



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<http://www.fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 8, Issue 3

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

October 2018



## Swan Lake Men's Breakfast planned Saturday, October 6

The annual men's breakfast at Swan Lake Lutheran Church will be a fundraising benefit for Theresa (Martens) Kampa who is waiting for her fourth kidney transplant.

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

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

Everyone welcome!

## FLC's Fall Festival will be on Sunday, November 18

First Lutheran has changed it's annual Fall Festival from a Saturday to Sunday—November 18. The day will start with a joint service at First, followed by a meal of bone-in ham, meatballs, real mashed potatoes, corn, cole slaw, dessert, milk, and egg coffee. There will also be a bake sale, craft sale, free kids' bingo, napkins, cards, raffle, and silent auction.

Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

## BLC to host Vryheid 10th anniversary celebration

The 10th anniversary of the Minnesota Valley Conference/Vryheid Circuit, South Africa, partnership will be celebrated at Bernadotte Thursday, October 4. The BLC WELCA will serve a meal at 6:00 p.m. The event is open to all interested.

Pastor Heidi will take over leadership of the group at this meeting. The group is still looking for a volunteer leader.



## 'Education Sunday'

With Sunday, September 16 being the first day of Sunday School at the Fields of Grace churches, it was "Education Sunday." At First Lutheran, the Sunday and Wednesday School teachers were installed, followed by the Blessing of the Backpacks for students, teachers, and others involved with the schools. There was a "moving audience" for the Blessing of the Backpacks at Bernadotte.



## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Monday, October 1, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Monday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wednesday, November 28, 7:45 p.m., FLC

# 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

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## Pastor Heidi's Reflections

I love the Fall season. September feels more like a “new year” than January, and October’s changing palette reminds me that change can be beautiful. Who among us doesn’t marvel at the transforming landscape as tree leaves turn from lush green to gorgeous shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, and brown?

In particular this year, I am finding God in the fresh start that the Fall brings. Thankfully, God is clearly a fan of giving us fresh starts. We can see examples of God’s offer of a fresh start in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, in covenants God made in the Old Testament, and in the many Gospel stories of people Jesus healed.

Fresh starts are everywhere in our relationship with God, so the question becomes whether we’re prepared to take God up on that offer. My mind turns to the story of

the rich young man, who asks Jesus what he needs to do to gain eternal life. Jesus gives him an incredible offer, which I will paraphrase as, “Drop everything and follow me; start fresh.” Unfortunately, at least in that moment, the young man just couldn’t take the offer. Something held him back.

This October, perhaps it would do us all well to take some time to think about what is holding us back from a fresh start. Is it time to give up a bad habit? To devote more of our precious time to those in our lives who need that time more than we do? Is it time to come back to worship after having stepped back for a while? Whatever the case may be, I pray that we all experience the excitement, the freedom, and the beauty that come of the fresh start that God unfailingly offers to us all.

**To contact Heidi: 507-766-2729 or [pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com)**

## Carl and Dorothy to celebrate 70 years of marriage



Carl and Dorothy Martens of First Lutheran will celebrate their 70th anniversary at an open house Sunday, October 7. It will be from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the New Ulm Country Club, 1 Golf Drive, New Ulm. Everyone is welcome—your presence is your gift. Carl and Dorothy were married October 3, 1948.

## Baptisms at Bernadotte

Clinton Garret Prah, infant son of Chaz and Addie Prah, was baptized at Bernadotte Sunday, August 26. His grandparents are Kevin and Rosanne Johnson and Clayton and Rita Prah and great-grandparents are Ruth Prah and Val and Barb Miller, Clinton’s sponsors are Beth and Scott Erdal, Laura Prah, and Leah Prah.

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Isabelle Ruth Harris-Peterson, daughter of Katie and Christopher Harris-Peterson, will be baptized at BLC on Sunday, September 30. Isabelle was born June 18, 2018. Her sponsors are Ashli Leighton and Dustin Sievert.

## FOG Bible study

Fields of Grace weekly bible study will be held each Monday in October, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at First Lutheran. Everyone welcome!

