



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com/>

Vol. 9, Issue 7 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran February 2020

Homes for Haiti spaghetti dinner

The GoServ Global committee will hold a spaghetti dinner at the Lafayette Community Center Sunday, February 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help before and during the event—contact Kyle Dalquist (320-360-2904) if you can help. For more info, see poster on back page.



Proceeds will go towards FOG's GoServ Global Safe T Home project in Haiti. The goal is to sponsor two Safe T Homes.

A "noisy offering" was taken in December and additional ones will be held later.



Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m., FLC
 - FOG Workshop—Mon., Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., BLC
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Mar. 16, 6:00 p.m., BLC



Wed., Feb. 26
Soup Supper 6 pm
Worship 7 pm
Swan Lake

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
& SOUP SUPPER

Good News



Autumn Achey, the four-year-old granddaughter of Klossner area farmers Wayne and Marcy Fluegge, has been home from the hospital for two months after undergoing treatment for leukemia. And, her hair is growing back.

Thanks to everyone for praying for Autumn and supporting her family.

FOG council workshop

The FOG council will hold its first quarterly workshop meeting with the councils of all three churches on Monday, February 17. FOG asks that members of the individual church councils meet with it to get a better grasp of who the Fields of Grace parish is and what direction it wishes to go.

The February 17 meeting will be held at Bernadotte, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Soup Supper



Wednesdays
in Lent

Served by the confirmation classes
6 pm each week

ANNUAL MEETINGS RESCHEDULED

First Lutheran—Sunday, February 2
Bernadotte—Sunday, February 9

2020 joint services scheduled

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

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sun., February 23 | Swan Lake |
| Sun., March 22 | First Lutheran |
| Sun., April 19 | Bernadotte—Food for Kidz packing |

The Rite of Confirmation

It seems like we just gathered to witness some of our young people affirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation.

Due to a schedule change request—moving confirmation from the busy fall season back to spring—four young people will be confirmed on Palm Sunday (April 5) at First Lutheran. They are Noah Krueger, son of Shannon and Larry Krueger; Landon Uhde, son of Marti and Jeff Uhde; Nykita Youngblom, daughter of Diane and Tom Youngblom; and Tarik Gavranovik, son of Beth Gavranovik and grandson of Ann and Tom Gieseke. The congregation will gather for a celebratory meal after worship.

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 Reflection—Learning to pray without words

If we are honest, most of us are unsure about how to pray. We may have been taught to pray as children, but never learned an adult way to pray.

Most of our prayers are requesting favors from God, and our efforts often feel inadequate. Yet, we long to have the kind of intimate relationship with God that is deepened in prayer.

I invite you to explore a way of praying without words.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and

as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with him.

My intention is to start a Centering Prayer group in our parish, the frequency and details of which will be determined by those involved.

It will begin with an introductory workshop on February 15 at St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, MN, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$125, including lunch. After the introductory workshop, those who are interested will determine how they want to continue the practice together.

If you are interested, please let me know—by phone or email—so I can register you for the introductory workshop. If the cost is prohibitive, assistance is available.

Heidi writes: The Bible for adults

The Bible is a rich and complex book. In fact, it isn't a book at all. It is an entire library. It deserves—in fact, demands—more than being kept safe in our younger ways of thinking.

The Bible requires of us a more nuanced appreciation. By nuanced, I mean that the simplicity with which we approached the bible as teenagers—which, if we are honest, is probably the last time we seriously engaged the bible (in confirmation)—needs to give way to an appreciation of the Bible's more "adult" nature.

My desire is to gather with a group of adults to explore the bible as a book that invites Christians to experience the mystery of God in Christ, that encourages Christians—not by promising answers to every question—but by modeling for us trust in our Creator when those answers are not ap-

parent, or when they never come, and that cultivates mature faith in followers of Jesus over time along life's journey.

In other words, I want to think critically about the bible—in community with others, because doing it alone has the tendency to keep you in your train of thinking rather than challenge it. Thinking critically about how we approach scripture allows us to experience the fullness and richness of the text.

If you are interested in engaging God's Word in a non-judgmental environment, where the only standard for "expertise" is curiosity, then let me know what day(s)/time(s) might work for you. Send me a quick email at pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com or text/call 507-766-3471.

This will not be a "God said it, that settles it" approach to scripture.

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

Christian Education schedule

Sunday School

Regular classes each Sunday in February & March.
Sun., April 5 is confirmation (no Sunday School)

Wednesday School—Grades 5-9

Classes Wednesdays, February 5, 12 and 19.

No Wednesday School during Lent—
students are expected to attend midweek Lenten services,
beginning Ash Wednesday, February 26.

Upcoming Community Events

- Lafayette Ambulance Steak/Crab Fundraiser, Sat., Feb. 29, 5-9 pm, Dave's Place, Lafayette. Proceeds will go toward new ambulance equipment.

- LCS PROS Live & Silent Auctions and Pulled Pork Meal Fundraiser, Sun., March 15, Lafayette Charter School Gym, 11 am meal, 1 pm live auction. Info: 507-228-8943.

