



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 5 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran December 2020

## Worship plans change again

With the continued rise in Covid cases, the FOG council has cancelled ALL worship services from now until Ash Wednesday, February 17. That means, sad to say, NO CHRISTMAS SERVICES or any other services at all.

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“A New Day” radio worship on KNUJ 860 will continue each Sunday at 10:05 a.m. The broadcasts will also be available on KNUJ's website afterwards. The order of service for each week's broadcast will be emailed and posted on our Facebook page a few days ahead of time.

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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

## Christian Education

All confirmation and Sunday School classes will be held by Zoom until further notice.

Pre-confirmation (grades 5-6) and confirmation (grades 7-9) will resume Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. (There will be no classes on December 23 and 30.)

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Sunday School classes for kindergarten through second grades will continue, starting December 6 at 4:00 p.m. Pre-K through grade 2 at 5:00 p.m. (No class on December 27)

## Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council—Monday, December 7, 5:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m., First Lutheran or Zoom
- BLC Council—Monday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.

## FLC scholarship applications available

The John S. Johnson and Roman Fischer scholarship committees are now accepting applications. Apps are available from Laura at Citizens Bank in Lafayette. Applications should be returned to Laura at the bank by December 31. Grades must be turned in before payment is made.

## First Lutheran Fall Festival drawings held November 22



Although First Lutheran's Fall Festival was cancelled due to Covid, the annual quilt and prize raffle was still held. Drawings for the beautiful quilt (right) and about 40 other

prizes were held after the Sunday, November 22 worship service. Jared Miller of Sleepy Eye was the lucky winner of the quilt.

# FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

**‘A New Day’ radio broadcast on KNUJ Radio, 10:05 a.m. Sunday  
with the broadcast available online on the KNUJ web page afterwards**

The cost of broadcasting is \$160 per week, split between FOG, Scandian Grove & Trinity/St. Paul’s.  
If you’d like to sponsor a broadcast, contact Brad DeBoer at [abdeboer57@gmail.com](mailto:abdeboer57@gmail.com).

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## Pastor Heidi’s reflection

We are living through one of the most complicated times in recent history. For some of us, this time of year is always difficult, but with the added uncertainty around COVID-19, it will be a particularly hard year for some. What has made this season memorable in the past—the decorations, the food, the worship services, Santa’s arrival, carol sings, etc.—won’t happen this year. Many of the traditions—those things we have come to associate with the Advent and Christmas holidays—won’t happen.

Many of us are grieving the loss of those traditions, especially the inability to gather in our beautiful worship spaces filled with greenery and poinsettias, and singing Silent Night by candlelight. Most of us couldn’t even celebrate Thanksgiving with tables surrounded by beloved family gathered from hither and yon. ‘Bout now in this pandemic cycle we are craving the intimacy of friends, and some demonstration of normalcy, but we are encouraged not to oblige our desires just yet.

It is important to acknowledge the grief we are carrying, along with any anger we are feeling about the restrictions and/or the people who restrict us. Grief comes in many forms, and when it is not expressed, it tends to harden the once-vibrant parts of us.

Sadly, because of the circumstances in which we find ourselves (because of the pandemic) we will be alone with our grief much of the time. That solitude can be rich, as long as we know we are held somewhere, somehow, by others. Our friend-

ships and our faith community enable us to go into that dark space alone. The Irish philosopher John O’Donohue had a concept he called the “reverence of approach.” He said, “When we approach [things] with reverence, great things decide to approach us.” What if, instead of trying to outmaneuver grief this season, we came to it with reverence? Grief is not a passive state we “get through.” We must find a way to engage it, to sit with it, to mull it over.

I will be offering a time to do that throughout Advent by posting a short daily devotional on FOG’s Facebook page by 10:00 a.m. each day. I encourage you to use it as your daily spiritual practice throughout Advent. I will be lighting my Advent wreath, and I encourage you to do the same. You can search online for resources on how to make an Advent wreath if you don’t have one.

Ultimately, I hope to help us experience the kinship between grief and gratitude. Patricia Campbell Carlson is noted for her observation that “grief and gratitude are kindred souls, each pointing to the beauty of what is transient and given to us by grace.” My hope is that our Facebook page will be a place where you are reminded of your connection to your larger church community. I hope that we can create a safe space where grief and gratitude can hold one another in close communion, and where you are reminded of the true reason for the season.

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

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## End of the year financial considerations for our churches

Even though we won’t be together in worship, it’s time to think of year-end things, including making donations to our churches.

