



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 3    Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran    October 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 each month, with regular services in all three churches on the other Sundays.

Joint communion services will 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:

- Oct. 4—at Bernadotte (Sunday School 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 other Sundays, worship will be at 8:00 a.m. at Swan Lake; 9:30 a.m. at Bernadotte; and 11:00 a.m. at First.

## Confirmation schedule changes

As reported last month, Sunday School will be held on the first Sunday of the month, following the joint services.

However, confirmation classes for fifth through ninth graders, will meet Wednesday evenings, starting October 7, at 6:00 p.m. at First Lutheran. That change was made because some students aren’t able to be in church on the first Sundays of the month.

Pastor Heidi and youth leader Mark Haler will attempt to connect with SS children via the internet in the in-between weeks. Information will be sent to families with children.

## Quilting Days at BLC

The Bernadotte ladies will quilt Monday and Tuesday, October 5-6, starting at 9:00 a.m. each day. Coffee breaks and fellowship are included—bring your own lunch. Stop in to see how much fun it is!



## Those coins add up when everyone contributes

The second noisy offering—taken at the Sunday, September 6 joint service at First Lutheran—collected another \$160.69 for the

Homes for Haiti Safe T Homes mission project. Altogether, the two noisy offerings at the joint services brought in \$1,329.68.

# 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

The global coronavirus pandemic has created a new reality marked by grief and loss. Weddings, festivals, fairs/carnivals, meetings, travel plans, school events, and more have been canceled in the wake of the virus.

It has forced us to process both individual and collective grief in the face of an uncertain future which we are powerless to control. We are all dealing with the collective loss of the world we knew.

The disruptions to the normal routines and rhythms of everyday life contribute to the lingering unease and sadness that we are all feeling. Not only are we mourning the loss of thousands of lives, but we are also mourning the loss of normalcy, from seeing friends and family to engaging in the mundane routines that we previously took for granted. One of those routines is attending worship on Sunday mornings. But even that feels diminished by the distance and, for me, the lack of singing.

Not only are people now grappling with the loss of normalcy, but also with anticipatory grief, or the feeling that greater loss is yet to come.

Anticipatory grief is a type of grief that occurs before a loss, like when a family emotionally prepares for the inevitable death of a terminally ill member. People experiencing this type of grief can feel sadness over the impending loss, fear of what will happen, anger over the situation, and feelings of isolation and loneliness.

I think our parish is experiencing anticipatory grief. We

are afraid our congregations and parish will die. Truth be told, something has already died. And, like we don't expect grandma to rise again in our physical presence, we can't expect the church as we knew it to rise again. But the Spirit is alive and we can—like the immigrant pioneers who built our buildings and laid a foundation of faith—build a new kind of church.

I suggested to the FOG Council this month that we enter hospice. The word "hospice" is often thought to mean death is imminent and that is why people resist it. But that isn't true. In the care of hospice personnel, people can take stock of their life, and plan intentionally for how their legacy will be carried forward by those left behind.

Likewise, during hospice our parish/congregations can identify its assets and its unique witness, and how it will pollinate the next generation's faithfulness. Whatever follows will most likely not be the same. Remember those immigrant pioneers I referenced earlier? Surely they didn't simply recreate here what they came from in Norway or Sweden. We shouldn't hope that our congregations will remain the same.

As Pastor Shelly Olson reminded us in one of her recent radio sermons: "There is such a thing as good grief. Grief is good when we allow ourselves to be swaddled in the arms of God's promises. Grief is good when it brings us closer to God...when it brings us closer to the earth from which we came...when it brings us closer to one another in the journey of faith, hope and love."

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

## Sunday services are based on the book *The Story*

The in-church services (as well as the radio service) follow chapters in the book, *The Story*. If you haven't already gotten

a copy of the book, contact Pastor Heidi or a member of your church's council. They can arrange for you to get a copy.

## Homes for Haiti update



With a second noisy offering at the September 6 joint service—along with some outstanding pledges—the Homes for Haiti mission project has reached its goal of \$14,000. The FOG council approved sending payment for two "grain bin homes" when the total amount is in our account.

The second noisy offering brought in \$160.69, bringing the total for two summer noisy offerings to \$1,329.68. Additional donations will still be accepted.

## Council Meeting Dates

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



# OCTOBER 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Greeter: Sandy Donnay  
Reader: 4-Joint at Bernadotte; 11, 18, 25-Mary Martens  
Ushers: 11-Stacy & Kevin Reinhart; 18-Brian Martens & Al Hagberg; 25-Jeff Uhde & Landon Uhde  
Liturgist: 11-Sandy Donnay; 18 & 25-Jorja Langhoff  
Coffee Servers: 11-Myra Kienlen & Wendy Woller; 18-Kris Hagberg & Wendy Woller; 25-Lori Brethorst & Mary Martens  
Altar: Mary Martens & Laura Isaacson

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Daniel Fenske & Deb Sjostrom  
Acolyte: Mia Ross  
Readers: 4-Lori Fenske; 11-Rosanne Johnson; 18-Ruth Klossner; 25-Sarah Johnson  
Ushers: Elias Webster, Steve Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Kyle Dalquist, Jim Henderson  
Communion (Oct. 4 & 11): S-Elias Webster, C-Steve Radke, U-Shaun Anderson & Trish Gieseke

### Called to her heavenly home

First Lutheran member Ardis Lokensgard, 85, passed away Tuesday, September 15 at the Sleepy Eye Care Center.

