

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

Pastor Lisa Meshke: pastorlisaanne@gmail.com
Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson: bhandeljohnson@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

March 2024





Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

417 Washburn Ave,
PO Box 10
Belgrade, MN 56312



Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish,

March is on the horizon. When I think of March, I think of March Madness and lots and lots of college basketball. March is also a month in which we are in Lent. Lent began early this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Lent is the forty days, from Ash Wednesday (February 14th) to Holy Saturday (March 30th), not including Sundays. Lent is a time to prepare our hearts and our minds for the great gift of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday (March 31st).

These 40 days give us an opportunity to try something new and to deepen our prayer and devotional life. As a church, we will be embarking on a five-week series about prayer. We will be talking about Prayer with playdough, Prayer with candles, Prayer through kneading bread, Prayer through coloring, and Prayer through anointing. Sunday worship is almost always not hands on. This midweek Lenten series will allow us an opportunity to experience worship in different ways. Some of the services will be in fellowship halls and some will be in sanctuaries. No matter where we gather, we can trust the Spirit will be among us.

I am excited to try something new and to dive deeper into scripture to think more deeply about prayer and the ways in which we pray. I hope to see you at our Midweek Lenten services, which are held at 11 am at Grace Lutheran and 7 pm at rotating churches (see the schedule in this newsletter). Worship will include Holden Evening prayer and a short sermon and/or activity on prayer.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Kevin Rapp	16	Megan Mohs
2	Spencer Lundberg	17	Sonja Stavos
3	Dylan Schulz		Dianne Henjum
4	Valerie Walstrom		Deb Norris
	Diane Gerhardson		Keith Kampsen
	Melissa Michels	18	Barb Walstrom
	Jacob Raveling	19	Sierra Wohlman
	Lorretta Ruter	20	Shawn Klaphake
	Rance & Pete White	21	Logan Schwinghammer
5	Melissa Heieie	22	JoAnn Nelson
	Krista Lautenschlager		Susan Swanson
6	Todd & Melissa Jakobson		Mark Thompson
	Annika Heieie	24	Andy Schoumaker
7	Marci Schwinghammer	25	Laura Sheehan
	Kaylee Olson		Travis & Nichole Szczesniak
10	Ashley Kirckof	26	Kaleb Torkelson
	Todd & Mary Anderson	27	Andrew Spanier
11	Dakota Pelzer		Kora Martinez
	Elliot Spanier		Allison Lang
12	Aiden Mueller	31	Wade Jakobson
	Kathy Nelson		Andy Johnson
13	Mary Solbreken		Hunter Kesteloot
	Sharlot Roeder		
	Travis Schoumaker		
	Daniel Kirckof		
	Arlen Anderson		
14	Gary & Barb Hanson		
	Tessa Halvorson		
	Tony & Lyndsay Ampe		
15	Todd Anderson		
	Tammy Quenemoen		
	Jens Mueller		

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

Lunch will be served following the 11 am worship services at Grace Lutheran. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 6 pm. All proceeds from the evening suppers will go towards our youth.

Please join us!

Pastor Lisa

Right: Free Spirit Ski trip on President's Day.



Our faith is for all generations.



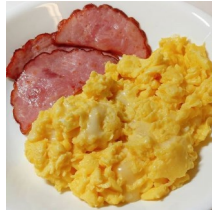
Above and right: Singers and residents enjoying some tunes at the Belgrade Nursing Home.



Parish News:

EASTER BREAKFAST AT GRACE

Sponsored by the Grace Lutheran Brotherhood of Men: Sunday, March 31st, following the Sunrise Service. The menu will be scrambled eggs, ham, cinnamon bread, juice, coffee and milk. Free will donation with proceeds going to various projects. Volunteers are needed to help with the breakfast. Call Ron Keller if you are willing to lend a hand. 320-894-8870



Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

Parish Council:

Tuesday, March 12, at 6:00 pm

Big Grove, Crow River, Grace Councils:

Tuesday, March 12, at 7:00 pm

Baptisms: Big Grove: Silas Kwiatkowski, son of Alan Kwiatkowski and August Reutzel

Deaths: Big Grove: Allen Lee, February 19, 2024

Funerals:

New Members: Big Grove: Alan Kwiatkowski and August Reutzel and their son Silas.

Big Grove: Andy and Martha Holmquist and daughter Eliana .



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

BBE Area Food Shelf announces 2024 Campaign

The BBE Area food shelf, a 201 (3) (c) organization, is joining forces with the Greater Minnesota Council of Church's Minnesota FoodShare in announcing the 2024 March Campaign. Local collections of food and money are tabulated and reported. Reported amounts qualify the food shelf for money from Minnesota FoodShare determined by the total collected during the March Campaign. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the BBE Area Food Shelf during the March Campaign between February 26 to April 6. Cash donations can be mailed to BBE Area Food Shelf, PO Box 136, Brooten MN 56316.

