



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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Vol. 9, Issue 5    Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran    December 2019

## Holiday Schedule

- First Lutheran Sunday School Christmas program, Sun., Dec. 15, during 9:30 a.m. worship service; BBQ lunch follows
- Community Christmas Sing-a-long, Sun., Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m., 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, 9:30 a.m., Swan Lake; fellowship prior to service

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Monday, December 2, 5:30 p.m., FLC
- Bernadotte Council—Monday, December 16, 6:00 p.m., BLC
- FOG Council—Wednesday, December 18, 7:45 p.m., FLC

## Sunday School program at First Lutheran

"New Star," First Lutheran's Sunday School program, will be presented Sunday, December 15 during the 9:30 a.m. joint worship service. A barbecue lunch will follow. Everyone welcome!

A "noisy offering" for FOG's Safe T Home project will be taken during the Children's Christmas program. Bring your change!

Practice for the S.S. program will be Sunday December 8. Also Saturday, December 14, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. A pizza lunch will follow for the kids.

## Joint New Year's weekend service at SL

FOG New Year's worship will be hosted by Swan Lake on Sunday, December 29. Coffee and treats will be ready by 8:30 a.m. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. Come out and enjoy the intimacy of this worship space with friends and members of the FOG parish.

## Christmas Sing-a-long at St. Gregory's

St. Gregory's will host the annual Lafayette Community Christmas Sing-a-long Sunday, December 15 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.

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.

## All Saints Sunday November 3

Family members who have gone on before were remembered at all three churches on November 3, All Saints Sunday. Photos were displayed and candles lit in remembrance. Also remembered were those baptized into Christ's death and raised to new life in 2019—Ryan Benson, Bailey Ann Bergstrom, Leyna Marie Gieseke, Abigail Frances Kline, Raelynn Jean Fenske, Ryker John Lindmeyer, and Dean Albert Schuelke—as well as those who died in the faith this



year from our parish and who now share communion with the saints in light—Dorothy Martens, Marie Carlsson, Vivian Altmann, Sid Holberg, and Robert Webster.



Arden got a lesson in communication from the Wednesday School kids last month.

# 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

Advent begins on December 1. Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. Unlike the calendar's New Year, Advent doesn't come in with a bang. In fact, this season of the church year is traditionally known as a time of waiting and preparation, marked by the practices of quiet and contemplation. That is why our worship folders throughout Advent will remind us: "Shhh. Quiet. It's Advent."

Quiet is an appealing notion during this bustling season but, for some, the experience of quiet waiting may cause conflict. For many of us there is no other time in which our love of God is stronger than during Advent and Christmas. There is no other time in which we are more aware of God's mercy in our lives and in the world; there is no other time in which our hearts go out to others with such affection; and there is no other time in which our joy is more profound.

But as our inner world stirs with longings for deep experiences of grace, our outer world is harassed by a calendar over-filled with holiday activities, hurried crowds, and the consumeristic clutter of the season.

To help us focus our attention on the grace of Advent—even in the midst of the many trappings of the season—I have chosen to focus our Advent worship around Mary's

Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). We know that Mary was a woman who "treasured and pondered in her heart" the things that God showed her (Luke 2:19). It is possible that Mary prayed or sang her Magnificat many times throughout her life.

I am inviting you to use Mary's song as your song this Advent. Say/pray/read it every day as your Advent discipline. Pay attention to what words/images you are drawn to, and that stick with you throughout the day. Notice how it changes you. Come to worship on Sundays to enter into this beautiful psalm more deeply.

### Advent worship schedule

Advent 1, December 1: Let it be

Advent 2, December 8: Meek and mild, really?

Advent 3, December 15: FOG Children's Christmas

Program at First Lutheran (9:30 a.m.)

Advent 4, December 22: God bearer

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

## Wednesday School classes tour funeral home



The FOG Wednesday School students took a field trip to New Ulm October 30 to tour Minnesota Valley Funeral Home.





# DECEMBER 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 1-Al Hagberg, Matt Hagberg; 8-Jim Langhoff, Jacob Broste; 15-Marti Uhde, Landon Uhde; 22-Jim Langhoff, Connor Hoffmann; 29-Joint at Swan Lake

Greeter: Bucky & Susie Wendorff Reader: Mary Martens

Liturgist: Jorja Langhoff

Coffee Servers: 1-Kris Hagberg, Emily Hagberg; 8-Sandy Hartley, Ann Gieseke; 15-Char Nelson, Todd Nelson; 22-Jorja Langhoff, Shelly Langhoff.

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

Visiting: Tami Stadtherr, Bette Johnson

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Abby Bartels, Jill Peterson

Acolyte: Tanner Johnson

Readers: 1-Jim Bartels; 8-Judy Radke; 15-Joint at FLC; 22-

Lori Fenske; 25-Rosanne Johnson; 29-Joint at Swan Lake

Ushers: Tim Schulz, Wendy Schulz, Elias Webster, Jill Peterson, Abby Bartels

Communion (Dec. 8 & 25): S-Tim Schulz, C-Trish Gieseke, U-Neil Rasmussen & Shaun Anderson

Coffee Servers: 1-Advent Dinner; 8-Doris & Myron Kaduce; 15-Joint at FLC; 22-volunteer needed; 29: Joint at Swan Lake.

