



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<http://www.fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 8, Issue 2 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran September 2018

## FOG Worship Schedule Notes—Mark Your Calendars!

**Sunday, September 2**—Joint Service at Swan Lake, 9:30 am

**Sunday, September 9**—Good Neighbor Sunday, Lafayette Mini-Park, 10:30 service, brats, burgers and beer lunch, kids' games & music

**Sunday, September 16**—Service times change (Bernadotte & First)

**Sunday, September 23**—usual morning service times, with Heidi's Ordination at Cokato at 3:00 p.m.

## Good Neighbor Sunday

Sunday, September 9 is "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday across the ELCA. FOG will acknowledge this special day by inviting our neighbors to a party at the Lafayette Mini-Park.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Check the poster on page 7 for more info. There is no charge and everyone is invited. Bring your friends and neighbors.

FOG members are asked to bring salads and/or desserts. Ask your church ladies for info.

## Heidi's ordination

Let's celebrate with Heidi! Heidi has completed her internship and will be ordained Sunday, September 23, at 3:00 pm at her home congregation, Cokato Evangelical Lutheran. All are welcome to attend the celebratory worship in Cokato. A reception will follow.

Check the poster on page 8 for details.



## It hasn't been easy

This was Monday, August 13 in "downtown Bernadotte" but things are looking up! Even with weekly rain showers, work is moving along on the reconstruction of County Road 10 through Bernadotte. Things look better and everyone is hopeful that the project will soon be done.

## Remember—Service times changes

Service times change on September 16. Bernadotte will worship at 9:30 a.m. and First Lutheran at 11:00 a.m. for this school year.

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Monday, September 10, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Monday, September 17, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wednesday, September 26, 7:45 FLC

## FOG seeks person with web knowledge

The Fields of Grace council is looking for someone with a basic knowledge of web pages to keep the new FOG web page up-to-date. The job would be to post newsletters, columns, etc. on the page. Minister Heidi and/or communications coordinator Ruth Klossner will submit the items to be posted—it's just a matter of updating the site. This could be a job for a high school or college student or anyone else. If interested, contact Minister Heidi.



**Note time changes!**

## FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Bernadotte Lutheran—9:30 a.m.—Communion the 2nd Sunday of the month

First Lutheran—11:00 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month

### Heidi's Reflections

CNN recently published an article entitled "Ten reasons Americans go to church—and nine reasons they don't." The study suggests that there is an under-served group of believers "who seem like they'd actually like to go to religious services—if only someone could help get them there and welcome them when they arrive."

I'm going to write a "Light for the Way" article about this for an upcoming issue of the *Lafayette Nicollet Ledger* but, for the purpose of this newsletter, I simply want to say: this is one of the reasons why FOG is hosting Good Neighbor Sunday on September 9.

There are many families—and older adults, too—who live in the Lafayette area who have no church home.

According to the CNN article, we just need to invite them and/or help them get to church, and then welcome them. One church consultant who surveyed guests at many congregations found that church members perceive their church to be friendly, but the guests typically saw church members as unfriendly. That chasm makes all the difference.

As witnesses to God, in Christ through the Holy Spirit, it is our "duty and our joy" (as I say in the Holy Communion liturgy) to extend hospitality to all people, especially our neighbors. I hope that y'all will show up on Sunday, September 9, for worship at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at noon with our neighbors! And don't come alone. Invite your neighbor to come with you!

**To contact Heidi: 507-766-2729 or heidijohagstrom@gmail.com**

### Safety in Numbers event for senior citizens

The Winthrop Area Ministerium, along with the Good Samaritan Center, is offering an event for senior citizens and their families called "Safety in Numbers" on Saturday, September 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hahn's in Winthrop. The event is free and includes lunch. Registration is at 10:00 a.m.

Speakers (starting at 10:30 a.m.) will discuss financial

planning for assisted living and longterm care, safety in taking medications, general fraud and scams, and Medicare fraud. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. There will be people and information booths with additional info on blood pressure checks, vision issues, transportation options, dental care, food assistance programs and nutrition, diabetes information, and more.

### BLC outdoor service

The fourth and final outdoor service in the Bernadotte Church Park will be Sunday, August 26, 11:00 a.m., with music by Alan and Matt Carlson.

### FOG Bible study to resume

The Fields of Grace weekly bible study will resume Monday, September 17, 9:30-10:30 at First Lutheran.

### Farmers and those in ag

The current stress and/or financial worries for many area farmers are greater than ever. For those who need assistance, help is available at the MN Farm and Rural Helpline, 833.600.2670. Or try Ted Matthews at U of M Extension at 320.266.2390.

