



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com/>

Vol. 9, Issue 3

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

October 2019



Swan Lake Men's Breakfast Saturday, October 5

The annual men's breakfast at Swan Lake Lutheran Church will be a fundraising benefit for Autumn Achey, a four-year-old who is battling leukemia.

The breakfast is Saturday, October 5, from 6:00 to 9:30 a.m., with a free will offering. Check the poster on page 7 for all the details.

Everyone welcome!

Safety Workshop & Resource Fair

FOG and the Lafayette Lions are co-sponsoring a Safety Workshop and Resource Fair Tuesday, October 1, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at First Lutheran. Check the poster on page 6 for more details.

Quilting Days at BLC

The Bernadotte ladies will be stitching and sewing in early November. Everyone is welcome to join them in making quilts Wednesday and Thursday, November 6-7, starting at 9:00 a.m. each day.

WELCA Fall Gathering

The Minnesota Valley Conference Women of the ELCA will hold its Fall Gathering Saturday, October 12 at Scandian Grove Lutheran Church. Registration and coffee hour is at 9:00 a.m., with the gathering at 9:30.

Speaker is Judy Watke on African Children Today.

Cost is \$10, including lunch. Those planning to go should contact Judy Schultz at 507-246-5016 by October 1.

FOG Bible study

Fields of Grace Bible Study will be held October 14, 21 and 28, at 9:30 a.m. at First Lutheran. (No session October 7) Bring your Bible.

FLC's Fall Festival set for Sunday, November 24

First Lutheran's Fall Festival Sunday, November 24 will begin with worship with the Cripple Creek Gospel Band, followed by a bone-in ham and meatball dinner, silent auction, quilt raffle, and kids' bingo.

More details next month.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—
Mon., October 7, 5:30 p.m., FLC
- FOG Council—Wed., October 23, 7:45 p.m., FLC
- Bernadotte Council—
Mon., November 18, 6:00 p.m., BLC



Third graders receive Bibles

First Lutheran Church presented Bibles to its third graders Sunday, September 15. Pastor Heidi had the kids put the Bibles to use immediately, as she had them find the Bible reading that she was using that day. The students are, from left: Addison Donay, Brianna Engel, Brec Reinhart, Madden Hagberg, and Bodey Hagberg.

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

Pastor Heidi's Reflections

Autumn has always been my favorite season. But, the older I get, autumn has started to lose its appeal, not just because I know winter is around the corner, but because the “autumn of life” seems to be getting closer and closer.

When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

“Autumn” only occurs once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to “autumn trees without fruit,” implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the “autumn of life”?

It is no secret that our congregations, and our denomination in general, is aging. There was an article circulating on the internet recently, written by a professor at Luther Seminary, asking if the ELCA, our denomination, will exist

in 30 years. The generation that the author calls the “legacy members” are dying, and they are not being replaced at the same rate.

What does that mean for the future of our church? How should we, as God's faithful people, respond?

One way we can respond as people approaching or in the autumn of our lives, is to embrace the transition, find new ways to serve, rather than retire from service. The author of the article suggests that we become more discerning about our investment of time, talent and resources. He suggests we “need to rediscover and reclaim the simple practices that Christians have always done—prayer, scripture study, service, reconciliation, Sabbath, hospitality, etc.—and make these the center of congregational life.”

What would our parish act like, look like, feel like, if those Christian practices were our sole focus?

To contact Heidi: 507-766-3471 or pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com

FOG churches assisting Weekend Food Program at LCS

The Children's Weekend Food Program (CWFP)—a program that provides food for children from the Lafayette Charter School whose families are food insecure—is now being administered out of First Lutheran.

Currently, 12 students take home enough food each Friday to carry them through the weekend.

You can contribute to the supply. Here is a list of what is accepted:

Individual-sized items like cold cereal or instant oatmeal

packets, fruit cups, hot chocolate packets, juice boxes, applesauce and pudding cups, peanut butter or cheese cracker packets, granola bars, peanuts, Ramen lunch cups, tuna or chicken salad kits, raisins and yogurt-covered raisins, single-serving size pretzels, Gold Fish, Teddy Grahams, Craisins. Also accepted is fresh produce such as apples, bananas, or carrots that can be distributed immediately. There is no refrigeration.

Donations may be placed in the baskets at the back of the sanctuary or dropped off at Citizens Bank in Lafayette.

Flu clinic at Lafayette

Nicollet County Public Health will be at the Lafayette Community Center Thursday, September 26, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. to give flu shots. Insurances accepted include Medicare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Humana, Aetna, Health Partners, Medica, and UCare. Private pay cost is \$40.

Public Health will also make stops at Nicollet and Courtland that day—9:00-10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church and 11:00-12:30 p.m. at the Courtland Community Center.