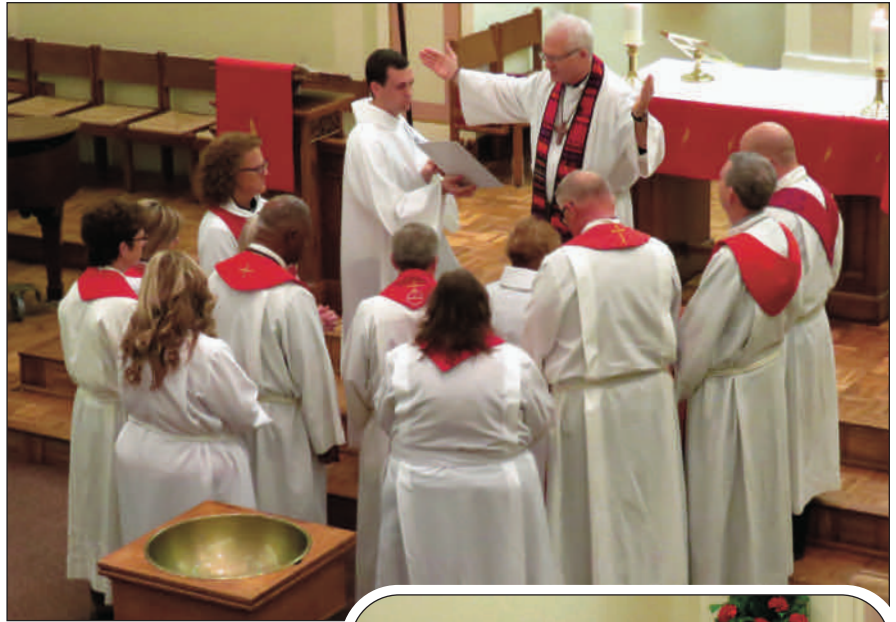
## Youth education schedule

Sunday School continues each Sunday, from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m., at First Lutheran—with the exception of October 21 (MEA break).

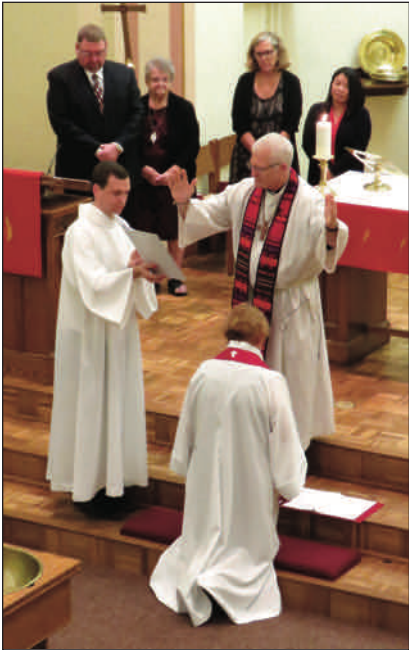
Wednesday School classes for grades 5 thru 10 begin with supper at 5:30, followed by class at 6:00, and worship at 7:00 p.m. No class October 17 for MEA break. October 31 will be a Halloween party.

## WELCA Fall Gathering

The Fall Gathering of the Minnesota Valley Conference Women of the ELCA will be held Saturday, October 13, at Augustana Lutheran in Gibbon. Registration and coffee is at 9:00 a.m., with the gathering from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Lunch follows. Those planning to attend should RSVP by October 1 to Sue Bentz at 507-381-3685 or [suzbentz@gmail.com](mailto:suzbentz@gmail.com). Cost (including lunch) is \$10, payable that day.



## It's *PASTOR Heidi* now!



Quite a few Fields of Grace members traveled to Cokato Sunday, Sept. 23 for Heidi's ordination at Cokato Ev.

Lutheran. Many were involved in the service as presenter, readers, ushers, and musicians.



Rachel Kurtz (who also sang at Swan Lake's 150th)



Pastor Heidi with Rev. Kelly Chatman. Although he spoke about chickens in his sermon, he didn't know that Heidi keeps chickens at the parsonage!



