



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com/>

Vol. 9, Issue 4 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran November 2019



Confirmation service held

Kortney Ulrich, daughter of Holly and Brad Ulrich, was confirmed at First Lutheran on Sunday, October 27. The church honored Kortney with a breakfast before the 9:30 a.m. service.

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. Bring a sack lunch and join the fun!

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Monday, November 4, 5:30 p.m., FLC
- Bernadotte Council—Monday, November 18, 6:00 p.m., BLC
- FOG Council—Wednesday, November 20, 7:45 p.m., FLC

FOG Bible study

Fields of Grace Bible Study will be held November 4, 11 and 18, at 9:30 a.m. at First Lutheran. (No Bible study November 25.) Bring your Bible.

FLC's Fall Festival and joint service Sunday, November 24

First Lutheran's Fall Festival will be held Sunday, November 24. The day will begin with a 9:30 a.m. joint worship service with the Cripple Creek Gospel Band, followed by a bone-in ham and meatball dinner, silent auction, quilt raffle, and kids' bingo. Check the poster on page 5 of this newsletter for all the details.

November 3, All Saints Sunday

Everyone is invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has died to the November 3 worship services. The pictures will be displayed at the front of each sanctuary, and we'll remember them with a candle-lighting ceremony.

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.

- Nov. 24 at First, Fall Festival
- Nov. 26 Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, First
This is on Tuesday evening
- Dec. 15 Childrens' Sunday School Program, First
- Dec. 29 New Year's joint service, Swan Lake

Red Cross Bloodmobile at Lafayette Community Center

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Lafayette Community Center, 540 7th Street, on Monday, November 4, from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please give!

To make an appointment, call Lori at 507-228-8788 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter "Lafayette" to schedule an appointment.



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday November 3!

*Turn your clocks BACK one hour
or you'll be early for church*

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

This month I want to share excerpts from a beautiful sermon preached by Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor. She asks, "How does one give thanks when events in the greater world, and in the smaller world of one's own life, do not seem to lead one to gratitude?"

Without stretching too much, I want to suggest that Thanksgiving Day becomes Eucharist (Holy Communion) Day, a day when we are called to offer thanks to God for the whole of our lives.

That is not always an easy thing to do.

Perhaps you have seen the bumper sticker that reads, "Life is hard. Then you die." A few years ago, I drove to work in Chicago behind a car displaying that bumper sticker. Most people laughed when I told them about it, but one perceptive woman declined to laugh and asked, "Have you had a hard week?" As a matter of fact it had been a hard year.

While 2019 hasn't been an particularly hard year for me personally I think we can all say that this has been a hard year for our world. It will be difficult for some to be thankful this year. To help out I'm suggesting a practice from our ancestors in the faith.

Three thousand years ago the Jews formulated blessings — berakot—for every circumstance of their lives. Come good or bad, they had a blessing. If it were good news, then "Blessed be he who is good and does good." If it were bad news, then "Blessed be the judge of truth." As far as they were concerned, humankind has a duty to pronounce a blessing on the bad in life as well as the good, because all life came from God.

When we gather for Eucharist (Holy Communion), for thanksgiving, what we toast is the whole of our Lord's life, the defeats along with the victories, the gentle birth alongside the violent crucifixion, the sleepless night in Gethsemane alongside the empty tomb on Easter morning. Because, in retrospect, in faith, we believe that it is all a single tapestry and the removal of a single thread diminishes the whole creation.

Our opportunity this Thanksgiving is to see our own lives the same way; to learn how to give thanks at the altar not only for the mixed blessings of Christ's life but also for our own. To say "thank you" for the whole mess, the things we welcome as well as the things we risk our souls to escape.

"Thanks be to God," we say, because we believe that God is somewhere to be found in everything that happens to us. "Thanks be to God," we say, because we believe that the cords of God's love are never severed, however dark or convoluted our path through life may sometimes be.

God is God, and our lives are our lives, and we can love

them or leave them, give thanks for them or whittle them away with regret. Our opportunity is to embrace all that we have ever been and done and haul it up upon the altar of grace. It is there we recognize our lives as sacraments, outward and visible signs of an inward grace.

