



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<http://www.fields-of-grace.org>

Vol. 7, Issue 3

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

October 2017

Men's Breakfast at Swan Lake will benefit the Fluegge Family

The annual men's breakfast at Swan Lake Lutheran Church will be a fundraising benefit for the Kevin and Beth Fluegge family whose farm suffered significant damage from a July 9 tornado.



The breakfast is Saturday, October 7, from 6:00 to 9:30 a.m., with a free will offering. The menu includes scrambled eggs, ham, pancakes, and beverages.

For more info, contact Karlen Nelson at 507-225-9928.

Fall Festival at First Lutheran

The annual Fall Festival at First Lutheran will be held Saturday, November 18, beginning with a bake sale, cards, napkins, free egg coffee, and a quilt raffle at 9:30 a.m.

A dinner will be served, featuring bone-in-ham, Swedish meatballs, real mashed potatoes, corn, cole slaw, buns, and desserts.

Kids are invited to take part in free bingo upstairs in the church.

Swan Lake 150th anniversary

Mark it down! Swan Lake Lutheran will celebrate it's 150th anniversary with a festival worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Bishop Jon Anderson will be the guest preacher. More details later.

Heidi begins formal internship

As part of her formation for ordained ministry in the ELCA, Heidi is required to participate in a formal internship. An acknowledgement of the start of that internship with our FOG churches took place during a joint worship service Sunday, September 3 at First Lutheran. Heidi's supervising pastor, Andrew Hermodson-Olsen, joined in the service and Heidi's internship committee was installed. Members of that committee—Traci Abrahamson and Denny Sjogren of First, Sally Webster and Tim Schulz of Bernadotte, JoAnn Gieseke and Darwin Gieseke of Swan Lake, and Stuart Hartley representing youth—are to solicit feedback about Heidi from the parish.



FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

Swan Lake Lutheran—8:00 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

First Lutheran—9:30 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month

Bernadotte Lutheran—11:00 a.m.—Communion the 2nd Sunday of the month

OCTOBER 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 1-?; 8-Tom B & Al P; 15 & 22-Jim C & Dwight D; 29-Stuart H & Andrew H

Greeter: Sandy B

Liturgist: 1-?; 8 & 15-Charles Y; 22 & 29-Charlie H.

Reader: Cindy Y

Visiting: Arden & Marilyn D

Communion Bread: Joyce Reese

Altar: Linda I & Laura I

Coffee Servers: 1-?; 8-Harley S & Deanna S; 15-Heidi H & Tyson H; 22-Laurie L & Wendy H; 29-Wendy H & Emily H

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Anna & Eve Peters

Readers: 1-Trish Gieseke; 8-Bob Helget; 15-Jim Bartels; 22-Judy Radke; 29-Lori Fenske

Acolyte: Anna Peters

Ushers: Deb Sjostrom, Steve Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Kyle Dalquist, Laura Dalquist

Communion (Oct. 8): S-Deb Sjostrom; C-Steve Radke; U-Shaun Anderson & Trish Gieseke

Coffee Servers: 1-Donna Webster; 8-Karen Wingen; 15-Dorothy Martens; 22-Carol Anderson; 29-Adrienne Sjostrom

Heidi's Intern Minister Message

A brief history lesson on the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation:

What is now known as Protestant Christianity first began to emerge in 15th and 16th Century Germany, where Christians protested (hence the name "Protestant") corruption in the Christian church. The key figure of the German protest was an Augustinian friar, Martin Luther (1483-1543).

In 1517 Luther wrote 95 theses (points of debate) criticizing various corruptions in the church, most notably its practice of selling "indulgences." In their original form, indulgences were gifts offered to the church by repentant sinners to show their gratitude to God for the forgiveness of their sins. By the early 1500s, the practice had become corrupted, and it appeared that the Christian church was selling forgiveness rather than merely accepting gifts from the faithful.

Luther criticized this practice for de-emphasizing repentance and making Christians think they could buy God's forgiveness. Instead, Luther preached that salvation is a gift from God that comes through faith alone upon repentance for sin. Luther also objected to the hierarchical structure of the Chris-



tian church, arguing that any Christian could interpret the Bible and serve as a minister as well as any other; this idea is now known as the "priesthood of all believers."