Also the National Suicide Prevention number is 800-273-8255. Additionally, Minister Heidi is also a resource at 507-766-2729.

This link is an online video that may be of help—<https://www.facebook.com/RoadTripLis-tenToAmerica>.

You are not alone. Help and support is available!

### Couples' shower planned

An open house couple's shower for Jenna Krzmarzick and Elias Webster of Bernadotte will be held Sunday, August 26, following the 11:00 a.m. outdoor service. The shower will be in the church basement.

Parents of the couple are Dennis and Diane Krzmarzick, Kim Locher, Casey Seabright, and the late Eric Webster.

### Bernadotte joint meeting & 90th B'day

The BLC WELCA/LCM joint meeting and hamburger fry will be Sunday, September 23, right after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. It will include cake and ice cream in honor of Vern Paulson's 90th birthday. Servers: Jerome/Shawn Anderson, Bob/Jackie Helget, Jerry/Julia Oscarson, and Doris/Myron Kaduce. Devotions: Sally Webster.

# SEPTEMBER 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 16-Mike Hoffmann & Connor Hoffmann; 23-Harley Sjogren & Denny Sjogren; 30-Matt Hagberg & Mark Hagberg  
**Greeter:** Randy Altmann  
**Reader:** Mary Martens  
**Liturgist:** 16-Jorja Langhoff; 23 & 30-Charlie Hartley  
**Communion Bread** (4th Sunday): Joyce Reese  
**Altar:** Lori Brethorst, Sheri Portner & Angie Hartmann  
**Coffee Servers:** 16-Shauna Hoffmann & Jil Haler; 23-Harley Sjogren & Deanna Sjogren; 30-Sandy Burger & Laurie Larson

## Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Brenda Lindmeyer & Pam White  
**Acolyte:** Austin Gieseke  
**Readers:** 16-Shaun Anderson; 23-Steve Sjostrom; 30-Tim Schulz  
**Ushers:** Jim Young, Carol Young, Brad White, Pam White, Jeff Young  
**Communion (Sept. 9):** S-Jim Young; C-Tim Schulz; U-Deb Sjostrom & Dwayne Ross  
**Coffee Servers:** yet to be set up

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## Christian education at Fields of Grace

Church as we knew it in rural, central Minnesota is changing. One of the traditions that has long been meaningful is Sunday School. Gone are the days when children come flooding into the building, eager to join their peers in grade-based classrooms distinguished by colorful posters on the walls, boxes of crayons next to bibles, next to cardboard offering boxes on the shelves, and the sound of joyful music in the air.

Now there aren't enough children per grade to create separate classrooms and, even if there were, there are few-to-no adults willing to teach. The children who do come to Sunday School on Sunday morning are often dropped off by parents or grandparents, they are tired and distracted, and many can only come when it is their weekend to be with mom or dad who are divorced and sharing custody. I'm not judging that reality, just stating it.

Even in light of these challenges, there still is a deep desire to pass the beloved Christian faith on to the next generation, and to see them carry it into the future. How will Fields of Grace do that faithfully?

First, we will acknowledge reality. Here is what I know:

- 1) There are no children at Swan Lake
- 2) There are 18 (or so) children pre-K through grade five who have been affiliating with First Lutheran
- 3) There is one fourth grader at Bernadotte, and three younger children whose parents have weekend responsibilities meaning they can't attend regularly.

So here is how we have decided to serve the children and families of our parish, and others who are curious about the Christian faith and way of life.

Carmen Broste has agreed to teach children in grades 1-4 on Sunday mornings at First Lutheran. We are looking for someone to teach children pre-school through kindergarten at First Lutheran. We have designed a schedule of four- to five-week blocks. If you are willing to teach for one or more blocks, please let Carmen (507-276-3179) or Heidi (507-766-2729) know sooner rather than later!

Bernadotte will have Family Faith Night on a semi-regular basis. The families with young children will meet with

Heidi to share a meal, a lesson, and a fun, faith-forming activity. When that schedule is determined, we will let the whole parish know the details.

### Wednesday School

The learning and fellowship opportunity for students in grades 5-9 will start September 19. Fifth and sixth graders will meet with Mark Haler, youth worker, for a kind of pre-Confirmation learning opportunity, and Heidi will teach the Confirmation students in grades 7-9. The Wednesday night option will be held at First Lutheran. Young people are welcome to arrive at 5:00 p.m. A simple meal will be served at 5:30. Class will start at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. The evening will conclude at 7:30 p.m.

