



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 9, Issue 10 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

May 2020

## FOG cancellations/postponements

Fields of Grace church services and activities are cancelled or postponed for now. We don't know how long "stay at home" will apply, but Pastor Heidi has received word that the MN Valley Conference Dean plans to recommend that we suspend worship until June, then return to in-person gatherings where six-foot distances can be maintained. One possibility could be the Bernadotte bandshell for outdoor worship, allowing social distancing.

For now, the Fields of Grace council will continue to post worship services on Facebook and YouTube weekly, with the YouTube links sent by email each week.

In addition, the council will broadcast the fourth Sunday joint services on SAM-FM 107.3. The next broadcast is May 24.

It costs about \$200 to broadcast a worship service on SAM 107.3. While the council feels the cost is prohibitive for **every** Sunday, our members could pay for a broadcast in honor or in memory of someone. Please contact communications coordinator Ruth Klossner if you are interested in making a donation to sponsor a service.

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., May 4, 5:30 p.m., FLC
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., May 18, 6:00 p.m., BLC

## Staying connected...

Pastor Heidi continues to share Sunday services on Facebook and YouTube each week. Our churches are not abandoning you. You can connect with FOG at:

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com> (web page)

**Fields of Grace MN on Facebook** (this is the previous Bernadotte page, now converted to Fields of Grace)

## We're looking for YOUR database form

All FOG members are being asked to fill out database forms so that our church records can be updated. Database forms were distributed at our churches, by mail, and with a previous newsletter.

Please, please, please complete a form and get it to Pastor Heidi or mail it to Trish Gieseke at 52000 Fort Road, New Ulm, MN 56073. (If you've lost yours, contact Ruth Klossner or Trish Gieseke and we'll send you another)



## Outdoor Easter garden

Our churches may not have had their traditional Easter gardens this year, but Bernadotte had an outdoor garden in the planters out in front. Thank you to Betty Johnson for sharing the Easter spirit.

## Please remember the church's needs

Although we're not holding services, church expenses do continue. Please remember the church in these times.

Fields of Grace has set up online giving through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Information on how to donate online was sent by email several weeks ago.

In addition, donations can be mailed to these addresses:

BLC: Ruth Klossner, 34085 515th Ave., Lafayette, MN 56054

FLC: Jorja Langhoff, P.O. Box 14, Lafayette, MN 56054

SwLk: JoAnn Gieseke, 29540 State Hwy 4, St James MN 56081

FOG Haiti Mission Project: Brad DeBoer, 31706 601st Ave., Winthrop 55396

# 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 thoughts

I swear the Bernadotte International Airport is real. While working outside recently, I found myself looking to the sky more than once as I was convinced I heard an airplane taxiing on the runway. I'm serious. After about the third time hearing it, I figured out that I was hearing a big tractor, not an airplane.

I am familiar with the sound of planes because the last place I lived in Chicago before moving here was on one of O'Hare International Airport's flight paths. When the atmospheric conditions were a certain way, planes departed and landed directly over my condo building.

That sound wasn't pleasant, but in the midst of the noise my ears tuned in to the heartbeat of God for that place. It was a reminder that the city was a sacred place to await and participate in God's redemption; it was a soundtrack for faith and ministry.

The soundtrack has changed out here on the prairie—with the exception of this week—but the melody line is unmistakable. The country is also a sacred place to await and participate in God's redemption. At this time of the year, it is the farmers who sound the clarion call. Clarion is not just a clear call but a crystal

clear call, one that is unmistakable and overwhelmingly clear.

What I hear in this year's planting soundtrack is affirmation that God is moving with us, especially in these uncertain times.

Early in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), God is asserted as a God on the move. When humans are kicked out of paradise, God leaves the garden in protection and pursuit. When the scattering takes place at Babel, God follows a family from generation to generation, waiting for the right time to unleash the promise of blessing. From the cities, temples, and thrones of empires to the deserts and caves of the wilderness, God's presence is heard and felt and experienced. From place to place the pitch and tempo change, but the melody line remains recognizable and inviting.

Now, every time I hear a tractor on the earthen runways around Bernadotte, I remember that the path to a good harvest is beginning now, and I bless our farmers for reminding me that the God who moves with us is faithful and that harvest will come. Let us all heed the farmers' clarion call to trust God for such a time as this. (Esther 4:14)

To contact Heidi: 507-766-3471 or [pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com)

## First Lutheran students offer free tutoring

Sister and brother Nikyta and Jaydan Youngblom of First Lutheran are offering free tutoring to any students needing help during distance learning. Both attend Laurel Springs School Gifted and Talented Academy.

Nikyta is in the ninth grade and is taking advanced

classes in all subjects, AP, honors, and college classes. Math is her favorite class and she enjoys teaching.