Community forum at Nicollet

A Night to Know the Truth will be held at Nicollet Public School Wednesday, October 2. The free presentation, hosted by The Know the Truth™ Prevention Program, will include a resource fair/free community dinner at 5:30 p.m. and an adult presentation to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Community leaders, parents, teachers and other concerned adults are invited to hear from the local drug task force, school administration, county attorney, and other professionals who work to educate the community on ways to combat teen substance use. This is an opportunity to learn ways that adults can intervene and help teens who may be struggling.

OCTOBER 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 6 & 27-Bob Youngblom & Tom Youngblom; 13-Myron Isaacson & Corey Langhoff; 20-Marti Uhde & Landon Uhde
Greeter: Norm & Steve Langhoff
Reader: Cindy Youngblom
Liturgist: 6 & 13-Charles Youngblom; 20 & 27-Charlie Hartley
Altar: Cindy Youngblom & Traci Abrahamson
Coffee Servers: 6-Lori Brethorst & Wendy Hagberg; 13-Myra Kienlen & Dawn Stevensen; 20-Wendy Hagberg & Emily Hagberg; 27-Confirmation
Communion Bread-Joyce Reese

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Daniel Fenske & Deb Sjostrom
Acolyte: Brock Peterson
Readers: 6-Ruth Klossner; 13-Sarah Johnson; 20-Shaun Anderson; 27-Joint Service at FLC
Ushers: Elias Webster, Steve Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Kyle Dalquist, Jim Henderson
Communion (Oct. 13): S-Elias Webster, C-Steve Radke, U-Shaun Anderson & Trish Gieseke
Coffee Servers: 6-Carol Anderson; 13-open; 20-Pam White & Wendy Schulz; 27-joint service at FLC



Blessing of the backpacks and teachers



With the new school year starting recently, school activities were also recognized at our churches. Sunday, September 8 was the "Blessing of the Backpacks" day at First Lutheran and Bernadotte

and FOG Sunday/Wednesday School teachers were installed at First. The teachers are, from left: Jami Morton, Sandy Hartley, Carmen Broste, Staci Reinhart, Jorja Langhoff, and Mark Haler.

Christian Education schedule

Regular Wednesday School will be held on October 2, 9, and 23. No class October 16, due to MEA. Weather permitting, the Wednesday School students will enjoy pizza in the cemetery, then will tour the New Ulm funeral home on Wednesday, October 30. Sunday School will be held October 6, 13, and 27. (No

class on the 20th).

Confirmation will be held during the joint FOG worship service at First Lutheran on Reformation Sunday, October 27. Kortney Ulrich, daughter of Brad and Holly Ulrich and granddaughter of Darlene Ulrich, will be confirmed that day.



Pastor Heidi welcomed this group of new members a First Lutheran on Sunday, September 23. From left: Jami Morton, and grandchildren Logan & Katelyn Morgan (not pictured Jami's husband, Michael);

Tanisha & Kristopher Selbrade and daughter Kennedy (not pictured son Kristopher Jr.); Sandy & Jeff Donnay and daughters Addison, Kaitlin & Jenna; Brad Woller; and Judy & Jim VanMaasdam.

Meet the new members welcomed at First Lutheran Church

Michael and Jami Morton

The Mortons moved to Lafayette from Las Vegas, Nevada—where they were both raised—in November 2018. They have four adult children—ranging in age from 35 to 44—and have 10 grandchildren, from two to 22 years old. They moved here after Michael became disabled, to get to know their son Mike's family better. They had only met his children—Katelyn, eight, and Logan, five, once before.

Mike was a truck driver when he could still work while Jami's last job was at the elementary school run by their church, First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Las Vegas. Jami's parents were married there and she was baptized and confirmed there. Being lifelong members of the FGSLC family make it very hard for them to leave.

Jim and Judy VanMaasdam

Jim is originally from a small Dutch community in Iowa while Judy is from Westbrook. They met after Jim's parents bought a farm near Westbrook when he was a sophomore in high school. Jim and Judy have been married 55 years and have lived in the Bernadotte/Lafayette area ever since.

They have two children—daughter Lisa and son Lon. Both are married and live in Gibbon. They have two grandchildren who live close by so they see them often.

Jim drove feed truck for 40 years and Judy was a supervisor at a small packaging plant for 25. They are both retired now and their vacations consist of fishing and hunting trips. They also love the western mountains.

Jeff and Sandy Donnay family

Jeff grew up in Glencoe and has worked at Form-A-Feed, Inc. in Stewart for 21 years. Sandy grew up near Buffalo Lake and has worked at New Ulm Medical Center for 12 years. She

is also in her sixth year owning a business called "Complete Relocation" which helps seniors who are moving to downsize, pack, unpack, and set up their new homes. Jeff and Sandy have three daughters—Kaitlin (13), Jenna (12) and Addison (8). They moved to a farmsite east of Lafayette (Elias Webster's former home) about two years ago. They enjoy camping, swimming at Grandma and Grandpa's farm, attending Kaitlin's sporting events, and the girls love to go shopping!

