

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

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320-254-3249

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# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

## November 2023



**JAM  
Session  
One :**

**Fall 2023**

Studied  
Abraham  
and Sarah

**To Left:**  
Most of  
the  
students  
and most  
of the  
volunteers

**Fellowship of  
Christian  
Students:**

Friday Breakfasts  
at Grace  
Lutheran

**To Right:**  
Students  
enjoying  
breakfast before  
school.



# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish



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## Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish,

November is a month to give thanks. November includes Thanksgiving and as we have in years past, we will be having a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.



I believe we all have a lot to be thankful for. There are a variety of ways to give thanks. One way we can give thanks to God is through singing. There are many songs and hymns that speak of thankfulness and gratitude. One such hymn is "Great is Thy Faithfulness". This is one of my favorite hymns and perhaps it is one of your favorites too. In this famous and familiar hymn, the lyrics says,

*Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

Each day is a new day, whether yesterday was a difficult or joyous day, today is a new day. And God promises to be with us each and every day of our lives. As the lyrics say, "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided." All we need is provided for by God. That doesn't mean we will get everything we desire. I know in my own life there have been things I have prayed and prayed for and they have not happened yet – but I also know that I have everything that I need right now.

The text in "Great is Thy Faithfulness" was written by Thomas Chisholm.

# November Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Tanner Halvorson Lori Ziemer Parker Prentice	18	Doug Mohs Phyllis Bakko Laura Spanier
3	Mary Thompson	19	Larry Henjum Marc Thoen Isaac Johnson McKenzie Thieschafer Adison Wohlman
5	Sandy Lindahl Kamryn Quenemoen	21	Brady Nelson
6	Judy Johnson Ashley Bonnema Tammie Strand	24	Bonnie Lien Karn White
7	Ken & Caroline Otteson Cooper Roering	25	Randy & Sandy Lindahl
8	Jean Paulson Curtis Johnson	26	Noah Jensen
9	Pauline Wold Darrell McGarvie	27	Ron Halvorson
11	Jeff Olson Karissa Jones Westyn Ampe	29	Abbey Schoumaker
12	Bridget Penton Olivia Thieschafer Chris White Jared & Michaela Steffensen	30	Gary Gerhardson Jeremy Hanson Karen Theis Arden & Diane Hanson
13	Kevin Dokken		
14	Ryan Halvorson Lori Roering Paige Klaphake Arlen & Tammie Anderson		
15	Roger & Rosie Walsh		
16	Dale Anderson Carson Gilbert Jade Otteson		
17	Kelly Kirckof Reynold Tollefson		

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

Thomas Chisholm was born in 1866 and died in 1960. From a young age, Thomas was highly intelligent and ambitious. He became a school teacher when he was 16 years old and an associate editor for his hometown newspaper when he was 21. When he was 27 years old, he began to follow Christ and from then on used his abilities and ambitions for God.

He became a Methodist minister and served a congregation in Scottsville, Kentucky. Due to health problems, Thomas had to leave the congregation he was serving. His health problems created financial issues for him and his family. Many would have become bitter due to losing their profession and having great financial difficulties, yet for Thomas he turned the opposite way and chose to see God's faithfulness in all that he did. It was in 1923 that he wrote this poem, which later turned into the hymn we know as "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

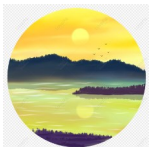
God has been faithful in the past, is faithful in the present and will continue to be faithful till the end of the age.

Thanks be to God!

