



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<http://www.fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 8, Issue 5

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

December 2018

Holiday Schedule

- Community Christmas Sing-a-long, Sun., Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m., Bernadotte Lutheran
- First Lutheran Sunday School Christmas program, Sun., Dec. 16, during 11:00 a.m. worship; BBQ lunch follows
- Joint Service—Sun., Dec. 23, 9:30 a.m., Bernadotte; fellowship follows
- Christmas Worship Services—7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve at Swan Lake; 9:00 p.m., Christmas Eve at First; and 8:00 a.m. Christmas morning at Bernadotte
- Joint Service—Sun., Dec. 30, 9:30 a.m., Swan Lake

Meeting Dates

- FOG Council, Wed., Nov. 28, 7:45, FLC
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m.
- BLC Council—Mon., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Annual Meeting—Sun., Jan. 20, during 9:30 worship service
- First Lutheran Annual Meeting—Sun., Jan. 27, during 11:00 a.m. service

First Lutheran Sunday School program ~date changed to December 16~

First Lutheran's Sunday School program will be held Sunday, December 16 during the 11:00 a.m. morning worship service. This is a change from the originally scheduled date of Sunday, December 9.

A barbecue lunch will follow the program.

Practice for the program will be Sundays December 2 and 9. Also Saturday, December 15, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. A pizza lunch will follow for the kids. Parents are asked to pick kids up at 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Sing-a-long at BLC

Bernadotte Lutheran will host the annual Lafayette Community Christmas Sing-a-long Sunday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

The event continues the nearly 50-year tradition—started by the Methodist Church in Lafayette—of gathering the community to sing Christmas carols and enjoy songs by church choirs and individuals.

Anyone wishing to sing or play an instrument is welcome—just come that night and tell those in charge that you want to participate.

The annual event began in 1972 when members of the Methodist Church gathered to sing carols—since they didn't have a Sunday School program. When the Methodist Church closed, the event first moved to St. Gregory the Great and First Lutheran, with Bernadotte now also taking a turn in the rotation.

Bernadotte WELCA will serve refreshments after the Sing-a-long. If you have questions, please contact Ruth at 507-240-0048.

Confirmation class enjoys pizza; tours funeral home



The FOG confirmation class took a field trip to New Ulm Wednesday, November 14. After supper at the Pizza Ranch, the kids visited Minnesota Valley Funeral Home. They also delivered Operation Christmas Child boxes while they were in New Ulm.



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

Pastor Heidi's Reflections

"... in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht... all is calm, all is bright

Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes... Noel, noel, noel

O come let us adore him... born is the king of Israel

A cave in Bethlehem echoes with songs of seekers... sleep in peace... Christ the savior is born... God is here...

We sing the familiar songs and our hearts swell as in the days in Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph, shepherds and angels, wise magi from the east... God is here! The good news bursts from the scriptures as men and women discovered in the life and death of Jesus, "God is here".

The lives of Mary and Joseph were filled with extraordinary experiences. It's not always easy to handle surprises. Mary treasured and reflected on events. The shepherds glorified God. Others who heard the story were astonished.

When we accept that God acts in our lives, we must respond—respond with trust and love—as we are loved by God.

May the song continue in our hearts, for we now carry the

manger in Bethlehem within us. The holy place of Israel has become the holy place in our own lives, in our hearts and souls. God is here! In the silence and stillness of our own Bethlehem, our voices can sing with the voices of seekers throughout the ages: God is here, God is truly here. And as our lives reflect the God who is here with us the world sees the Christ of God born ever anew, and joins the song!

Wedding bells

Pastor Heidi will officiate at the wedding of Tanisha Chege and Kris Selbrade of Lafayette at First Lutheran Church Saturday, December 1. Their daughter Kennedy Lynn was baptized at First in April. Kris also has a son, Junior, who attends Washington Elementary School. Tanisha is a nurse at the State Hospital in St. Peter and Kris works for Woodville Pork. Congratulations on your wedding!