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
MAR 3	Lydia Deters	A: Livia Szczesniak C: Aubrey Anderson	Reid Dickhoff
MAR 6 7 PM	X		Jackson Kirckof
MAR 10	Elliot Spanier	A: Taya Hanson C: Owen Miller	Kamie Fischer
MAR 13 7 PM	X	A: Jaylee Jensen C: Macey Roering	X
MAR 17	Carter Heinen	A: Coby Schoumaker C: McCoy Detloff	Jennah Koenig
MAR 20 7 PM	Lydia Deters	X X	X
MAR 24	Elliot Spanier	A: Lauren Herding C: Noah Jensen	Aiden Mueller
THUR MAR 28	X	X X	volunteer
FRI MAR 29 7 PM	Carter Heinen	X X	X
MAR 31 EASTER	Lydia Deters	A: Jace Mueller C: Livia Szczesniak	Kaleb Torkelson

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 March 20th.



Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

Crow River Worship Duties

Lector/Readers:

March 3: Amber Anderson
March 10: Erin Commerford
March 17: Theresa Herding
March 24: Shari Miller
March 31: Patti Hagen (6:30 service)
March 31: Julie Jensen (10:30 service)

Ushers:

March 3: Jordan Anderson family
March 10: Rick & Cathy Prentice and Erin & Jocelyn Commerford
March 17: John Herding family
March 24: Trevor Miller family
March 31: Scott Jensen family (10:30 service)

Greeters:

March 3: Jordan Anderson family
March 10: Rick & Cathy Prentice
March 17: John Herding family
March 24: Trevor Miller family
March 31: Scott Jensen family (10:30 service)

Livestream:

March 3:
March 10:
March 13: (Wednesday at 7:00 pm)
March 17:
March 28: (Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm)
March 31: (Easter at 10:30 am)

*Thank
You!*

*Walk
in the
light
of the
Lord*

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 pm - 7:30 pm. All faiths are welcome. Questions? See Deacon Brenda.

Lenten Services Schedule:

March 6: 11:00 am Grace
7:00 pm Grace

March 13: 11:00 am Grace
7:00 pm Crow River

March 20: 11:00 am Grace
7:00 pm Big Grove



Maundy Thursday - March 28, 2024

7:00pm Crow River with Holy
Communion & Livestream

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Good Friday - March 29, 2024

1:00pm Grace with Holy Communion
7:00pm Big Grove with Holy Communion & Livestream

Easter Sunday - March 31, 2024

6:30am Crow River with Holy Communion
6:30am Grace with Holy Communion
8:30am Big Grove with Holy Communion & Livestream
9:00am Grace with Holy Communion & Livestream
10:30am Crow River with Holy Communion & Livestream

The Grace Lutheran Church Ladies will serve lunch following the 11:00 am Lenten worship services. Free-will offering. Everyone is welcome.



Free Spirit Lenten Soup Suppers

The youth will be serving soup and sandwiches starting at 6:00pm on Wednesdays before worship during Lent.



The All Parish Choir will be singing at the Belgrade Nursing Home on March 18th, April 1st, and May 20th at 5:15pm. Mark your calendars. All singers are welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - February 2024

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

January Income: \$18,632.79

January Expenses: \$18,555.42

General Fund Balance: \$10,014.42

- New member Mark Thompson was welcomed
- Pastor reported annual meetings were held at each church, has submitted statistics for all three churches to Synod, presided over 2 funerals in January and has been doing continuing education. Livestream will now be on YouTube.
- Deacon Brenda is working with JAM and a mentoring program for confirmands, sing-a-longs at the Nursing Home and has attended a continuing Ed event at Gustavus.
- Have not rec'd final payment from ERTC (\$4,018.13)
- Discussion was held regarding a summer parish event (August 18th at Brooten City Park) and community worship (August 11th at Belgrade City Park) and attendance at Wednesday summer worship. Pastor suggested higher fees for non-member funerals.

BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - February 2024

January Income: \$7,532.75

January Expenses: \$6,120.34

General Fund Balance: \$37,252.50

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 1/31/2024 \$1,412.41

- WELCA presented easels that could be purchased to use for funerals. They were encouraged to proceed.
- Youth are encouraged to sign up for Bible camp.
- Looking at ways to inform membership of financial status.
- Deacon Brenda showed pictures of sand cross and how it could be used in services.
- 4 new adult members and their families have been approved to become new members. We will work on setting up a new member Sunday to welcome them.
- The contract with the Belgrade Co-op for propane tank contract was approved.
- Discussion was held on potluck cleanup, summer Wednesday night services, and funeral service hosting when a funeral home is not involved.

Big Grove Notes:

Big Grove has Venmo: @BigGroveLuth2022

Quilting: We will be working on graduation quilts on March 4th and 18th at 1:00 pm. All helpers are welcome.