*Pastor Lisa*

### **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. 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. **The next one will be November 5th at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian in Willmar.**



## Parish News:



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

### Council Meeting Dates: City Hall in Belgrade

#### **Parish Council:**

Tuesday, November 14, at 6:00 pm

#### **Big Grove, Crow River, Grace Councils:**

Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 pm

**Baptism:** Grace: Emma Jo LaPorte, daughter of Jay and Abby LaPorte

**Weddings:** Big Grove: Anthony Hanson and Keni Zenner, October 21, 2023

**Deaths:** Grace: Lawrence Jensen, September 23, 2023  
Grace: Lillian Madsen, October 6, 2023.  
Crow River: Pearl Anderson

**Funerals:** Grace: Lawrence Jensen, September 29, 2023  
Grace: Lillian Madsen, October 13, 2023

### **FREE SPIRITS (7-12 Youth Group) TURKEY DINNER**

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Crow River

Serving from 11am - 1pm



This is our largest fundraiser of the year for youth events. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to take students on a mission trip this past summer and to a Junior High Youth Gathering this Fall. The fees and costs of these events are supplemented greatly by the Free Spirits youth account. Please come support our youth and enjoy a wonderful dinner of turkey, real mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, corn, bread, beverages and pie.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## 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
NOV 5	Lydia Deters	A: Jace Mueller C: Livia Szczesniak	Aiden Mueller
NOV 12	Elliot Spanier	A: Aubrey Anderson C: Jaylee Jensen	Karlee Loe
NOV 19	Carter Heinen	A: Macey Roering C: Taya Hanson	Kaleb Torkelson
NOV 26	Lydia Deters	A: Owen Miller C: Coby Schoumaker	Lillian Thompson

### **Crow River Worship Duties**

#### Ushers:

Nov. 5: Larry Henjum, Dan Struthers, Brian Detloff & Rick Prentice  
Nov. 12: Ryan and Jason Halvorson  
Nov. 19: Pat and Trish Thieschafer  
Nov. 22: Rich Gerhardson and Larry Henjum  
Nov. 26: Herding's

#### Lector/Readers:

Nov. 5: Jan Martin  
Nov. 12: Jesi Halvorson  
Nov. 19: Trish Thieschafer  
Nov. 22: Travis Szczesniak  
Nov. 26: Presley Detloff

#### Greeters:

Nov. 5: Kenny & Caroline Otteson  
Nov. 12: Tracy & Stacey Lewis  
Nov. 19: Nichole & Ian Szczesniak  
Nov. 22: Volunteers  
Nov. 26: Taylor & Sarah Shelton

#### Livestream:

Nov. 5:  
Nov. 12:  
Nov. 22:  
Nov. 26:

*Thank  
You!*



## Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm

**“Telling our Stories”:** Doran Schoeppach will have an Adult Forum on November 5th at 9:30 am at Crow River.

A message from Doran:

Some of you may know that I started at Luther Seminary this fall taking classes as I prepare to become a prison chaplain. People from all over the world and all denominations come together to share, learn, and create community. Currently I have a leadership class, world history, and a narratives class. The narratives class is by far the most interactive and enjoyable. We tell our stories. We pair up with a partner and share stories from our past. Then the partner asks questions and often these questions spark memories that we haven't thought about in years or decades.

The Bible is a collection of stories and when we tell our stories, we are deepening our faith, adding to the collection of faith stories, and opening the doors for transformation.

On November 5th I'm going to lead an adult forum in Crow River on 'Telling our Stories'. It's not a lecture, but rather it's a 45-minute interactive session that brings people together and provides an opportunity to share parts of our story. Give it a try – it will probably surprise you! *Doran*

## Green Lake Dinner Theatre:

Join us for a delicious four course meal and an evening of theater and music with your loved ones at Green Lake Bible Camp. This tradition has become a special way for us to celebrate the Advent season, and we love sharing it with you! Tickets are \$80 per person. **Tickets will be available for purchase beginning October 16.** To make your reservation, call Green Lake Lutheran Ministries at 320-796-2181 or order online.

**Showtimes:** December 7th at 5:30 pm; December 8th at 5:30 pm; December 9th at 12:30 pm; December 9th at 5:30 pm; December 10th at 12:30 pm. Proceeds from this event support our Annual Fund, ensuring fun, safe, quality, Christ-centered camping and retreating opportunities for people of all ages.

*Thank  
You!*

## Big Grove Fall Supper and Auction

We want to thank everyone for helping to make our Fall Supper and Auction a success. We appreciate everyone who attended, worked, or donated items. Thank you!