Luther's efforts at reform, however, met with resistance, and in 1522 Christian authorities condemned his theological claims. Luther continued his attempts at reform, and his followers eventually formed a new Christian group distinct from the original Western or "Catholic" church. These Christians became known as "Lutherans" and remained most numerous in Germany. Today, in the U.S., Lutherans are among the larger Protestant denominations, numbering about four million.

A Moment with Martin (Luther)

Luther's "theology of the cross" was the belief that God always reveals Godself in the last place human beings would reasonably look. For example, with the Israelites not the Egyptians; in a manger; on the cross; among mortal sinners in the church.



Bible Study at Big Dog's

Everyone is invited to take part in Community Bible Study Monday mornings, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Big Dog's in Lafayette.

To contact Heidi, call 507-766-2729 or email heidijohagstrom@gmail.com

Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Oct. 2, 5:30 p.m. at First
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. , BLC
- FOG Meeting—Wed., Nov. 1, Heidi's Review, 7:45 p.m.
- FOG Budget Meeting—Mon., Nov. 27, 7:00 pm., BLC
- FOG Council—Wed., Nov. 29, FLC, 7:45 p.m.

An invitation to all women of Fields of Grace

The Bernadotte WELCA ladies invite all women from FOG to a relaxing social evening Thursday, November 9, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Chankaska Winery in St. Peter. Buy a glass of wine and visit with each other to become better acquainted with the Fields of Grace ladies. More details next month.

Upcoming Area Events

- Fall Dinner—Peace Lutheran Church, Winthrop, Sun., Oct. 1. Wendinger Band worship service 9:30 am; chicken & meatball dinner 11 am-1 pm; silent auction, 9 am-1 pm.
- Fall Bazaar Bake Sale—Augustana Lutheran Church, Gibbon, Sat., Oct. 7, 9 am-1 pm
- Scandian Grove Lutefisk & Meatball Meal—Sat., Nov. 4, 11:30-5:30 pm.
- Christmas in Christ Chapel—Gustavus Adolphus College, Fri.-Sun., Dec. 1-3. Buffet & worship. As a GAC partner, Fields of Grace members receive 20% discount. Sign-up at back of church.

Sunday School app

Do you want your children to know God's story and their place in it? Then they need to be immersed in it at home as well as in church. Passing on faith begins in each household, but many of us don't know how to bring God into our daily life. FOG's new Sunday/Wednesday School curriculum includes an app for parents to help them create a family culture of faith. It supports the monthly/weekly themes from the lessons.

Have to miss Sunday/Wednesday School one week? No problem. Use the app to review the lesson with your child so they won't miss anything their peers have experienced. To learn more about the Parent Cue App. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Yqo9UsOsOM> then search "Parent Cue" in the App store. It is produced by The rethink Group.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend comes to SWMN Synod

The first Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend offered in the Southwest Minnesota Synod will be held at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud October 13-15. (Only three are offered each year in all of Minnesota.)

A direct link to more information is <http://godlovesmarriage.org/event/marriage-encounter-st-cloud-mn/>. Or call synod minister Linda Pedersen at 507-627-9046 (direct line) or 507 637-3904 (office). Registrations can be made at GodLovesMarriage.org or by contacting Peter & Phyllis McMahon at mcmahonp@comcast.net.

A Lutheran Marriage Encounter (LME) Weekend allows married couples to celebrate their special relationship and provides them with unique insights and tools to improve their communication, no matter how long they have been married.

October Africa partnership clothing drive provides meals

Donate clothing, shoes, purses, hats, belts, bedding and any type of material

Place in tall plastic kitchen bags with drawstrings

**Information about the drive:
Oather Martin 320-583-9011**



Our Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is partnered with the Southeastern Diocese of Southern Africa to walk together in ministry. Our Minnesota Valley Conference is paired with the Vryheid Circuit. Funds collected from the clothing drive will pay for the packaging and sending of nutritious meals to all congregations in Vryheid.

