



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 7    Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran    February 2021

## In-person worship services resume

In-person worship services will resume at all three churches on Sunday, January 31—8:00 a.m. at Swan Lake, 9:30 a.m. at Bernadotte, and 11:00 a.m. at First Lutheran.

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“A New Day” radio worship on KNUJ 860 continues 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



## Christian Education schedule

Pre-confirmation/confirmation classes (grades 5-9) will be held in-person, 6:00-6:45 p.m. at First Lutheran, each Wednesday.

Historically, confirmation classes have been suspended during Lent, but are being held this year, because so many were missed due to coronavirus.

Mid-week Lenten worship services will follow at First Lutheran.

Sunday School classes will continue by Zoom—4:00 p.m. for Pre-K through grade 1 and at 5:00 p.m. for grades 2-4.

## Lent and Holy Week services

At its January 20 meeting, the Fields of Grace council set up the schedule of services during Lent.

- Ash Wednesday service, February 17, 7:00 p.m., at Bernadotte
- Wednesday evening services—February 24 and March 3, 10, 17, and 24—7:00 p.m., First Lutheran (following confirmation classes)
- Maundy Thursday and First Communion Service, April 1, 7:00 p.m., First Lutheran
- Good Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m., Bernadotte
- Easter Sunday, April 4—6:30 a.m. at First, 8:00 a.m. at Swan Lake, 9:30 a.m. at Bernadotte



# 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

**‘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).

## Pastor Heidi’s reflection—introduction to Lent 2021

You may have noticed around the sanctuary of many Roman Catholic churches a series of visual reminders of Jesus’ last hours known as “The Stations of the Cross.” I think they are intended to encourage the Catholic faithful in their personal devotion. They are also known as The Way of the Cross, or Via Crucis (Latin, way of the cross) or Via Dolorosa (Latin, way of grief). You may have seen people slowly walking along The Stations of the Cross, pausing at each station for quiet reflection.

I will be modifying The Stations of the Cross practice to shape our observation of Lent this year. Each Wednesday we’ll work on coloring a poster that reflects a scene from Jesus’ journey to the cross as part of our worship experience. This activity should be especially fun for kids and kids at heart. We can’t share a meal this year, but we can share time creating our own “Stations of Lent.”

Roman Catholic sister, Joan Chittister, sums up Lent this way: “Lent is a call to renew a commitment grown dull, perhaps, by a life more marked by routine than by reflection. After a lifetime of mundane regularity or unconsidered adherence to the trappings of faith, Lent requires us, as Christians, to... think seriously about who Jesus is, to renew our faith from the inside out. It is the act of beginning our spiritual life all over again refreshed and reoriented.”

After months of isolation, we all may be in need of renewal. I hope that you will enter into the 40 days of Lent with the in-

attention of renewing your faith in Christ through the events of his last days on earth. My prayer is that we all come out on the other side of the resurrection “refreshed and reoriented” as Sister Joan says.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We’ll gather at Bernadotte, at 7:00 p.m. In the Old Testament, repentance was often marked by the wearing of “sackcloth and ashes.” Because of the coronavirus, and in light of our journey through the Old Testament, we may have to forego the imposition of ashes and use sackcloth as a visual reminder of the seriousness and the consequences of sin, namely death. As the Lord spoke to Adam, because of his sin, “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)

On subsequent Wednesdays, we’ll meet at First Lutheran, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 7:00 p.m. Seven students will be confirmed on Palm Sunday, March 28. Standby for details. We may need to be creative, given social distancing needs so the kids’ families can attend safely.

During the Maundy Thursday service, April 1, three fifth graders will be welcomed to The Lord’s Table for the first time. That service takes place at First Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. Our Good Friday observance will be at Bernadotte at 7:00 p.m. on April 2. Here is a preview of the Easter worship schedule: 6:30 a.m. First Lutheran, 8:00 a.m. Swan Lake, and 9:30 a.m. Bernadotte.