So happy Thanksgiving! Happy Eucharist! Whether you celebrate with family and friends or dine alone, God goes with you, and there is no corner of your life that God does not inhabit. Let us be on the lookout for God, and ready with our chorus: "Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen."

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



LCS weekend food program

Food insecurity is a social and economic condition where access to food is limited or uncertain. It is a complex problem. There are now 16 children at Lafayette Charter School whose families are food insecure, and who receive weekend food items (breakfast, lunch and two snacks). FOG members are a lifeline for these children. Leave food items in the baskets at each church or in a collection bin at Citizens Bank, Lafayette.

NOVEMBER 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 3-Jamie Friedrichs, Ben Friedrichs; 10-Norm Langhoff, Steve Langhoff; 17-Darrell Abrahamson, Al Pehrson; 24-Myron Isaacson, Jon Hartley

Greeter: Steve Langhoff Reader: Sandy Hartley

Liturgist: 3 & 10-Charlie Hartley; 17 & 24-Jorja Langhoff

Altar: Sandy Hartley, Ann Gieseke

Coffee Servers: 3-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg; 10-Marie Carlson, Laurie Larson; 17-Sandy Hartley, Ann Gieseke; 24-Fall Festival

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

Visiting: Myra Kienlen, Marie Carlson

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Mia Ross, Jason Ross

Acolyte: Austin Gieseke

Readers: 3-Steve Sjostrom; 10-Tim Schulz; 17-Trish Gieseke; 24-Joint at First.

Ushers: Shaun Anderson, Jerome Anderson, Brian Pettis, Steve Langhorst, Mary Langhorst

Communion (Nov. 10): S-Shaun Anderson, C-Neil Rasmussen, U-Jerry Oscarson, Ruth Klossner

Coffee Servers: 3-Sjostrom family for Adrienne's 80th Birthday;

10-WELCA/LCM Meeting; 17-Sally Webster; 24-at First.



Swan Lake benefit Harvest Breakfast

The men of Swan Lake Lutheran served a big crowd when they held their annual benefit breakfast Saturday, October 5. The free-will offering went to four-year-old Autumn Achey who is battling leukemia.



With the food donated and other costs covered, the breakfast raised \$3,600!



Christian Education schedule

Sunday School

Classes as usual—Nov. 3, 10, 17. No Sunday School on Nov. 24 because of First Lutheran's Fall Festival.

Wednesday School—Grades 5-9

Classes Nov. 6, 13, 20, 5:30-7:30.

On November 20 the group will go to Good Samaritan Assisted Living in Winthrop to play bingo with the residents. Supper will be at the Dairy Queen. Meet at church as usual, 5:30 p.m., to catch rides.

Baptism at First Lutheran

Dean Albert Schuelke joined FLC in baptism Sunday, October 20. Dean was born April 4, 2019.

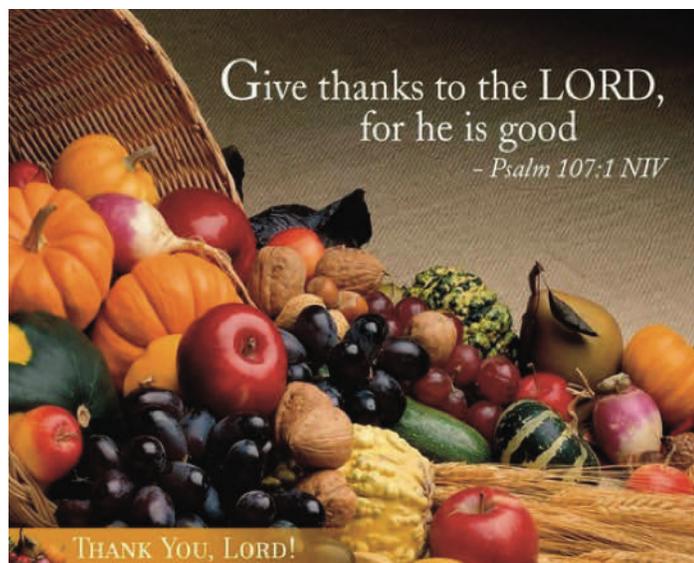
His parents are Ryan Schuelke and Sedona Nelson and his grandparents are Christine and Loren Wilfert, Keith and Annie Schuelke, and Brad and Mary Jo Nelson. Dean's sponsors are Logan VanDeest and Sam Nelson.