Parents/grandparents and other adults are welcome to join us for the meal and worship. Adults are also welcome to observe the classes.

Families of children preschool through grades nine will receive a letter from Heidi by the end of August with the full schedule.

## Teachers needed

Can't see yourself making a commitment to teach Sunday School for nine months? Can you commit to teaching children for four or five weeks? FOG has organized the Sunday School year into four- or five-week blocks.

The first block is just five weeks—September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14. The second block is just four weeks—October 28, November 4, 11, 18.

Starting in mid-November, most of the class time at First Lutheran will include preparing for the Christmas Program, and Carmen Broste will direct those sessions. The Sunday School Christmas Program will take place during worship at First Lutheran on December 9.

If you can fill this important role in the lives of our children, please let Carmen (507-276-3179) or Heidi (507-766-2729) know sooner than later!



The weather was absolutely perfect for Swan Lake's 150th anniversary service Sunday, August 19. The audience overflowed the tent set up for the outdoor service.

Minister Heidi presided. Special music was provided by national known artist Rachel Kurtz. Will played the keyboard.



Right after the service, Heidi dedicated a monument recognizing the church's 150th anniversary.

With limited parking on site, volunteers brought visitors to the church on ATVs—and John Nelson's limousine.





## Celebrating 150 Years at Swan Lake

Dorothy Christenson and Orpha Hermel were confirmed at Swan Lake July 23, 1939, wearing matching dresses. Hermel still has hers and brought it along.



About two dozen descendants of early Swan Lake members Jens Christian “Christ” and Emily (Monson) Nelson attended the celebration. The Nelsons had six children—Alvin, Verna (Foster), Bernard, Morris, Kenneth and Evan—and all lived in the area.



Confirmation class members helped out by serving beverages.

## Good News Items from the FOG churches

Bernadotte member Arlin Nelson and frequent BLC visitor JoAnn Kolbaske have combined to serve Bismarck Township for nearly 80 years as township treasurer and clerk, respectively. Kolbaske will retire the end of this year after 40 years. Nelson will finish his current term two years from now at 41 years and figures he will run again. Kolbaske got the job as a write-in candidate. Neither has ever had anyone file against them in all the years they’ve been in office.



Jason Ross of Bernadotte had a major role in the recent production of The Wizard of Oz in Winthrop. Jason played the role of the Scarecrow—and admitted to doing some ad-libbing in the performances.



## Just One Life Matters program at Hector Sunday, September 9

Suicide is the second leading cause of death of persons ages 10 to 34. In response, the Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart pastors and ministry leaders have begun a conversation with the school district regarding depression, mental health, and suicide.

Just One Life Matters, a suicide prevention event, will be held at BLHS High School in Hector Sunday, September 9 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The program will include Hip-hop artist Kaboose, regional and national suicide prevention resources,

and Sam Eaton, founder of Recklessly Alive Ministries, who will share his story about the day suicide didn't win.

Though the subject matter is a tender topic for some, people who have attended Just One events leave uplifted, educated, and more prepared to continue the conversation about suicide, depression, and mental health.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be door prizes and snacks.



**BLC  
outdoor  
service**

Bernadotte's third of four scheduled outdoor services was held Sunday, August 12—on a beautiful but warm day!



Guest musicians were The Larsons (Gerry & Carol), with vocalist Jodi Poehler.



Gerry Larson, now 80, recalled that the first time he performed in public was at BLC when he was eight years old!

Communion was celebrated by intinction at the outdoor service.

The Andersons served refreshments.

BLC's final outdoor service is Sunday, August 26.

*Thanks to Deb Sjostrom for taking photos*



# FIELDS OF GRACE PARISH

Invites **YOU** to Be Our Guest

# Good Neighbor Sunday

Lafayette  
Mini Park  
Next to Community Center

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

10:30 WORSHIP • FREE NOON MEAL

Join us for Burgers, Brats, Beer,  
Kids Games & Music

Please bring a  
non-perishable  
food item to  
support  
the area  
food shelf.



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By the Grace of God and the call of the church

*Heidi Jo Hagstrom*

will be ordained to the ministry of Word and  
Sacrament in Christ's one, holy and apostolic Church.

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Rev. Jon Anderson,  
Bishop of Southwestern MN  
Synod, ELCA presiding

Your prayers and presence  
are requested

Reception to follow

*September 23, 2018*

3:00 p.m.

Cokato Evangelical Lutheran Church  
280 3rd St SW, Cokato, Minnesota