Kristopher and Tanisha Selbrade, Kennedy and Kristopher, Jr.

"Kristopher ("Kris") grew up in southern Minnesota and—along with his four younger brothers—spent a lot of time moving around the Fairfax area during his younger years.

Kris was blessed with Kristopher, Jr. in 2013 and decided to put roots down in Lafayette. He is a graduate of GFW and has enjoyed working as a maintenance supervisor at Woodville Pork and Pinedale Farms for almost six years. He grew up following the Lutheran faith. Kristopher, Jr. ("Junior") started first grade in New Ulm this fall.

Tanisha grew up in southwest Minnesota, is a graduate of ECHO Charter School, and obtained her nursing degree in 2015. She works at the Minnesota State Security Hospital as a state operated forensic registered nurse. She is currently working on her bachelor's degree in nursing. She grew up in the Lutheran faith, along with a blended family of three younger siblings.

Kris and Tanisha began dating in 2016, welcomed daughter Kennedy Lynn in the fall of 2017, were married at First Lutheran in winter 2018, and are now expecting another little girl in November 2019. As a family, they enjoy the Minnesota Vikings, being outdoors, food, and spending time with friends and family.

Connecting Nicollet County leadership program to meet at BLC

The local leadership program, Connecting Nicollet County, will spend Thursday morning, October 10, at Bernadotte. The group will have a leadership session, followed by lunch and a tour of the church before moving on to Lafayette.



Baptism at BLC Joint Service

'Fourth Sunday' joint services schedule

Joint services—*usually* on the fourth Sunday of the month—will be held at 9:30 a.m., according to this schedule.

- Oct. 27 Confirmation, at First
- Nov. 24 at First, Fall Festival *
- Nov. 26 Community Thanksgiving Eve
This is on Tuesday evening
- Dec. 15 Childrens' Program, FLC
- Dec. 29 New Year's joint service, SwL

** Note the change from Swan Lake to First Luthern for this service, due to the Fall Festival*



Pastor Heidi baptized Ryker John Lindmeyer at Bernadotte Sunday, September 22—while big brother Hunter, mom Brenda and dad Nathan watched. His sponsors are Daniel and Brittani Fenske and Kristi and Tony Boverhuis. Grandparents are Lori and the late Darwin Fenske and Mavis and Tom Lindmeyer; great-grandparents are Mary Hoffmann and Dean Fenske.

GoServ Global Safe T Homes kickoff at joint service



Committee member Elias Webster spoke about the GoServ Global Safe T Homes project as a kickoff to FOG's Homes for Haiti mission project during the September 22 joint service. The nondenominational humanitarian effort partners with Sukup Manufacturing to make grain bins into homes for the most vulnerable families.

Through the rest of 2019 and into 2020, FOG will work to raise \$14,000 for the homes. Check the flyer on page 8 for more information. Watch for more offer information on the project and about a mission trip to Haiti to construct the homes.



Good News from the FOG churches

High School football

Ben Radke (Steve & Judy, BLC) was named KNUJ Defensive Player of the Week September 7.



Tarik



Jasenko

State Fair 4-H placings

Jasenko Gavranovic (Beth, FLC)—3rd purple, reg. Holstein winter calf; ninth in showmanship, grades 10-11.

Tarik Gavranovic (Beth, FLC), 4th purple, reg. Holstein fall calf, fifth in showmanship, grades 8-9.

Ben Radke—blue, market gilt.

Austin Gieseke (John & Trish, BLC), blue, shop, wood-based exhibit, grades 9+.



Ben Radke

Want to **STAY** in
your own home?

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more independent?



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Safety Workshop & Resource Fair Tues., Oct. 1, 1-3 pm – First Lutheran Church

Learn....Strategies for Maintaining Independence as you age

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*Co-sponsored by Fields of Grace
Lutheran Churches and
the Lafayette Area Lions Club*



Harvest Breakfast



Benefit breakfast for
Autumn Achey

4 years old battling leukemia
Daughter of Jonathan & Melanie Achey
Granddaughter of Wayne & Marcy Fluegge

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
6:00-9:30 AM
SWAN LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON THE FORT ROAD

**FREE WILL
DONATION**

*Pancakes, Compert Ham, Scrambled Eggs,
Beverages*





70% of the people in Haiti live in the countryside. Most live below the poverty line on \$2/day. They are vulnerable to continuing global natural disasters. Sukup Safe T Homes®, modified grain bins, provide secure and spacious shelter for rural families. We want to build two homes in 2020.

Our goal:

TWO HOMES for a total of **\$14,000** including shipping.

Go to www.fieldsofgracemn.com for more information about how to get involved.

This project is being done in partnership with GoServ Global, a nondenominational, faith-based organization serving since 2011 in wake of the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

