniak

Financial Secretary: Jerry Torgerson

### Grace

President: Stephanie Fischer

Vice President: Dennis Braegelman

Secretary: Erin Krug

Treasurer: Connie Wold

Financial Secretary: Brenda Kaiser

### Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

Council Members:

Allen Anderson (BG)

Eric Johnson (BG)

Jan Martin (CR)

Brian Ziemer (CR)

Connie Wold (G)

Megan Klaphake (G)

Pastors:

Pastor John Dalen

Pastor Lisa Meshke

Office Secretary:

Lynne Dalen

Parish Treasurer:

Connie Wold

**GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** – March  
(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report:

February Income: \$ 8,150.46  
February Expenses: \$ 12,178.67  
General Fund End Balance: \$ 39,837.14

- \*\* Council approved a Church Use Request for August 14 for Phil Olson's family.
- \*\* Council discussed Coffee hour and would like to see this wait until more are vaccinated.
- \*\* Trustees will look into the cost of a new stove at the parsonage.

**BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** – March  
(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report:

February Income: \$ 3,601.10  
February Expenses: \$ 8,129.32  
General Fund End Balance: \$ 40,007.20

- \*\* Council appointed Scott Stueckrath to fulfill the vacant term as President.
- \*\* Approved Tammie Strand's request to use the church April 18 for a family gathering.
- \*\* Discussed funeral lunches and agreed that they should be catered.

**“O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS  
STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!”**

**PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** – March  
(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

Treasurer's Report:

February Income: \$ 20,520.00  
February Expenses: \$ 18,029.20  
General Fund End Balance: \$12,796.11

- \*\* Council approved a Continuing Education request from Pastor John and a vacation request from Pastor Lisa.
- \*\* Council discussed the latest round of PPP Loans. Connie will gather more information to be considered at our next meeting.
- \*\* Council considered options for removing some old appliances/tv/computer at the office.

**CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - March  
(Complete minutes available at parish office.)

Treasurer's Report:

February Income: \$ 8,559.74  
February Expenses: \$ 16,968.85  
General Fund End Balance: \$ 6,824.70

- \*\* Council approved a Continuing Resolution establishing a Crow River Mission and Ministry Fund and setting forth the administration and management of the Fund. This Fund will begin with a gift in memory of Suzie Johnson.
- \*\* Council welcomed Clay Walstrom as our new Trustee and Denise Dokken as our new Deaconess.
- \*\* Council discussed the possibility of putting a Columbarium in our cemetery.



2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:45am FCA 7:00pm Maundy Thursday- BG  Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday Service 1:00pm -Grace 7:00pm – Crow River Good Friday	3
4 6:30am- CR 6:30am- G 8:30am- BG 9:00am- G 10:30am CR  Easter	5	6	7 6:00-7 <sup>th</sup> confirmation 6:30-9 <sup>th</sup> confirmation 7:00- Welca-CR 7:30 Grace council	8 7:45am FCA	9	10
11 8:30-CR with HC 9:00-G 10:30- BG with HC 10:00-GLCW mtg-G 6:30- BG Council	12 9:00-Work Day- CR (Bag Lunch) 9:00 Do-Day-G	13 9:00am Do-Day-G  7:00pm CR council	14 9:30am-Lily Circle-CR  6:00-8 <sup>th</sup> confirmation 6:30-EPIC	15 7:45am FCA	16	17
18 8:30-BG 9:00-G 10:30- CR 4:00 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade Bible class-G 7-8pm Free Spirits-G	19	20	21 6:00 Plan Mem. Dinner-CR  6:00-7 <sup>th</sup> confirmation 6 <sup>30</sup> -EPIC	22 7:45am FCA	23	24
25 8:30-CR 9:00-G 10:30- BG 7-8pm Free Spirits-G	26 Pastor Lisa- Vacation	27 Through May 4th	28 6:00-8 <sup>th</sup> confirmation	29 7:45am FCA	30	