



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<http://www.fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 8, Issue 6

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

January 2019



## FLC Memorial Garden

First Lutheran is adorned with dozens of poinsettias for Christmas. The flowers are a memorial garden, given in memory or in honor of family or friends.

## Brady Webster benefit

A community benefit is being organized to help Brady Webster with medical expenses after receiving a kidney/pancreas transplant.

The Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast will be held Sunday, March 10 at the UFC Berdan Center in Winthrop. More details will follow in future newsletters.

## Sunday School

Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 6 at First Lutheran Church.

## Wednesday School

Wednesday School restarts after the Christmas break at First Lutheran, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., on January 9. Everyone in grades five through nine is welcome. The church will be open and staffed starting at 5:00 pm.

**Joint Service**  
**Sun., Dec. 30 at Swan Lake**  
Fellowship at 8:30 a.m, Worship at 9:30 a.m.

## Annual Meeting Dates Set

- Bernadotte—Sun., Jan. 20, during 9:30 a.m. service; alt. date Jan. 27
- Swan Lake—Sunday, January 20
- First Lutheran—Sunday, January 27, during 11:00 a.m. service

## Weekly Bible Study

Bible study will resume Monday, January 7, from 9:30 to 10:30 at First Lutheran. We will use a video series by Dr. Craig Koester of Luther Seminary, "Is This the Time? Interpreting the Mystery of Revelation" to lead us through a fascinating study of the book of Revelation. Revelation is a book that served as a source of comfort and hope to early Christians and serves today as the basis for much of our Christian hymnody and liturgy.

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Jan. 7, 5:30 p.m. at First
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., BLC
- FOG Council—Wed., Jan. 30, 7:45 p.m., FLC

## FLC Scholarship Applications Due

First Lutheran youth are reminded to submit their applications for the John S. Johnson and the Roman & Elvira Fischer scholarship programs by Sunday, January 13. Grades and completed applications can be put in the offering plate or dropped off at Citizens Bank (attn. Laura).

## BLC WELCA events

Women from all Fields of Grace churches are invited to Bernadotte WELCA's 2019 First of the Year Brunch. It's Saturday, January 12, at 9:00 a.m. at Hahn's Dining in Winthrop. It's a fun time to visit over a good meal. Please feel free to bring a guest(s). Please RSVP to Rosanne Johnson at 507-276-8251 or [krjohnson@centurylink.net](mailto:krjohnson@centurylink.net) ASAP.

Bernadotte's WELCA is planning a trip to the Church Basement Ladies *You Smell Barn* in Burnsville, Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. Men, women & kids invited. Cost is \$33. Sign up with Rosanne or Shaun (507-381-3858) **by Sunday, January 6** so tickets can be ordered.

# 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 meet monthly with a spiritual director.

Spiritual direction is an ancient ministry of the church. It is a relationship in which one person assists another in attending to God's presence and call. In December, my spiritual director asked me what my prayer for my parish is. Without hesitation I said that I pray that the Spirit would empower every person to fall in love with Jesus.

We don't often use language of falling in love when we think about God's relationship with us, but it is something worth pondering in 2019. To assist with your pondering, I have reflected on five aspects of the Love of Christ, using the Apostle Paul's encounter with Jesus in Acts 9 as an example.

*Love is a two-way street.*

*Love grows over time.*

*Love is constantly new.*

*Love is the "trump card" in life.*

*Love is open to the future.*

To read more about them, click on this link: <https://fieldsofgracemn.com/fellowship/reflections/>.

In the meantime, I pray that God pursue you like a suitor in pursuit of the love of his or her life, and that the Spirit empower you to surrender to God's pursuit and allow yourself to fall in love with Jesus.

## Fields of Grace website reaches far beyond our churches

I have never been one who thinks churches need to chase the latest trends. There is no secret tool that guarantees successful ministry. As people of faith, we trust that God is doing a new thing in the world and our mission is to be part of God's work. We are called to serve God and neighbor in a particular place at a particular time.

My assessment is that Fields of Grace—and all other Christian congregations in our area—are struggling to know how to reach our neighbors with the Good News of Christ's love in this particular place at this particular time. Much has changed and yet, I suspect, because of our demographics, much remains the same. Therefore, we exist in a both/and reality. We know that many people interact with their neighbors and the world through social media, and yet we serve a population that hasn't yet entered that new reality, and likely never will.

In an attempt to serve a changing culture, the Fields of Grace website (<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>) has gotten a facelift. Later in this article I will highlight a couple of new features but, before I do that, I want to explain briefly why I think it is important.