## Called to her heavenly home

First Lutheran member Edna Sandquist, 99, passed away Sunday, November 24.

Visitation will be Sunday, December 1 at 1:00 p.m. at First Lutheran, with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. A meal will be served after the funeral.



## FOG Bible study

Community Bible Study is taking a hiatus until 2020. Because several of the regular participants go south for the winter, we are rethinking how and when to have a robust Bible study for the FOG parish and the community. Stay tuned.



## Bernadotte ladies spend four days quilting

The Bernadotte ladies planned to quilt for two days in early November—but were having so much fun that they scheduled an additional

two days. The ladies were at it Wednesday and Thursday, November 6 and 7 and November 20 and 21.





## Baptism at BLC

The baptism of a two-year-old can provide some interesting moments.

Jackson Thomas Bramley was baptized Sunday, November 10 at Bernadotte. Jackson was born December 10, 2017 to Meghan and Harrison Bramley. His grandparents are Heidi and the late Thomas Bramley and Timothy and Elizabeth O'Keefe. His great-grandmother is Sally Webster. Jackson's sponsors are Samantha and Timothy Ketchum and Brittany and Noah Malmquist.



## Our partnerships around the world

### South Africa

We continue to be in a holding pattern alongside our partners in the Vryheid Circuit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa as they struggle to recover from internal conflict. The information we have now is that there will be talks with a mediator. Our contact in the Circuit reports, "There will be a Synod meeting soon which will carve a way forward toward the elections [of a new bishop]," adding "we wait in anticipation." So, we wait alongside them.

How appropriate, as we approach Advent, that we are being invited to wait. Advent is, after all, a season in which God trains us in waiting. And we know that waiting is a communal act—Mary and Elizabeth wait together; Simeon and Anna wait in community; the people of God expectantly waited together. God be with us as we await God's activity alongside our African partners.

While we wait, I want to encourage you to continue saving aluminum cans, which is the new fundraiser since the clothing collection is no longer available to us.

### Haiti

Fields of Grace has entered into a relationship with GoServ Global to purchase two (or more) Safe T Homes to be built in Haiti. We recently distributed cans representing a mini version of a Safe T Home as a reminder to keep this project in your prayers, and part of your benevolence. We will collect a "noisy offering" at the Children's Christmas Program on December 15. Bring your change!

## 2020 joint services scheduled

At its November meeting, the FOG Council set up the schedule of joint services for the first four months of 2020. They are as follow:

Sun., Jan. 26	Bernadotte
Sun., Feb. 23	Swan Lake
Sun., Mar. 22	First Lutheran
Sun., Apr. 19	Bernadotte—Food for Kidz packing

In addition, Lenten services were scheduled:

Ash Wednesday & March 4	Swan Lake
March 11 & 18	First Lutheran
March 25 & Apr. 1	Bernadotte
Maundy Thursday, Apr. 9	Bernadotte

## Christian Education schedule

### Sunday School

Class—Dec. 8 (regular classes resume Jan. 5)  
 Sunday School Practice—Sat., Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School Program—Sun. Dec. 15, 9:30 p.m.

### Wednesday School—Grades 5-9

Classes Dec. 4, 11, 18; 5:30-7:30 (resume Jan. 8)  
 Confirmation—Palm Sunday, April 5

## First Lutheran Notes

- Applications for the Roman Fischer and John S. Johnson scholarships are now being accepted at First Lutheran. Apps are available in the FLC church entry and are due back by December 29. They can be placed in the offering plate, or put in the night drop box at Citizens Bank, Lafayette, marked "Attn: Laura."
- FLC choir practice, Sun., Dec. 1, 8:50 a.m.
- See Jorja or Lila to order poinsettias. Cost is \$9.00

## Bernadotte WELCA/LCM Notes

- Advent Dinner, Sunday, December 1, 12:00 p.m. Coordinators: Wendy Schulz, Pam White. Servers (M-Z)

## Upcoming Community Events

- 'Holiday Harmony' by the Mankato Riverblenders & MN Valley Sweet Adelines—Sun., Dec. 1, 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran, 222 Pfau St., Mankato & 7:30 p.m., Church of St. Peter, 1801 Broadway, St. Peter.
- T-Bird Community Arts "Cantata Christmas: We Remember, Rejoice"—Sat., Dec. 7, 7:00 p.m., St. Andrews, Fairfax and Sun., Dec. 8, 2:00 p.m., Peace Lutheran, Winthrop; free will donation.
- 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 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.; David Kahle farm, a mile north of the Sibley Township church.
- Lafayette Lions' Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast—Sun., Jan. 12, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lafayette Community Center.



# First's Fall Festival

November 24



First Lutheran's Fall Festival started with a joint worship service with the Cedar Creek Gospel Band. A variety of activities started immediately afterwards—a ham and meatball



dinner, a silent auction, a bake sale, a craft sale, kids' bingo, a raffle, and sales of greeting cards and napkins.

