



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 6 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran January 2021

Worship & Bible study schedule

In-person worship services are on hold until Ash Wednesday, February 17. . . .

“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. . . .

The joint FOG/Scandian Grove/Trinity/St. Paul's Zoom Bible study resumes Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

To Join Zoom Meeting, go to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9281312316>
Meeting ID: 928 131 2316

Epiphany bonfire January 6

Join FOG and Trinity of Sibley Township January 6, 6:30 p.m. for an Epiphany Bonfire at David Kahle's farm, 31074 431st Ave., Gaylord, north of Trinity church.

This service of lessons, prayers, and carols, commemorating the day the Three Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus Christ. Hot chocolate and coffee provided. Dress for weather; the entire service is outdoors. The event will be cancelled if the weather is bad.

Feel free to bring your real Christmas tree to add to the bonfire. And, please bring a donation for the Sibley County Foodshelf.

Christian Education classes resume

Pre-Confirmation/Confirmation classes resume by Zoom, Wednesday, January 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School resumes by Zoom on Sunday, January 10, at 4:00 p.m. for Pre-K through grade 1 and at 5:00 p.m. for grades 2-4.

Annual meeting plans

• Bernadotte, Sunday, January 24, 11:00 a.m. in-person at church. The actual meeting will be shortened as much as possible. In order to keep the time we are together to a minimum, some materials will be emailed out ahead of time. Alternate date, Sunday, January 31.

• First Lutheran, Sunday, February 21. Back-up date: February 28.

Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council— Mon., Jan. 4, 5:30 p.m.
- FOG Council— Wed., Jan. 20, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- BLC Council— Mon., Jan. 18, 6:00 p.m.

FOG/Lafayette Lions Raffle helps Haler with medical bills



With all tickets sold, the Lafayette Lions gathered for the drawing for the combined Fields of Grace/Lions raffle to help Fields of Grace youth director Mark Haler as he battles cancer. The drawing was held Tuesday, December 8.

Haler drew the winning tickets—and pulled Pastor Heidi's name for the first \$500 prize. Two more \$500 prizes and two of \$250 were awarded. With that completed, Lions rep Joe Maidl presented the raffle proceeds, \$3,000, to Haler.

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.

Pastor Heidi’s reflection

New Year’s Day will be extra special for many of us this year as we gladly bid farewell to 2020, the strangest year in recent history.

It also happens to be a feast day in some Christian churches, the Feast of the Holy Name. It is eight days after Jesus’ birth and, according to the Law of Moses, all male infants were to be circumcised on the eighth day after birth. The circumcision and naming of a child marked them as an inheritor of Abraham’s covenant with God, and also created the child’s identity within a family.

A name is a fundamental building block of our identity. Our names define who we are and how we are known. In the ancient world, there was a widely held belief that names had power. To know someone’s name would give you the ability to influence or control them. That is similar to the second chapter of Genesis when the creatures of the earth parade in front of Adam. As he names them all, he is then given dominion over them. Names have power and significance and none more so than the name of Jesus.

As we have seen in our journey through *The Story*, for many in the bible an encounter with God would result in a new identity and a new name. “Abram” is named “Abraham” when

God speaks to him about the covenant and his promise for the future. God gives Abraham’s wife “Sarai” the name “Sarah” and promises to bless her. “Jacob” wrestles with an angel of the Lord and becomes “Israel”.

God never leaves us in the same place we were when we encounter God, and an encounter with God can change the foundation of one’s identity.

Like those figures in scripture who were renamed after having an encounter with God, we are also given a new identity and a new name by virtue of our baptism. In that encounter, through Jesus, we learn the name God uses for us, “Beloved.”

The year 2021 won’t magically change what we have experienced in 2020. Some of us will still experience loneliness and isolation, but we hope in the One who comes to save us from our despair and our selfish tendencies, our dependence on all the things that draw us away from true life.

My prayer for you in 2021 is that you may know and celebrate your true identity, eternally Beloved of God. It is our call, both individually and as a parish, to share the joy of that identity with our neighbors, inviting them, too, into the loving embrace of our true home: held safely in the very Heart of God.

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

Curtis and Ruby Peterson remembered at Bernadotte

Bernadotte Lutheran received more than \$400 in donations from the descendants of Curtis and Ruby Peterson at Christmas. Here are a few letters that family members included with their checks. Also sending donations were Charlotte Senske, Peter & Carrie Senske, Thomas & Kristi Hebeisen, and Heather & Joshua Kinkeade.
God Jul!

As you may have heard, our extended family, descendants of Curtis and Ruby Peterson, have decided to skip exchanging gifts this year. We thought it a good idea to give gifts to Bernadotte to honor our parents’ memory and to express our appreciation for the spiritual nurturing we received in our formative years at Bernadotte.

I have a great many fond memories of my growing up at Bernadotte and, as I age, I have an increasing awareness of the faith that the saints of Bernadotte have been so willing to share.

