



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 4 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran November 2020

Fog council is looking for original signed agreement

The FOG council is looking for a signed copy of the agreement that formed Fields of Grace parish early in 2004. Anyone who might have a copy is asked to contact Pastor Heidi or council president Karlen Nelson. Some preliminary documents have been located, but the council wants to review the actual final, signed version.

In addition, the council is trying to gather council minutes, treasurer reports, and any other documents from the early years. These will be placed in a file cabinet in a central location so that those needing them have access.

Council Meeting Dates

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

Radio, joint and in-person 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:

- Nov. 1—at Swan Lake Lutheran (possibly outdoors; dress warm)
- 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.

FLC Fall Festival cancelled

It is with much regret that First Lutheran WELCA has decided to cancel its annual Fall Festival due to COVID-19.

WELCA will still hold its quilt raffle, along with drawings for other prizes. The drawing will be held after the church service on November 22. Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased from any FLC member or at Citizens Bank, Lafayette.

Fields of Grace council meets with full slate in place



After having some vacancies, the Fields of Grace council had all members in place and in attendance for its Wednesday, October 21 meeting at First Lutheran Church.

With social distancing, it was impossible to get everyone in

one photo. Pictured are, from left, council members, Bruce White, Marvin Gieseke, Neil Rasmussen, Sarah Maass, Kyle Dalquist, Cindy Youngblom, and Karlen Nelson; youth director Mark Haler; council members Alan Youngblom and Traci Abrahamson; and Pastor Heidi Hagstrom.

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

As human beings, no matter our beliefs, we have an innate need for meaning, purpose, connectedness, and wholeness. What I see and hear from so many people right now is how their spiritual health is being shredded, not by a physical virus, but by our divisiveness, our corrosive politics, and the continual calls to outrage and anger, which can lead us to violent thoughts, words, and actions.

My encouragement to each of you is to seek after the things that make for peace in your heart, in your homes, and in your community. I personally find that through faith in God's goodness and love for me and for all people. To paraphrase St. Paul: "The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and building one another up."

In light of St. Paul's wisdom, I encourage you to focus on things/people for which you are grateful, as well as find ways that you can be generous with your compassion toward others. These things are helpful in pulling us out of places of despair, hopelessness, and anger. Here are a few practices we/you can do during November, the month of

Thanksgiving:

- Make it a spiritual practice to send a card of encouragement to someone every day.

- Post a gratitude daily on Facebook, in writing or in pictures.

- Call a friend with whom you've lost touch.

- Identify a way you can save money for a person or organization in need. Like deposit your change daily into a bucket, or donate a dollar every time you swear or engage in some kind of behavior you are trying to change (like eating too much late at night, Pastor Heidi), or make it positive by contributing X amount every time you find yourself humming or smiling throughout the day.

- Start a gratitude journal.

- Find a song about gratitude or thanksgiving that you can sing (or listen to) throughout the month.

During worship in November, I am going to include thanksgivings into the service. I will ask you to write them down as you enter the sanctuary, and then include them in our prayers.

Looking ahead to the winter holidays

Community Thanksgiving Service

This was scheduled to be held at Bernadotte but will not be held this year.

Advent Worship Services

Will be held at all three congregations on November 29, December 6, 13, and 20.

Christmas Worship

- Christmas Eve services at First Lutheran
5:00 & 9:00 p.m., Candlelight Communion Services
- Christmas Eve service at Swan Lake
7:00 p.m., Candlelight Communion Service

- Christmas Morning Service at Bernadotte

8:00 a.m. Communion Service, with possibility of a second service at 10:00 a.m.

Due to CDC restrictions, only 50 percent capacity is allowed at each service. Consequently, attendance will be by RESERVATION.

Each church will need to identify one person to take reservations as to which service people will attend, and the number in their party. No reservations will be taken until December 1. Watch for more details in the December newsletter.

There will be no Christmas Eve in the barn services at Trinity Lutheran this year. A video will be recorded and shown on Facebook, YouTube, and local cable.

FOG partners with Lions for Mark Haler benefit raffle

The Lafayette Lions and Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish are co-sponsoring the Mark Haler Benefit Raffle during November and early December. A total of 250 raffle tickets will be sold for \$20 each, with three \$500 and two \$250 prizes offered.

The drawing will be held at the Lions meeting at 7:00

p.m. on Tuesday, December 8 at St. Gregory the Great social hall—and will be livestreamed on Facebook.

Tickets will be available from Lions and Fields of Grace members. Make checks to Lafayette Area Lions.

Proceeds from the raffle will help Mark, the youth director for FOG, with medical expenses as he fights cancer.

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

Confirmation classes

Confirmation classes are being held each Wednesday, with one week in-person at First Lutheran and the next week by Zoom.

The first in-person session was Wednesday, October 28, with this week (November 4) on Zoom.

Both pre-confirmation and confirmation in-person classes meet from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. When gathering by Zoom, pre-confirmation is 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. and confirmation from 6:45-7:15 p.m. There will be no class on Wednesday, November 25.

The confirmation service for this year's class of seven students has been set for Sunday, March 28.

First communion

Two young people from the FOG churches will observe first communion soon.

Both will take first communion on Sunday, November 15—Jaydan Broste at First Lutheran and Tanner Johnson at Bernadotte. Congratulations to them!

Sunday School

Like confirmation, Sunday School is using a combination of in-person and Zoom classes this year.

In-person classes will meet Sunday, November 1—and the first Sunday of each month—at 10:30 a.m. at First Lutheran. In other weeks, kindergarten through second grades will meet by Zoom at 4:00 p.m. Sundays and third and fourth graders at 5:00 p.m. There will be no Sunday School on November 29.

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

BLC
ladies
create
beautiful
quilts



The Bernadotte ladies spent Monday and Tuesday, October 5 and 6 at the church, stitching up a pile of beautiful quilts for various causes.

Some of the quilts are already on their way to their new homes. Others (not shown!) will be gifts to this year's high school graduates.