# OCTOBER 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 7-Tristan Sjogren & Eric Sjogren; 14-Al Hagberg & Jamie Friedrichs; 21-Randy Altmann & Randy Sandquist; 28-Connor Hoffmann & Jacob Broste

**Greeter:** Sandy Burger      **Reader:** Sandy Burger

**Liturgist:** 7 & 14-Charles youngblom; 21 & 28-Charlie Hartley

**Communion Bread** (1st & 4th Sundays): Joyce Reese

**Altar:** Trudi Hofstad & Dawn Stevenson

**Coffee Servers:** 7-Harley & Deanna Sjogren; 14 & 21-Emily & Wendy Hagberg; 28-(Confirmation breakfast), Mark Haler & Elmar Kamm

## Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Daniel Fenske & Elias Webster

**Acolyte:** Anna Peters

**Readers:** 7-Trish Gieseke, 14-Austin Gieseke, 21-Bob Helget, 28-Jim Bartels

**Ushers:** Deb, Steve & Jacob Sjostrom, Kyle Dalquist & Jim Henderson

**Communion (Oct. 14):** S-Deb Sjostrom; C-Steve Radke; U-Shaun Anderson & Trish Gieseke

**Coffee Servers:** 7-open; 14-Sally Webster; 21-confirmation cake; 28-open.



## After the ordination...congratulations and 'a little lunch'



Heidi greeted the guests at the back of the church following the service. Little Will made sure he got a hug! In true Lutheran fashion, everyone enjoyed "a little lunch" in the basement fellowship hall afterwards.



## Eight will be confirmed October 28

Confirmation, which is now commonly called Affirmation of Baptism, is the time when young people declare for themselves that they will live out the promises made for them by their parents, sponsors, and the congregation in their baptism (that is, of course, assuming that they were baptized as an infant).

The pastor who preached at my ordination says that "The intent for confirmation is to support faith formation, which translates into ministry in daily living." Young people, he says, are like the rest of the church where our ministry occurs in everyday living. With adults, ministry happens in households, on the job, and in community. This is also true for young people. Faith formation may happen in the congregation, but the application is in the classroom, on the athletic field, in band, and trying to juggle a part-time job.

On Sunday, October 28, eight young people will affirm their baptismal faith—Eli Drummer and Austin Gieseke at Swan Lake; Marissa Anderson, Mia Ross, and Brock Peterson at Bernadotte; and Bailey Langhoff, Tyson Hutton, and Harley Sjogren at First Lutheran.

While confirmation is a time-honored rite of passage in our Lutheran tradition, we tend to treat confirmation like the finish line when it really is more like the starting gate. Please continue to pray for these young people, and invite them to share their gifts with the parish community. Ask them to serve on committees, to be worship leaders, to usher, and to serve at events. Most importantly, notice them, engage with them, ask them about their life of faith, and let them know they are a valued part of the community of faith.



# Good Neighbor Day at Lafayette Mini-Park

Fields of Grace's first Good Neighbor Day featured an outdoor worship service, music, food and special events—all on a beautiful day!



Mary Kavan provided the music with Minister Heidi giving the message and a special children's sermon.



Special guests from Hutchinson got the audience involved after the service.



Jon and Charlie Hartley grilled burgers, brats and pork chops.



Everyone enjoyed the great meal that included salads and desserts and the kids enjoyed games set up for them.





### Celebrating Vern's 90th

Vern Paulson's family served cake and coffee and provided the meat for BBQs at Bernadotte's WELCA/LCM "Hamburger Fry" Sunday, September 23.



*In addition to this newsletter, there are several other ways to stay in touch with everything that's happening at our churches*

1) Fields of Grace website—  
[fieldsofgracemn.com](http://fieldsofgracemn.com)

2) New email contacts  
[pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
(Heidi)

[communications@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:communications@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
(Ruth K)

[president@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:president@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
(Brad D)

[secretary@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:secretary@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
(Lori F)

3) Bernadotte's Facebook Page  
The BLC page features news and photos from all three churches



### BLC's final outdoor service held indoors

Alan & Matt Carlson provided the music and little Clinton Prahl was baptized at the August 26 service.



## State 4-H Results for our Youth

### MN State 4-H Horse Show

Clarissa Giefer, (Tim & Lorie, SL)— winner of the MN 4-H Saddle Seat Challenge Cup; 1st, saddle seat equitation; 2nd, saddle seat pleasure; 3rd, hunt seat pleasure. Clarissa also placed in all her classes in the State Fair Horse Show open shows.

### MN State Fair 4-H Shows

Austin Gieseke (John & Trish, BLC), purple, photography.

Ben Radke (Steve & Judy, BLC)— 1st purple, crossbred Jan. gilt.

Jasenko Gavranovic (Beth, FL)— 1st purple, reg. Holstein winter yearling.



Tarik Gavranovic (Beth, FL), 10th purple, reg. Holstein fall calf. (Above)