Next partnership meeting is Oct. 19

The next meeting of the Minnesota Valley Conference mission partnership is 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in New Auburn. All are welcome. We start with a meal involving a free will offering. Ideas and questions can go to co-chairs Pastor Grady St. Dennis or Mark Brandt. Grady- stdennis@gustavas.edu. 612-388-8267. Mark- mdbbrandt0127@gmail.com. 507-317-2837.

State 4-H Results for our Youth



Minnesota State 4-H Horse Show

Clarissa Giefer (Tim & Lorie, SL)—5th, hunt seat pleasure, pleasure type, grade 10+.

MN State Fair 4-H Shows

Heather Giefer, blue, indoor gardening succulent container.

Ben Radke (Steve & Judy, BLC)—red, registered Angus beef steer.

Tarik Gavranovic, blue, grade Holstein winter calf; participant in Minnesota Meats.



Jasenko Gavranovic (Beth, FL)—reserve champion senior dairy show-person.

Wednesday School Continues

Classes for 5th through 8th grade students from all FOG churches continue at First Lutheran at 5:30 p.m. on most Wednesdays in October. The October 4 class will recognize the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and include blessing of the animals. There will be no Wednesday School on October 18 due to teachers' conference.

MN Valley Fall Gathering

Minnesota Valley Conference WELCA Fall Gathering will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Arlington the morning of Saturday, October 14. Registration and coffee is at 9:00 a.m., with the first session at 9:30. The keynote speaker from Open Door Health Services will address, "Empowered by the Spirit." RSVP to Roseann Nagel at 507-964-5141 by Oct. 1.

Looking ahead to April

The Swedish choir from Jonkoping, Sweden has set its schedule. The choir plans to visit Bernadotte on April 24, 2018 for a concert performance in the evening. Choir members will then stay overnight with host families in Bernadotte and around the area.

Bernadotte WELCA Note

Bernadotte's WELCA will serve two Sundays in October at the Lodge in Winthrop. Hosts on October 1 are LaRita Young and Carol Young and on October 8 Romi White and Sally Webster.

Significant tax advantages for farmers gifting grain to charities

Here's a win-win strategy for farmers and for our churches.

Farmers who operate on a cash basis can take advantage of significant tax savings by donating grain directly to a favorite charity. The charity makes money by selling the donated grain and the donor gets tax deductions at a better rate than cash donations.

By directly donating the grain, the farmer excludes the grain from income. By gifting grain from a previous year, he can deduct the production expense in the year incurred. It's important to note this requirement—if grain is given the year it is grown, the farmer cannot deduct the production expenses.

Guidelines for donating—in brief—are: The farmer delivers grain to the elevator and tells the elevator to transfer ownership of X bushels to the charity. The elevator issues a warehouse receipt to the charity. The grain is not sold until the charity orders it.

(A word of caution: To receive the tax benefit, the donor cannot sell the grain and order the sales proceeds to be sent to the charity.)

Questions about giving gifts in grain can be referred to the synod office at 507-637-3904. Or search for "Guidelines for charitable gifts of grain" on the web.



Confirmation Sunday, October 29

Two Fields of Grace young people will be confirmed at their churches on October 29. Ben Radke will be confirmed at Bernadotte and Kaylyn Broste at First Lutheran.

Birth announcement

Kris and Alan Hagberg announce the birth of grandson Leon James Maybanks. Leon was born a month early—on July 9—to Jamie and Scott Maybanks. He weighed 6 lb. 6 oz.

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 10:15 a.m. at Bernadotte and 10:30 a.m. at First Lutheran. There will be no Sunday School on October 22 due to the MEA break.

Roger Currier memorial service

Swan Lake Lutheran member Roger Currier, 85, of Nicollet, passed away Monday, August 28. A memorial service will be held at Swan Lake Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 21 at 11:00 a.m., with lunch following.



**Hiphop artists
kick off first night of
Wednesday School**



It's safe to say that the kickoff to Fields of Grace's "Wednesday School" was "out of the ordinary." It was a hiphop evening with Agape (David Scherer) and Joe Davis keeping things lively! It was a fun evening for the kids (and their parents)! Wednesday School for fifth through ninth graders continues at First Lutheran School.