*Thank  
You!*

## CROW RIVER WELCA FALL SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPER AND AUCTION:

Thank you to everyone who contributed, worked, and supported us in any way to make our Fall Supper and Auction a huge success this year. Everything is greatly appreciated! We raised \$12,063.22. THANK YOU!

**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 November 15th.



## Women's Retreat:

Saturday, November 18th, 9:30am - 3:30pm at Hope Presbyterian Church's Youth Center in Spicer (lunch included). Join other women for a day of reflection, music, worship, prayer, food creativity, and conversation centered on taking and making time to connect with God. Sign up by November 13th by calling the office at 320-254-3249. Free will offering. Sponsored by Eagle Lake, Ebenezer & Tripolis, Big Grove, Crow River and Grace Lutheran Churches. Retreat led by Pastor Sherri Larson, Composer Carol Meier, and Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson.

## Upcoming Holiday Worship Services:

**November 22nd** at 7 pm -- Thanksgiving Eve at Crow River

**December 24th** -- Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

Crow River at 3 pm

Big Grove at 5 pm

Grace at 5 pm

**December 25th** at 10 am -- Christmas Day Service

Grace with Holy Communion

## **PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - October 2023**

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

September Income: \$18,253.34

September Expenses: \$17,534.19

General Fund Balance: \$19,998.95

- Youth gathering in Willmar is November 17-18. Still need one more adult chaperone. There are many opportunities for youth in the summer of 2024.
- The 1st session of JAM is ending, the 2nd session will start after MEA.
- All churches have candles for All Saints Day.
- Deacon Brenda is working with another pastor in Kandiyohi to organize a Women's Retreat for November 18th and she has been busy with pastoral care visits.
- FCS breakfasts and Overtime for youth have been well attended.
- ERTC credit program has been suspended by IRS due to fraud. We will wait to pay ERTC consultant until we hear more.
- The 2024 parish budget was approved.

## **BIG GROVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - October 2023**

September Income: \$11,677.45

September Expenses: \$5,867.21

General Fund Balance: \$21,005.41

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 9/31/23: (20,989.74)

- Church building: Well has been treated for e-Coli. The water is safe to use. Run faucets 5-10 minutes each month. The rumba is working well, snow blower could use some work, a fan is running all the time in a fridge and may need to be looked at.
- Board of Education wants to restock kid's busy bags.
- The new windows are in at the parsonage.
- Should check with Pastor Lisa on status of the sound system.
- Crow River has the insurance money for hail damage to the parsonage. Heritage is doing the work and finances will be split when the work is completed.
- Idea of having a raffle was discussed.
- A letter was approved to be sent out to members regarding our financial status.

## **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 will have Sunday School every Sunday** in November and on December 3rd from 9:45-10:30 am. The children's Christmas program will be on December 10th.

**Crow River WELCA** has a Mission Project each month. The Mission for November is Thankoffering.

**Crow River work days** are November 13 and 14 at 9:00am. Bring a sack lunch. Come when you can, and stay as long as you like.

**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!

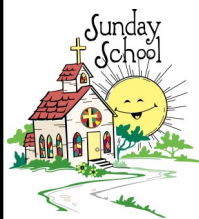
**WELCA News:** The December WELCA meeting is a potluck. We are asking each circle to decorate a table for Christmas and invite members to join their table. Also, we need each circle to bring 5 dozen homemade cookies for our special friends. Pansy Circle is in charge of the program. There will be more at the November WELCA meeting. If you would like to change circles in 2024, or have any changes to your contact information, please let Sharon Struthers or Jan Martin know.

## **Grace Notes:**

**Grace November Altar Guild:**  
Sande Mathison and Carol Kinzel



## 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 every Sunday till December 10th.



### **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)** fall session for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

3:45 - 5:00pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

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.*

### **JAM - Fall serving calendar**

November 1 - Grace

November 15 - Crow River

November 8 - Big Grove

### **FREE SPIRITS (Grades 7-12):**

**Junior High Synod Youth Gathering** in Willmar will be November 17-18. We will be leaving from Grace at 4:00pm on Friday the 17th and returning on Saturday the 18th around 1:00pm.