**An online presence is our "front door."**

Fewer and fewer people are willing to try something new, like a restaurant, without first learning about it. The same is true for church. Most people say they will visit a church website before ever visiting the church. This places a huge value on our parish's website. And because Google has made it so our website can, and will, be found by anyone interested in our parish, we

need to put our best foot forward by having a good one.

**A long-term outreach resource**

Our parish's website can serve as a huge resource to not only our members, but also to our local community—and anywhere else with an Internet connection. What we put online can serve nearly anyone in the world—at no additional cost! That means that not only does our website have great value today, it has potential to grow increasingly valuable with time.

**Our online "hub"**

Social media is great for interaction, but we never know what the next trend will be or which groups will choose to move onto the next new thing. Email and websites have proven themselves to be the guaranteed way to keep in long-term contact with an audience. Rather than banking on information being sent out to and received by a general audience over social media, we can have everything people need available on our website. This way, when all other communication fails, people know where to go.

**Focus on [www.fieldsofgracemn.com](http://www.fieldsofgracemn.com)**

The calendar feature is the most dynamic aspect of our new website. We are attempting to keep all three congregations' calendar items on that one calendar. I hope you can begin to see it as your one-stop, most-reliable place for information. It also features the scripture texts around which worship is designed each week. I know of at least one person who regularly reads the texts before coming to worship as a way of "priming the pump," so to speak, so the Holy Spirit can work God's Word deep into his heart.

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

## Notes from Bernadotte Lutheran Church

• An Open House Bridal Shower honoring Jill Bartels will be held at BLC on Sunday, January 13 at 2:00 p.m. Jill is the bride-to-be of Ryan Petersen and the daughter of Jim and Konnie Bartels of New Ulm. Ryan is the son of Mike and Doris Petersen of Lakeville. Jill and Ryan are registered at Target and

Kohls. If you are interested in being a shower hostess, please contact Wendy Schulz or Pam White.

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• All reports for Bernadotte's annual meeting are due to Lori Fenske by January 16 or earlier.





# First Lutheran Sunday School Christmas Program

The First Lutheran Sunday School students presented their Christmas program during the Sunday service December 16. Working together, they told the story "Christmas by the Book."



Students taking part were Ben Fredrichs, Zel-Marie Kamm, Jayden Broste, Tanner Johnson, Carli Hartmann, Madelyn Hartmann, Zanne Kamm, Haven Hagberg, Briana Engel, Owen Hartmann, Brennan Hagberg, Bodey Hagberg, Madden Hagberg, and Landon Fredrichs.

Ben Fredrichs and Jorja Langhoff narrated. Laurie Larson accompanied the students. The program concluded with the bell choir consisting of Brooklyn Hagberg, Avery Roiger, Ben Fredrichs, Zel-Marie Kamm, Jayden Broste, Tanner Johnson, and Briana Engel playing Silent Night.





# JANUARY 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: Merrill & Lila Ellies  
Greeters: Brian & Mary Martens  
Reader: Mary Martens  
Liturgist: 6 & 20-Charlie Hartley; 13 & 27-Jorja Langhoff  
Altar: Traci Abrahamson & Mary Martens  
Coffee Servers: 26-Tami Stadtherr & Nancie Carlson; 13-Sue Helget & Carrie Nelson; 20-Marie Carlson & Char Nelson; 27-Laurie Larson & Sandy Hartley.  
Communion Bread: Joyce Reese.

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ben & Andrew Radke  
Acolyte: Mia Ross  
Readers: 6-Trish Gieseke; 13-Austin Gieseke; 20-Jim Bartels; 27-Judy Radke.  
Ushers: Dwayne Ross, Judy Ross, Jason Rosss, Joel Anthony & Wanda Anthony  
Communion (Jan. 13): S-Dwayne Ross; C-Ruth Klossner; U-Rosanne Johnson & Tim Anderson  
Coffee Servers: 6, 20 & 27-open; 13-waffles in Lafayette.

## Lafayette Lions Club Waffle Breakfast Sunday, January 13

The Lafayette Lions invites everyone to its annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday, January 13. Serving is 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Community

Center.

Advance sale tickets for the breakfast are available from any Lion member or at Citizens Bank.



The 47th annual Lafayette Area Community Hymn Sing was held at Bernadotte Sunday evening, December 9. Musicians from area churches took part, singing solos or in a choir, or giving a reading. As always, there was group singing and the evening ended with goodies and fellowship. Special guests were the Neverly Brothers from Mankato.

Taking part, below, were Jim Van Maasdam, Pastor Heidi, Pegeen Rozeske, and the Neverly Brothers from Mankato, sponsored by Bernadotte. Bottom: the First Lutheran choir and the St. Gregory's choir. Carol Hoffmann also sang a solo. Everyone enjoyed refreshments in the church basement afterwards.

## Community Hymn Sing held at Bernadotte