I know a little of the sort of challenges you face as a congregation. It is my hope and prayer that, in whatever form, the saints of Bernadotte will continue to share the fellowship, the sense of Christian community and, most especially the Good News of the joy, grace, and peace of God’s love.

Please pass along my best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

God’s love and mine, Dean Peterson

To whom this may concern:

Please find enclosed herewith a check for a gift to Bernadotte Lutheran Church in memory of Ruby Victoria and Curtis Findley Peterson, two faithful and longtime members of Bernadotte.

We are thankful for their lives and cherish their memory. Jerome was blessed to marry their daughter, Kathleen Joy (Kathy) after they had both graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1968. Since Kathy’s death in 1998, Jerome and their children, Jerome Curtis and Emily Kathleen, have returned infrequently to both Bernadotte and Gaylord. Even so, we all have very special memories of worshiping with Ruby and Curtis (and the Peterson family) at Bernadotte and sharing in fellowship with many members of the church during coffee hour after worship.

This gift, though small, we hope will enable the continuation of the important ministries that Bernadotte has carried out across the years.

Please convey to the congregation our heartfelt thanks for all the love and care shown to Ruby and Curtis across the years and especially as they ended their life on this earth.

And, in spite of the challenges of this pandemic, please give our best wishes for a merry Christmas and a blessing-filled New Year!

With affection, Rev. Jerome King & Joyce Marie Del Pino

Bernadotte sends thanks to all who remembered the church in remembrance of Curtis and Ruby.

Drive-in Christmas Eve service at BLC



Just a week before Christmas, the FOG council opted to hold a Christmas Eve drive-in/radio broadcast service at Bernadotte.

Even though Christmas Eve was the coldest day of the winter so far, the service was a success, with several dozen cars in the church parking lot—and many more people listening on their radios at home.

The broadcast was done from the church entry, with Pastor Heidi, the First Lutheran choir, reader Tanner Johnson and his mom Sarah, and organist Lori Grunzke taking part. KNUJ's Jim Bartels coordinated all the technical aspects, with help from son Adam in the background.

Ushers Tim Schulz, Neil and Andrew Rasmussen, and Dwayne Ross had the



coldest job, handing out bulletins and communion cups and later collecting the offering.

Although the service couldn't replace the usual Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services that the churches usually hold, it was a "bit of normalcy" in these unusual times.



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, VERONE!



Verone will be 100 December 31

New Year's Eve will be extra special for Verone Langhorst as it's her 100th birthday! Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, Verone's family won't be able to celebrate with her—but will take treats to Oak Terrace for the residents and staff. Verone is the second centenarian at Bernadotte, joining Mildred Ross who is 101.

FOG web page updated regularly

Volunteer Steve Briggs continues to update the Fields of Grace web page on a regular basis. Check it for calendar items, newsletters, photos, scripture readings, and more. Go to fieldsofgracemn.com.

We appreciate Steve's work on our web page!

Making online donations to FOG or a church using Tithe.ly

To make an online donation, go to the Fields of Grace web page: fieldsofgracemn.com

On that page, part way down on the home page, 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

Scroll down to the green GIVE button and click

That will bring up a page with a blue bar at the top

You do not have to log in

Enter the amount you want to donate

Designate which entity your donation should go to by clicking the arrow on the right side of where it says "Bernadotte Lutheran Church"—that will bring up the list of

Bernadotte Lutheran Church
First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Notes

- Thank you to Jon Hartley, Kevin Isaacson, and Laura Isaacson for doing some fall cleanup outside of church. They cleaned up the centennial landscaping by removing all the leaves and brush.

- Thank you to Sue Helget and Wendy Hagberg for taking the reins of delivering small holiday gifts to our shut-in, nursing home, and honorary WELCA ladies. Awesome job!

- First Lutheran annual reports are due January 20 for auditing and booklet preparation. Written reports and financial reports may be dropped off at church in the secretary's wall pocket, with Laura Isaacson at the bank, or sent via email to tdabrahamson@gmail.com. (Please let Traci know when you leave your items at church.)

BLC Notes

- All reports for Bernadotte's annual meeting are due to Lori Fenske by January 14 or earlier.

- The Bernadotte church council is looking to change its BLC newsletter from printed to digital form. A survey form will be included in the January issue of *Newsleak*. To stay on the mailing list, readers must return the form, indicating how they would like to continue to receive the letter.

Mobile food shelf comes to town

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

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

For more info, go to www.newulmfoodshelf.com, email newulmmobilefoodshelf@gmail.com, or call 507-354-7668.

Swan Lake Lutheran Church

Fields of Grace Mission (Homes for Haiti project)

Click on the one you want to donate to so it fills the "To" box

If you are making a one-time donation, do not click "Recurring Giving" box; click it if you want to make a recurring gift.

Fill in the boxes with your name, address, email, and credit card/bank information

Click the "Cover fees" box if you will pay the costs of using this program (for example, \$1.80 for a \$50.00 donation); if you don't, those fees will be taken from your donation

Click the GIVE box when you have completed everything

THANK YOU for using Tithe.ly to support our churches!!