Crow River Notes:

Crow River WELCA has a Mission Project each month. The mission project for March is the Food Shelf and Parent life for teens. There will be a decorated box on a stand by the upstairs entrance for food shelf cash donations. 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 March 11th and 12th. Bring a sack lunch. The WELCA meeting will be at noon on the 11th.

Anna and Gordon Halvorson Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by March 31st. All Crow River graduating seniors should have received an application in the mail.

Grace Notes:

Grace Congregational Fund Committee meeting will be March 18th at 5:00pm.

Grace March Altar Guild:

Darlene Barchenger and Darlene Boie

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: Now is the time to make your



Thrivent Choice Dollars designation. You can do this by going online at thrivent.com/thriventchoice or calling 800-847-4836. Deadline is March 31. Thrivent provides funds for many of the projects our congregations are able to do in our churches and community.

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.

No breakfasts in March

FREE SPIRITS (Grades 7-12):

Lenten Soup Suppers: Wednesday during Lent.

Bean Bag Tournament: March 17th, 6:30-9:00pm in the Belgrade City Hall.

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



No JAM in March. Spring session starts April 10th. Hope to see you then!

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.

CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - February 2024

January Income: \$15,547.30

January Expenses: \$11,658.32

General Fund Balance: \$30,195.79

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 1/31/2024 \$3,888.98

- Church Mutual insurance policy will be kept in church office.
- Farmland property farmed by Justin Anderson (3 acres) will be reinstated in ASCS program.
- Bill Norris memorial and undesignated funds will be used to purchase a new funeral and baptismal banner (approx. \$800).
- Cemetery lots beyond plot #38 will need to be surveyed when more plots are needed.
- Discussion was held regarding mowing and expense of mowing the church park area. Any grants thru the DNR etc. for getting native grasses or other pollinators?
- Discussed Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Teams. Thrivent members are eligible to participate in both programs.

GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - February 2024

January Income: \$13,341.44

January Expenses: \$16,173.34

General Fund Balance: \$74,738.14

Profit/Loss for 2024 as of 1/31/2024 (\$2,831.90)

- Livestream will now be on YouTube. Need volunteers to stream services.
- Expenses for Lutheran Brotherhood need to be submitted and approved before being paid. Brotherhood will pay for bibles and organ repairs will now come from congregational budget.
- Ushers are needed. Ushers are responsible for putting offering in lock strong box if financial secretary isn't there.
- Sunday school funds will be used for busy bags and Bible Camp scholarships.
- There was discussion on how to keep in contact with Confirmation to 25 year old age group. Possibly through monthly e-mail?
- A motion was made to go with estimates from Hennen's (carpeting \$15,293), Church Interiors (pew cushion chairs \$15,989) and Nordic (stone \$10,542). Items will be ordered ASAP. Possible starting date could be late May.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	2
3 8:30 am BG 9:00 am Grace w/HC & LS 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/HC & LS	4 1:30 pm Rachel Circle Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	5 9:30 am Sarah Circle	6 11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm Grace <i>Confirmands required to attend worship</i>	7 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 4:00 pm Naomi Circle	8 1:00 pm Pansy Circle Youth Gathering in New Ulm gr. 9-12 Pastor Lisa - at Youth Gathering	9 Youth Gathering in New Ulm Pastor Lisa - at Youth Gathering
10 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	11 9:30 am CR Work Day Bring a lunch-WELCA meeting at noon Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	12 9:30 am CR Work Day Bring a lunch 6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Council Night	13 9:30 am Lily Circle 11:00 am Grace 1:00 pm Rose Circle 7:00 pm CR <i>Confirmands required to attend</i>	14 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 1:00 pm Daisy Circle	15 Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	16
17 8:30 am BG 9:00 am Grace w/LS 9:45am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/LS	18 5:00 pm Grace Congregational Fund Committee mtg 5:15 pm Belgrade Nursing Home Sing Along Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	19 9:00 am Do Day at Grace	20 9:30 am Jaguar Coffee Club at Elementary 11:00 am Grace 7:00 pm BG <i>Confirmands required to attend worship</i>	21 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 3:00 pm Nursing Home worship	22 Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	23
24 8:30 am CR 9:00 am Grace w/LS 9:30 am BG SS 10:30 am BG w/LS	25 Deacon Brenda-Sabbath	26	27 No Confirmation	28 Maundy Thurs. 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 7:00 pm CR w/HC & LS	29 Good Friday 1:00 pm Grace 7:00 pm BG w/LS	30
31 EASTER 6:30 am CR w/HC 6:30 am Grace w/HC 7:30 am Men's Sunrise Breakfast at Grace 8:30 am BG w/HC & LS 9:00 am Grace w/HC & LS 10:30 am CR w/HC & LS				HC = Holy Communion LS = Live Stream SS = Sunday School		