



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 2

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Sept. 2020

Radio, joint and regular worship

Fields of Grace will continue to present “A New Day” Sunday morning worship services at 10:05 a.m on KNUJ 860AM radio through the rest of 2020. Pastor Heidi joins Pastor Shelly and Pastor Scott of Scandian Grove and Trinity/St. Paul’s of Gaylord for the broadcasts.

With a desire to return to more normalcy, the FOG council approved holding one joint service a month, with regular services in all three churches on the other Sundays.

Joint communion services will now be held the FIRST Sunday of the month (rather than the last), with an extra joint service between Christmas and New Years. All joint services are at 9:30 a.m.

The Worship Schedule:

- Sept. 6 —at First Lutheran (Labor Day joint service)
- Oct. 4—at Bernadotte (Christian Education starts)
- Nov. 1 —at Swan Lake Lutheran
- Dec. 6—at First Lutheran
- Dec. 27 —at Bernadotte (traditional Christmas joint service)
- Jan. 3 —at Swan Lake

On the remaining Sundays—starting Sunday, September 13—worship be at 8:00 a.m. at Swan Lake; 9:30 a.m. at Bernadotte; and 11:00 a.m. at First.

Sunday school & confirmation set to begin October 4

Just as the coronavirus challenged educators to make decisions about how to safely open schools, we are challenged to know how to provide Christian education. We know that plans will likely change, but we will start with monthly in-person classes for all ages, following the joint-FOG worship schedule.

All three FOG congregations will meet together for worship on the first Sunday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation will convene after worship, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at whichever church we are worshipping at. (See schedule to the left)

In between those weeks, we’ll attempt to connect with the children via Zoom, and we’ll send home materials that families can explore together. Each week the children will study the same biblical story that we’ll focus on in worship.



Confirmation held August 8 at First Lutheran Church

After being delayed four months by COVID-19, the “Spring 2020” confirmation service was held at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Four young people were confirmed by Pastor Heidi Hagstrom in a private family service Saturday, August 8. Pic-

tured with Pastor Heidi are, from left: Tarik Gavranovic, son of Beth Gavranovic; Noah Krueger, son of Shannon and Larry Krueger; Landon Uhde, son of Marti and Jeff Uhde; and Nikyta Youngblom, daughter of Diane and Tom Youngblom.



FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

Swan Lake Lutheran—8:00 a.m.—Communion 3rd Sunday of the month
Bernadotte Lutheran—9:30 a.m.—Communion the 2nd Sunday of the month
First Lutheran—11:00 a.m.—Communion the 4th Sunday of the month

Pastor Heidi's reflection

How well do you know God's story as revealed through scripture? If your only encounter with scripture is in worship on Sunday morning, that is sort of like reordering the chapters of a novel and then trying to make sense of the story. We hear bits 'n' pieces on Sunday, but the Bible is more than a collection of verses. It is one overarching story of God interacting with people to bring healing from the devastating effects of sin.

Starting this fall, I would like to approach scripture in a way that might help us know the storyline of the Bible and see it as one story. Understanding the chronological story of the scriptures reveals God's nature, character, and ways. Knowing the big story of the Bible helps us know God as revealed through scripture so that we might live with hope as we take our place in the story.

The very first words of the Bible are "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1). It ends with these words: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." (Rev. 21:1) In the opening of the Bible, God is creating the heavens and the earth and at the end of the Bible God is creating a new heaven and a new earth. So the question is "What on earth happened?" That is what we will explore this year in worship and in Bible study.

I am encouraging everyone to purchase the book *The Story*, which will be available at worship for \$7.00. If paying is a hardship, you can still have a copy. And, if you aren't a reader, you can access a website through which the story will be read to you.

How it works

Everyone is encouraged to read a chapter a week. I will

construct our weekly worship around the portion of the story we read. If you want to go deeper, we will make an in-person or online bible study available.

Partners

We are not alone on this journey. The congregations with whom we share the radio broadcast, "A New Day," are also reading *The Story* according to the same schedule, as is Immanuel in New Auburn.

We are all characters in the story of God. The intention of this focus is to help you align your whole life to God's story.

The Schedule for the first three months

September

- 6 Creation (Creation stories)
- 13 Creation (Noah)
- 20 God Builds a Nation (Abraham/Isaac)
- 27 God Builds a Nation (Jacob/Esau)

October

- 4 Joseph
- 11 Deliverance (Moses)
- 18 Deliverance (Exodus story)
- 25 New Commands...New Covenant

November

- 1 All Saints
- 8 Wandering
- 15 The Battle Begins
- 22 A Few Good Men...and Women

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

Homes for Haiti update



As promised, it was a noisy offering when the FOG community deposited its coins during the joint worship service August 16. The total received that day was \$1,168.99, \$593.99 of which was coins!