Christian concert November 16

The New Ulm Ministerial Association Shelter Haus (NUMAS Haus) will welcome Christian artist Jason Gray for "HOPE: A Night of Stories and Music," Saturday, November 16 at the New Ulm Event Center. Check the back page for all the information.

'All Hollow's Eve' trivia

In an earlier time, instead of saying "Trick-or-treat," children would say, "A Soul Cake, a Soul Cake, have mercy on all Christian souls for a soul cake!" It is believed that a clever medieval cook wanted to make Soul Cakes designed to remind people of eternity, so she cut a hole in the middle of round cakes before frying them, thereby inventing donuts! Soul cakes!



First Lutheran will host annual 'Thanksgiving Eve' service

This year's ecumenical community Thanksgiving Service will be at First Lutheran Church on **TUESDAY**, November 26, at 7:00 p.m. Members of our FOG churches, as well as St. Gregory and St. George, join together for this community service. Refreshments will follow.

Looking ahead to the holidays

- First Lutheran Sunday School Christmas program joint service, Sunday, Dec. 15, 9:30 a.m.
- Community Christmas Sing-a-Long, Sunday evening, Dec. 15, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
- 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. 29, First Lutheran.

Check the Fields of Grace web page—fieldsofgracemn.com—and Bernadotte's Facebook page for photos and more info on events

Called to her heavenly home

Della (Mrs. Orville) Larson, 91, of Winthrop, died Saturday, October 5, 2019, at Oak Terrace Health Care Center in Gaylord. Della is the mother of First Lutheran organist Laurie Larson.

Funeral service was held Friday, October 11 at First Lutheran Church in Winthrop.

Bernadotte WELCA/LCM Notes

- Joint WELCA/LCM meeting/fellowship, Sunday, November 10, 10:00 a.m. Devotions: Trish Gieseke; Hosts: Bruce & Romi White, Jerry & Julia Oscarson.
- Advent Dinner, Sunday, December 1, 12:00 p.m. Coordinators: Wendy Schulz, Pam White. Servers (M-Z)

Upcoming Area Events

- Scandian Grove Lutefisk & Meatball Meal—Sat., Nov. 2, 11:30-5:30 pm.
- Zion Lutheran Church, 228 NW 5th St. Buffalo Lake, Lutefisk/Swedish Meatball Supper—Sun., Nov. 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- St. Gregory the Great Cookie Walk—Sat., Dec. 14, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Trinity Lutheran's Christmas in the Barn—Tues., Dec. 24, services at 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, and 4 pm; David Kahle farm, a mile north of the Sibley Township church.

First Lutheran Church of Lafayette



SUNDAY



FALL FESTIVAL

*Sunday, November 24, 2019
following a joint service at 9:30 a.m.*

“Cedar Creek Gospel Band” from Willmar, MN.
will lead the service with Pastor Heidi assisting



**Bake Sale • Crafts • Cards • Napkins
Raffle/Quilt • Silent Auction**

Dinner

Bone-in Ham and Swedish Meatballs,
real Mashed Potatoes, Corn,
Cole Slaw, Buns and Desserts
Egg Coffee and Milk
Free Bingo for Kids upstairs

**Everyone is
invited to
attend**





new ulm ministerial association shelter

HOPE

a night of stories & music

November 16, 2019

Help NUMAS Haus provide emergency shelter and support services to homeless single women and children in the Brown County, MN area.



Live Performance

by Christian Artist

JASON GRAY!

This event supports the ongoing ministry of NUMAS Haus and will include a live auction

HOPE

a night of stories & music

November 16, 2019

New Ulm Event Center

5pm Social Hour

6pm Dinner by Lola's

7:15pm Live Auction

Performance by Jason Gray to Follow

Please return the enclosed response card, or register Online at:
numashaus.org/gala