Funeral service was Monday, September 21, at First Lutheran Church with Pastor Heidi officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.



Ardis was a dedicated member of First Lutheran Church, WELCA, and the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed sharing her talents for quilting with family and friends.

### 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 Tithe.ly. 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

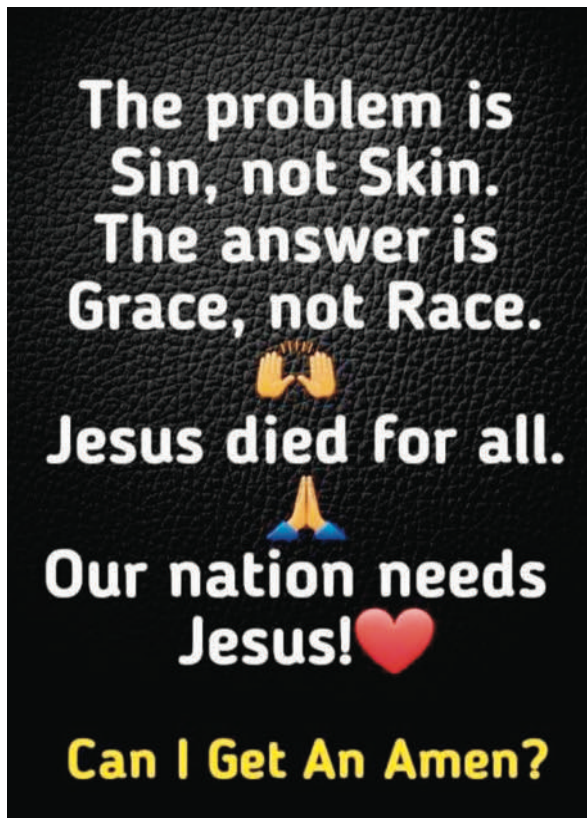
FOG Haiti Mission Project: Brad DeBoer, 31706 601st Ave., Winthrop 55396

### Good News from FOG

Bernadotte member Judy Ross was recognized for 45 years of service to the Lafayette and Winthrop Good Samaritan Society homes recently. Judy currently works at The Lodge in Winthrop.

She got her start at Lafayette at the age of 15—and continues to serve the elderly 45 years later. She began as an aide and has since worked as a TMA, activity aide, activity coordinator, dietary coordinator, and now universal worker.

Thank you for your many years of service in both Lafayette and Winthrop!!



### Wednesday evening Bible study

The joint FOG/Scandian Grove/Trinity/St. Paul's ZOOM Bible study continues each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

To take part, use this information—

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9281312316>

Meeting ID: 928 131 2316

Through federal CARES funding, Nicollet County has funds available to help with costs related to child care, housing, utilities, and other crisis needs related to COVID-19.

#### Child Care Funding

- Funds are available for Nicollet County residents who are having difficulty paying for child care due to reasons related to COVID-19
- Program ends on November 15, 2020
- There are no income limits for this program
- Get more information or fill out an application at <https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/800/Nicollet-County-CARES>
- If you have questions, please contact Liz Johnson at 507.934.7168 or email [HHSCARESAct@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:HHSCARESAct@co.nicollet.mn.us)



#### Crisis Funding Program

- Funds are available for Nicollet County residents experiencing difficulty paying for housing, utilities, vehicle repairs, and/or funeral expenses that are related to a loss of income for reasons directly related to COVID-19
- Applicants are not required to have an eviction notice
- Applicants must also fill out our emergency assistance application. If an applicant is denied for emergency assistance, they may still qualify for our crisis funding program
- Applicants must have income below 275% of the federal poverty guidelines
- Program ends November 15, 2020
- Get more information or fill out an application at <https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/800/Nicollet-County-CARES>
- If you have questions, please contact Liz Johnson at 507.934.7168 or email [HHSCARESAct@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:HHSCARESAct@co.nicollet.mn.us)



*In addition to this newsletter, there are several other ways to stay up to date on everything that's happening at our churches*

1) Fields of Grace website—  
[fieldsofgracemn.com](http://fieldsofgracemn.com)

2) By email  
[pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
(Heidi)  
[communications@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:communications@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
(Ruth K)

[secretary@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:secretary@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
(Lori F)

3) Bernadotte's Facebook Page  
The BLC page features news and photos from all three churches

*With God,  
Every Day is A New Day*

**New Day Worship Service**

**On 860AM KNUJ  
Sundays at 10:05 a.m.**

*Tune in for a word of hope & songs of praise*

A New Day is a worship service brought to you by St. Paul's & Trinity Lutheran Churches of Gaylord, Scandian Grove Lutheran Church of Norseland, and the Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish.

**KNUJ**  
• 860AM • [knuj.net](http://knuj.net) • 97.3FM •  
*"Your Friend in Southern Minnesota"*