**Free Spirits Turkey Dinner** on Sunday, November 19th serving 11am to 1pm at Crow River.



**Christmas Shopping** on Wednesday, December 6th during confirmation time. We will leave from the parish office at 6 pm, go shopping in Sauk Centre, then return to the City Hall for a pizza party. This is optional for confirmation students but will count towards service hours. Open to all students in grades 7-12.

## **CROW RIVER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - October 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

September Income: \$7,701.99

September Expenses: \$8,585.41

General Fund Balance: \$10,789.47

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 9/31/23: (\$8,616.27)

- Rustic Designs event raised a little over \$1000.
- Cemetery records are being updated and new procedures are being put in place to keep up with record keeping.
- Parsonage/church storm damage claims update: we are waiting for approval for more money on the ice barrier for the parsonage.
- Doug has been added as a signer on Edward Jones accounts.
- Both pianos have been tuned.
- Printed collection envelopes will be ordered to start using in the spring of 2024.
- Doug will talk to Richard Hanson's family about where they would want a donation to go.

## **GRACE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** - October 2023

(Complete minutes available in Parish Office)

September Income: \$9,886.79

September Expenses: \$11,315.09

General Fund Balance: \$66,345.47

Profit/Loss for 2023 as of 9/31/23: (1,529.19)

- There are some repairs that need to be done at the parsonage.
- Responses to possibly remove pews have been forwarded to Les.
- Les is inquiring about some questions with Church Mutual policy.
- \$200 donation given to JAM from Grace Sunday School.
- Christmas program scheduled for December 10th. Practices will be held after school.
- President Les reminded everyone that expenses over \$10,000 need to be presented at a congregational meeting.
- Chairs vs pews discussion was held. A committee was formed and they will present project ideas and costs to council and the congregation.
- Need to look at getting someone for snow removal.

# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7-9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 pm CR WELCA	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace 4:00 pm Naomi Circle	<b>3</b> 7:30 am FCS  Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 am CR w/HC & LS 9:00 am Grace w/HC 9:30 am BG SS 9:45 am Doran Schoeppach presentation 9:45-10:30 CR SS 10:30 am BG w/HC & LS	<b>6</b> 1:30 pm Rachel Circle  Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Sarah Circle	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Lily Circle 1:00 pm Rose Circle 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7-9th Grade Confirmation	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace  1:00 pm Daisy Circle	<b>10</b>  1:00 pm Pansy Circle  Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 am BG 9:00 am Grace w/HC & LS 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/HC & LS	<b>13</b> 9:00 am CR work day bring a sack lunch  Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	<b>14</b> 9:00 am CR work day bring a sack lunch  6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Council Night	<b>15</b> 9:30 am Jaguar Coffee Club at Elementary Cafeteria 3:45 pm JAM @ Grace 6:00 pm 7-8th Grade Confirmation	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace	<b>17</b> 7:30 am FCS 4:00 Jr. High Synod Youth Gathering leaves from Grace	<b>18</b> 1:00 pm Kids return from youth gathering Women's Retreat 9:30-3:30 Hope Presbyterian
<b>19</b> 8:30 am CR w/Baptism 9:00 am Grace w/LS 9:30 am BG SS 9:45-10:30 CR SS 10:30 am BG w/LS 11 am - 1 pm Free Spirit Turkey Dinner at CR	<b>20</b>  Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	<b>21</b>  9:00 am Grace Do Day	<b>22</b> 3:00 pm Nursing Home  7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve worship at CR with LS	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving 	<b>24</b>  Pr. Lisa - Sabbath	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 am BG 9:00 am Grace w/LS 9:45 am CR SS 10:30 am CR w/LS	<b>27</b>  Deacon Brenda -Sabbath	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm 7-9th Grade Confirmation	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Bible Study at Grace		<b>HC = Holy Communion</b> <b>LS = Live Stream</b> <b>SS = Sunday School</b>