That effort moved us very close to our goal of \$14,000. We will have a second noisy offering on September 6. Filled grain bin banks can also be given to Pastor Heidi, Ruth Klossner, or the financial secretary at your congregation. Didn't collect coins? Write a check!

Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council—Mon., Sept. 7, 5:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m., Swan Lake.
- BLC Council—Mon., Sept. 21, 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Reader: 6 & 12-Linda Youngblom; 20 & 27-Sandy Burger
Ushers: 6-Steve Langhoff, Al Pehrson; 13-Mark Hagberg, Brooklyn Hagberg;
20-Jim Langhoff, Jacob Broste; 27-Myron Isaacson, Alan Youngblom
Liturgist: 6 & 13-Charlie Hartley; 20 & 27-Jorja Langhoff
Coffee Servers: 6-Mary Martens, Myra Kienlen; 13-Lori Brethorst, Angie
Hartmann; 20-Ann Gieseke, Sandy Burger; 27-Shelly Langhoff, Jorja
Langhoff
Altar: Lori Brethorst, Sheri Portner, Angie Hartmann

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Lori Fenske & Pam White
Acolyte: Ben Radke
Readers: 2-Shaun Anderson, 13-Tim Schulz, 20-Trish
Gieseke; 27-Jim Bartels
Ushers: John Nelson, Dave Nelson, Brad White, Pam
White, Lori Fenske
Communion (Sept. 13): S-John Nelson, C-Tim Schulz,
U-Elias Webster, Dwayne Ross

After-school backpack program

Mark Haler has packed enough food for two days for each of the 16 children from the Lafayette Charter School identified as food insecure, and Sandy Hartley has delivered the food all summer. Thank you to them.

The need for supplemental food over the weekend continues, and may even be growing. The program can still use food contributions, but money is easier to manage. If you can support the weekend backpack supplemental food program, please make checks to Backpack Program, and send directly to Citizen's Bank, P.O. Box 3, Lafayette, MN 56054—or put a donation, clearly marked, in the offering plate at any FOG congregation.

Please remember the church's needs

Although not everyone feels comfortable returning to services, church expenses do continue. Please remember the church in these times.

Fields of Grace has set up online giving through Tithely. Information on how to donate online was sent by email.

In addition, donations can be mailed to these addresses:

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

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

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

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

Volunteers needed for several positions

First Lutheran is looking for someone to represent the church on the MN Valley Conference South Africa Partnership group. It mostly involves tracking contributions and could include attending two or three meetings a year with Pastor Heidi and Sally Webster from Bernadotte.

Both First and Bernadotte need a person for the FOG Council. Cindy Youngblom of First would like to step down, starting next year. Trish Gieseke has resigned from the FOG and BLC Councils and those positions need to be filled, either now or at the first of the year.



Aubrey Mae Campbell baptized at First Lutheran

Little Aubrey Mae Campbell was baptized at First Lutheran Church Sunday, August 9. She's the daughter of Kayla and Allan Campbell. Her sponsors are Kurk Allen Altmann and Ashley

Christine Campbell. Aubrey's grandparents are Randy "Butch" and Aimee Altmann and Colette and the late Jim Campbell. Lots of family photos were taken, including four-generations.



Joint Outdoor Worship Service with band, 'noisy offering' and communion at Bernadotte



The weather was beautiful and there wasn't a mosquito in sight when the Fields of Grace joint service was held in the Bernadotte Church Park Sunday August 16. (Spraying made sure that the 'skeets' stayed away.)



George's Concertina Band provided the uplifting music and a very "noisy" offering was collected for FOG's GoServ Global Safe T Home project in Haiti. It required two people to lift the milk can with the offering! After a trip to the bank Monday morning, it was found that the can contained \$593.99 in change!!!! Also \$235 in folding money and \$340 in checks for a grand total of \$1,168.99 for the mission project! Super!



Sign replacement & repair work at BLC



After two years in storage, the Bernadotte Church sign is back in front of the church. It was taken down when the road was rebuilt two years ago and the county wouldn't let the church put it back near the road. So, the council opted to put it between the trees to the north of the entry sidewalk. Jerry Oscarson and his crew did the cement work on August 3 and Duane Petterson built the new framework. He and his son John did the installation Tuesday, August 18 (with help from Jim and Jeff Young). Both Duane and Jerry donated their time and materials. A huge thank you to them!

Replacing the church sign wasn't the only project that Jerry and his crew were busy with this past month. They also caulked and tuck-pointed around several windows that were leaking and—while they were there—reinstated the outside steps on the south side of the church. Thank you, Jerry!

Thanks, also to those who pulled weeds in the landscaping around the church and bandstand, picked up branches after the various storms, and sprayed around the trees to control weeds and grass.



Special thanks to all FOG members (and non-members) who volunteer to do things to keep our churches looking great all year! We appreciate you!