Jaydan is in the eighth grade and loves reading.

Contact Nikyta at [ngayblom@icloud.com](mailto:ngayblom@icloud.com) or 320-510-5533.

## Fields of Grace members in care facilities or being cared for at home

### Bernadotte

Elaine Holberg  
635 3rd St., Apt. 5  
Gaylord, MN 55334

Verone Langhorst  
638 3rd St., Apt 32  
Gaylord, MN 55334

Ken Martens  
1314 8th St. N, Rm 318  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Dave & Sandy Martin  
47476 350th St.  
Gaylord, MN 55334

Carol Monson  
P.O. Box 442  
Winthrop, MN 55396

Gerry Peterson  
720 23rd St. N.  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Mildred Ross  
638 3rd St., Apt. 13  
Gaylord, MN 55334

Dennis Swenson  
6309 Burnham Cir., Apt. 118  
Inver Grove Heights, MN  
55076

Vern & Neva Paulson  
33080 533rd Ave.  
Lafayette, MN 56054

Betty Peterson  
1850 Sarazin St., Apt. 145  
Shakopee, MN 55379

### First Lutheran

Stanley Youngblom  
1314 8th St. N, Room 204  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Audrey Wise  
1314 8th St. N., Room 322  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Ardis Lokensgard  
1100 1st Ave. S., Room 243  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Darlene Ulrich  
P.O. Box 372  
Lafayette, MN 56054

Ardis Lund  
720 23rd St. N.  
New Ulm, MN 56073

*PLEASE REMEMBER OUR  
MEMBERS WITH A CARD,  
LETTER, OR PHONE CALL*

## MAY 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*It's unlikely that we'll be able to hold services, but these are the people who were on the work lists.*

### First Lutheran Church

Greeter: Jeff Donnay Reader: Sandy Donnay  
Ushers: 3-Al Youngblom, Brad Woller; 10-Traci & Darrell Abrahamson; 17-Jeff Donnay, Marlin Wendorff; 24: Joint; 31-Bill Youngblom, Doug Durheim  
Liturgist: 3 & 10: Jim VanMaasdam; 19 & 31: Charlie Hartley  
Coffee Servers: 3-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg; 10-Laurie Larson, Sandy Hartley; 17-Mary Martens, Laura Isaacson; 24-Joint; 31-Diane Durheim, Mindy Engel  
Altar: Traci Abrahamson & Cindy Youngblom  
Visiting: Sandy Burger, Sandy Hartley

### Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Romi White, Pam White  
Acolyte: Brock Peterson  
Readers: 3-Trish Gieseke, 10-Jim Bartels, 17-Judy Radke, 24-Joint Service at SL, 31-Lori Fenske  
Ushers: Ruth Klossner, Arlin Nelson, John Nelson, Brent & Sarah Johnson  
Communion (May 10): S-Ruth Klossner, C-Trish Gieseke, U-Jerry Oscarson, Dwayne Ross  
Coffee Servers: Open

## Cash Wise brat stand and Homes for Haiti collections

The Homes for Haiti committee has signed up to run the Cash Wise brat stand Saturday and Sunday, August 22-23. Several volunteers will be needed for each shift (morning and afternoon). More info closer to the date.

Remember those little "grain bins" you got at church several

months ago? They're to collect donations for Safe-T homes for Haiti. Please continue to put your loose change (or bills) into the bins. The bin bank offerings will be collected by August 1.

A "noisy offering" will also be collected at a church service sometime after we are again able to gather.

*The Bernadotte Ice Cream Social has been postponed to mid- to late summer*

## Mini family reunion at Bernadotte



Although the Monson girls didn't plan it that way, both Krista and

Brianna stopped at Bernadotte at the same time Sunday, April 5. They came to visit their dad, Mark's, grave, it being 25 years since his death. Krista also wanted to show the church to her boyfriend Mike. Everyone was careful to social distance and we also learned—from Brianna's kids—that the church is a Pokemon hot spot.



## Snowy day for Easter Sunday drive-in service



It's an Easter we won't forget! After a balmy Easter Saturday, Mother Nature forced a change of plans for the Fields of Grace drive-in Easter Sunday worship service.

Snow and strong winds moved things indoors so Pastor Heidi gave her message from the Bernadotte church office. While the plan had been to have cars park around the cemetery, facing the church, parking was limited to the parking lots.

People in two dozen vehicles listened to the service on KNUJ FM 107.3—then joined in a joyous salute by honking their car horns at the end. Hallelujah, He is Risen!

Thanks to Jim and Adam Bartels for lining up things to broadcast the service. Trish Gieseke handed out bulletins and rang the church bell and Ruth Klossner was caught (by Beth Anderson) taking photos.