First Lutheran president Traci Abrahamson sends this message: “Thank you to everyone for your continued financial support. The council has had inquiries regarding our financial status. Up until October, we were keeping pace financially. Since then we saw a dip in contributions. Contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 14, Lafayette or you may use the online options. Thank you from the First Lutheran Church council.”

At Bernadotte, donations have nearly kept pace, but the church lost its usual income from Swedefest. Several members have made donations toward that. Those wishing to make general or Swedefest donations may send them to Ruth

Klossner at 34085 515th Ave., Lafayette, MN 56054.

Swan Lake donations may be sent to JoAnn Gieseke, 29540 State Hwy 4, St. James MN 56081.

Donations to any of the FOG churches can be made online through Tithe.ly. To do that, go to the FOG web page at [fieldsofgracemn.com](http://fieldsofgracemn.com). On that page, part way down, under “Please remember our churches’ needs...” click the blue line “Click here to go to our GIVING page.” That will take you to the Tithe.ly giving page with a red “Donate” box.

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Our Fields of Grace mission project to fund two SafeT Homes for Haiti has **nearly** reached its goal of \$14,000, but is a few hundred dollars short. We’d like to finish that project soon. Donations can be made online or can be sent to FOG treasurer Brad DeBoer at 31706 601st Ave., Winthrop 55396.

# First Communion held at BLC and FLC



Tanner Johnson, son of Brent and Sarah Johnson, received First Communion at Bernadotte Sunday, November 15. His grandparents are Kevin and Rosanne Johnson and Tom and Jan Hartberg and all were in attendance that day. Tanner's sponsors are Spencer Hartberg and Addie (Johnson) Prahl. Tanner played a number of songs for the offertory before communion.



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Jayden Broste, the son of Jeremy and Carmen Broste, received First Communion Sunday, November 22 at First Lutheran Church. Jayden's grandparents are Jim and Jorja Langhoff and Trudy Hofstad. His sponsors are Mike and Shauna Hoffmann and John Broste.





## First Lutheran presents graduation blanket

It may have been six months late, but 2020 high school graduate Kaylyn Broste received a tied blanket from First Lutheran Church. Pastor Heidi made the presentation during the Sunday service, November 22. Kaylyn is the daughter of Jeremy and Carmen Broste.



## 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. A total of 250 raffle tickets are being 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 are available from Lions and Fields of Grace members. Make checks to Lafayette Area Lions.

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

See next page for more details.

## Greetings from the Johnsons

Ron and I will be leaving for Arizona soon, but will be thinking of you this holiday season and wishing you “all the best” to come in 2021. The magic of Christmas never ends...and its greatest gifts are family, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your friendships and cards of well wishes. See you all in the spring! Stay safe.

Ron & Denise Johnson

## Mobile food shelf coming to town

The New Ulm Mobile Food Shelf will make deliveries to Lafayette on the third Thursday of each month. The trailer will be in the parking lot of First Lutheran Church from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.



Registration is required and requests must be made by the 20th of the month prior to delivery. (i.e. December 20 for January delivery)

To learn more, visit [www.newulmfoodshelf.com](http://www.newulmfoodshelf.com), email [newulmmobilefoodshelf@gmail.com](mailto:newulmmobilefoodshelf@gmail.com), or call 507-354-7668.

## LFD pork chop meal December 5

The Lafayette Fire Department Relief Association will serve a drive-thru Pork Chop Meal Sunday, December 5. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the fire station. Cost is \$8.00, with \$2.00 for an additional chop. The meal includes a seasoned chop, German potato salad, coleslaw, and a dinner roll.



The  
*heart* of a  
*volunteer*

is not measured in size,  
but by the depth of the  
commitment to

*make a  
difference*

in the lives of others.



*Mark  
Haler*

Raffle Benefit



**DECEMBER**

**08**

**7PM**

\$20/ticket

250 tickets  
sold

3 - \$500 prizes

2 - \$250 prizes

Checks to:

Lafayette

Area Lions

Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish

Lafayette Area Lions

St. Gregory the Great Social Hall

Live Stream on Facebook



Mark wasn't celebrating on New Year's Eve, 2019; he was beginning a fight for his life after learning that the lump on his leg was cancerous. Later that month he learned what kind of cancer had invaded his body: Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Already on disability because of a back injury, caring for his wife who had a debilitating brain aneurysm followed by several strokes, and rearing a teenager, Mark called on his God for strength and perseverance. Chemo started at the end of January, every 3-4 weeks. The goal is achieving a maintenance regime of chemo every 7-8 weeks for the rest of his life.