FEBRUARY 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 2-Jeff Donnay & Kaitlin Donnay; 9-Darrell Abrahamson & Bob Youngblom; 16-Laura & Kevin Isaacson; 23-Joint at SL
Greeter: (unknown) Reader: Cindy Youngblom
Liturgist: 2, 16 & 23-Brad DeBoer; 9-Jeff Donnay
Coffee Servers: 2-Ann Gieseke & Beth Gavranovic; 9-Shauna Hoffmann & Jil Haler; 16-Lori Brethorst & Laura Isaacson; 23-Joint Service at Swan Lake
Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays)—Joyce Reese
Altar: Trudy Hofstad & Mary Martens
Visiting: Mary Martens & Lila Ellies

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Jerome & Shaun Anderson
Acolyte: Ben Radke
Readers: 2-Tim Schulz, 9-Trish Gieseke, 16-Jim Bartels, 23-Joint Worship-SL
Ushers: Tim Anderson, Beth Anderson, Marissa Anderson, Jackie Helget, Bob Helget
Communion (Feb. 9): S-Tim Anderson, C-Rosanne Johnson, U-Trish Gieseke, John Nelson
Coffee Servers: 2-open; 9-Romi White & Rosanne Johnson; 16-open; 23-Joint at SL.

Lent/Easter worship preview

- February 26, Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Swan Lake, including imposition of ashes; soup supper 6:00 p.m.
- Mid-week Lenten meals and worship, 6:00 p.m. meal, 7:00 p.m. worship
 - March 4 at Swan Lake
 - March 11 & 18 at First Lutheran
 - March 25 & April 1 at Bernadotte
- Combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service—6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9 at Bernadotte *
- Palm Sunday, April 5—8:00 a.m. worship at Swan Lake; 9:30 a.m. worship with the Rite of Confirmation at First Lutheran; 11:00 a.m. worship at First Lutheran
- Easter Sunday, April 12—6:30 a.m., worship at Bernadotte; 8:00 a.m. worship at Swan Lake; 9:30 a.m., worship at First Lutheran.

* *Maundy Thursday/Good Friday: We are combining these two sacred days. On Maundy Thursday, we remember the night when our Lord shared a meal with and loved others, even when they would betray him. We will start with a meal and Holy Communion. Then we will move to the sanctuary where we will hear and remember the events of Jesus' death. We will be invited to open ourselves to the meaning of Jesus' death for us, and commit ourselves to renewed prayer and dedication.*

Equipping Congregations Day at Willmar

Pastor Heidi doesn't want to go alone—for another year—to the annual Equipping Congregations Day. Please let her know if you'd like to accompany her to Willmar on February 29, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

There will be 24 workshops plus keynote speaker Pastor David J. Lose, Senior Pastor, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. Pastor Lose will speak about Entering the Bible with Heart, Mind, and Soul.

What do Lutherans mean when we say that Scripture is the Word of God? In what ways do we believe Scripture is true? How does it function as a useful guide and norm for our faith and life? What do we do with difficult passages that seem violent or exclusionary? Answering these questions is crucial if we are to allow our lives to be shaped by God's Word and invite others into our faith communities anchored in the preaching and teaching of the Scriptures.

Conversations about worship

Two pews were removed at First Lutheran to create a welcoming space for small children in worship. Pastor Heidi and Mark Haler were able to create that space because of a gift from Thrivent that facilitated the purchase of the furnishings. The gift was contingent on a training on Lutheran worship.

Well, training sounds rather formal. We really just intended to spend time with the new members and/or those who don't have a Lutheran background, explaining why

we do what we do in worship.

Did you know there is a pattern or "rhythm" to Lutheran worship? Do you wonder why we don't have screens and a worship band when so many churches are doing that? And how do we help children identify church as a place they love to go to?

Join us on Sunday, March 1, at noon for a light lunch and conversation about why and how we worship God. Childcare will be available.



Bernadotte WELCA Brunch

About 20 ladies gathered at Hahn's in Winthrop for Bernadotte's annual WELCA brunch Saturday, January 11.

It was a nice get-together on a winter morning—and the food was great, as always!



Called to their heavenly home

First Lutheran member **Jami Morton**, 60, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, January 2, 2020 at her home in Lafayette. Survivors include her husband, Michael Morton of Lafayette and son and daughter-in-law Mike Morton II (Tiffany Hayes) of Lafayette. Jami volunteered at Lafayette Charter School and taught Sunday School at First Lutheran.



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Naomi Peterson, 45, mother of Bernadotte member Brock Peterson, died in a car accident at New Ulm Monday, January 20. A private funeral and visitation was held Sunday, January 26 in New Ulm.

Thrivent Associate membership can mean \$250 towards nearly any church project

FOG members are encouraged to consider applying for Thrivent "Associate Memberships" that cost just \$19.95 a year. Once enrolled, Associate Members can apply for a \$250/year Thrivent debit card that can be applied toward expenses related to any worthy church or non-profit community project. Some examples of projects that members have used Thrivent debit cards for include pizza to feed the volunteers for Food for Kids, advertising expenses for events (like ice cream social or Swedefest), food expense for special events, meal for Swedish college choir students, paper supplies for special events, supplies for quilts given to graduates, etc.

To enroll online, go to thrivent.com. Once the membership is set up, you may apply for the \$250 Action Team award online. Anyone needing help with applying by computer can contact Deb Sjostrom (507-276-0452) who will happily assist.

Those who are already Thrivent Benefit Members, and have annuities or policies, may apply for two \$250 debit cards each year. And, there are additional ways to give back with regular policies through Thrivent—contact Rosanne Johnson or your agent to learn how additional monies can be given to your church or other non-profits.

GoServ Global

**Fields of Grace
Mission Project**



SPAGHETTI FEED

Sunday, February 16



**11 am-2 pm
Lafayette
Community
Center**

Proceeds go towards the purchase of two
GoServ Global Safe T Homes for Haiti

Free Will Donation

For more info call Kyle at 320-360-2904