To contact Heidi: 507-766-2729 or pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com

Operation Christmas Child boxes delivered

After putting them together, the FOG confirmation class delivered Operation Christmas Child boxes to the dropoff site, the New Ulm Methodist Church, last week. Generous First Lutheran parishioners donated \$185 to ship the 19 boxes which will be distributed to children in any of over 100 countries. For many, it will be the first time those kids receive a gift box and the



message of the Christmas story. After receiving a shoebox gift, the children can enroll in a 12-lesson discipleship program. Through them, families can learn about Christ, new churches start, and communities transform.

DECEMBER 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 2 & 9-Jim Langhoff & Riley Hoffmann; 16-Corey Langhoff & Bailey Langhoff; 23 & 30-Joint services; Christmas Eve-Jon Hartley & Todd Nelson
Greeter: Dawn Stevenson
Reader: Linda Youngblom
Liturgist: 2, 9 & 16-Jorja Langhoff; 16 & 23-Joint services
Altar: Lila Ellies & Amy Davis
Coffee Servers: 2-Char & Todd Nelson; 9-Shauna Hoffmann & Jil Haler; 16-Diane Durham & Mindy Engel; 16 & 23-joint services.

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Abby Bartels & Jill Bartels
Acolyte: Ben Radke
Readers: 2-Ruth Klossner; 9-Sally Webster; 16-Shaun Anderson; 23-Steve Sjostrom; Christmas-Tim Schulz
Ushers: Tim Schulz, Wendy Schulz, Elias Webster, Jill Bartels, Abby Bartels
Communion (Dec. 11 & 25): S-Tim Schulz; C-Trish Gieseke; U-Lori Fenske & Shaun Anderson
Coffee Servers: 2-Advent Dinner; 9, 16 & 23 hosts needed (23 is joint service at Bernadotte).

Wednesday School

Fifth through ninth graders will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at First Lutheran. Classes will be on December 5, 12 and 19. Dinner is served at 5:30, class starts at 6:00 and concludes at 7:30 pm.

FOG Bible study

Fields of Grace Monday morning Bible study will meet at First Lutheran, December 3, 10, and 17, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

BLC WELCA events open to all

• All ladies from the Fields of Grace churches are invited to a brunch, hosted by the Bernadotte women, Saturday, January 12 at Hahn's. Sign up at BLC or call Rosanne at 507-276-8251.

• Bernadotte's WELCA is planning a trip to the Church Basement Ladies *You Smell Barn* in Burnsville, Sun., Feb. 10 at 2:00 p.m. Men, women & kids invited. Cost is \$33. Sign up with Rosanne or Shaun (507-381-3858) **by Sunday, December 16** so tickets can be ordered.

Upcoming Area Events

- Christmas in the Country—Main Street Activities in Winthrop, Santa at RS Fiber Bldg.; Fri., Nov. 30, 4-8 pm.
- St. Gregory the Great Cookie Walk—Sat., Dec. 8, 9 am-1 pm.
- Santa Day in Lafayette—Tues., Dec. 11, Lafayette Community Center, 4:30-6:30 pm
- Trinity Lutheran's Christmas in the Barn—Mon., Dec. 24, services at 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, and 4 pm; David Kahle farm, a mile north of the Sibley Township church.

All Saints Sunday November 4

Family members who have gone on before were remembered at all three churches



on November 4, All Saints Sunday. Photos were displayed and candles lit in remembrance. At Bernadotte, Henry and Lucy were more than happy to help with putting the candles out afterwards.



Bernadotte Notes

- Advent Dinner, Sunday, December 2, 10:45 a.m. Coordinators: Trish Gieseke & Denise Johnson. Servers A-L.
- Executive & Finance Committees, Sunday, December 2, after dinner and Wednesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.
- Witness and Service Committee is planning a Mission Sunday—Food for Kids bagging event in early April 2019; final date TBA. For all ages; will include a devotion and pizza meal in the BLC basement.



First Lutheran Church's Fall Festival

First Lutheran changed its Fall Festival to a Sunday, the 18th of November. The day started with a joint worship service with the Cedar Creek Gospel Band. A variety of activities started immediately afterwards—a silent auction, a bake sale, a craft sale, kids' bingo, a raffle, and sales of greeting cards and napkins. The day also included a delicious ham and meatball dinner with all the fixings and great desserts.