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

## FEBRUARY 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 7-Jeff Donnay & Kaitlin Donnay; 14-Darrell Abrahamson & Bob Youngblom; 21-Laura & Kevin Isaacson; 28-Al Pehrson & Dean Pehrson  
Reader: Cindy Youngblom  
Liturgist: 7, 21 & 28-Brad DeBoer; 14-Jeff Donnay  
Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays)—Joyce Reese  
Altar: Trudy Hofstad & Mary Martens  
Visiting: Mary Martens & Lila Ellies

### Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Jerome & Shaun Anderson  
Acolyte: Tanner Johnson  
Readers: 7-Jim Bartels, 14-Lori Fenske, 21-Rosanne Johnson, 28-Ruth Klossner  
Ushers: Tim Anderson, Beth Anderson, Jackie Helget, Bob Helget, Kyle Dalquist  
Communion (Feb. 14): S-Tim Anderson, C-Rosanne Johnson, U-John Nelson, Steve Sjostrom



## Continuing *The Story*

Even though we haven't been physically together in worship, we have faithfully followed the schedule originally outlined for our chronological journey through the Bible using *The Story*. Here is the schedule:

Jan. 31—King Who Had it All (Solomon)

Feb. 7—Kingdom Torn in Two

Feb. 14—Prophets/prophecy (no specific reading)

Feb. 21—God's Messengers (Elijah)

Feb. 28—God's Messengers (Amos/Hosea)

## Mid-week Bible study

Pastor Heidi and Pastor Scott have decided to suspend the Wednesday evening Zoom Bible study. There are just too many things happening on Wednesday nights—especially during Lent—and it is difficult to offer the Bible study consistently.

## Assembling FOG minutes book

The FOG council continues to work to assemble a complete book of FOG meeting minutes, going all the way back to the start. Almost all of the minutes have been found. Only those from December 2010; February, April, and December 2013; and December 2, 2015 are not accounted for. If you have access to any of these minutes, please contact Ruth Klossner.

## Youngblom recognized

First Lutheran member Hannah-Nikyta Youngblom has been selected for the Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award for Excellence for outstanding academic achievement, leadership potential, and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine. Nikyta was nominated to attend the Congress for Future Medical Leaders. This is a great opportunity for her to learn more about her possible future and what she can do to get there.

## Thank you from Verone

A very special Thank You to all who remembered me with Christmas and Birthday Wishes.

Also, thank you to all at Oak Terrace Assisted Living for making my 100th Birthday a very special day for me.

Your acts of kindness will always be remembered  
New Years Blessings to all. Verone Langhorst

## Greetings from Pastor Ron

In responding to a request from BLC, Pastor Ron Freimark (FOG fill-in pastor 2007) added this note.

"It has been 13 years since I gave Pastor Gary a sabbatical, but I still find it interesting to scan your communications. What a challenging year and, of course, we are not out of the woods yet! (Or should I say we have not yet been able to find our way out of the huge Bernadotte Airport?)

"I wish you and others at Bernadotte a happy new year. I often think about the people I met at FOG. It was a rewarding experience. Peace."

## Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council—Mon., Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m.
- BLC Council—Mon., Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Feb. 17, 6:00 p.m., BLC

## First Lutheran notes

• Annual meeting. FLC's annual meeting has been set for Sunday, February 21 at 11:00 a.m. It is always hard to get a quorum, but it will be especially tough due to Covid-19. As president of the council, Traci Abrahamson asks members to consider coming, with social distancing guidelines in place, with plenty of space, and a brief meeting. Three items stand out as being very important action items—adopting the updated constitution, technology adaptations in the proposed constitution to allow for non in-person attendance to be legal, and the number of council members as well as new members.

• Two new council members are needed for the coming year; please contact any council member if you are interested.

• The FLC council has reviewed and updated the constitution; the final version is ready for approval at the annual meeting. To allow members time to review such a large document, printed copies will be available for pick up at the church by February 7. An electronic version may be requested from a council member or Pastor Heidi. A major item to review is the number of members needed on the council. The constitution recommends "anywhere from five to seven members." The past version allowed up to nine members. It seems harder to have members step up to fill these positions, thus the council is proposing five. However, with a smaller number, the challenge of obtaining a quorum is harder. FLC is currently at seven members, down from nine (changed in 2008). Current council members are Randy Altmann, Laura Isaacson, Mark Haler, Jamie Friedrichs, Marilyn DeBoer, Marti Uhde and Traci Abrahamson.

## BLC Notes

• The Bernadotte ladies will be quilting at the church Wednesday and Thursday, February 10 and 11, starting at 9:00 a.m. each day. (Bring your own lunch.) Anyone interested is invited.

• The Bernadotte church council reorganized after the congregation's annual meeting Sunday, January 24. Elected officers are Steve Sjostrom, president; Elias Webster, vice president; Shaun Anderson, secretary; and Tim Anderson, treasurer. New council members are Jim Bartels, Lori Fenske, and Sjostrom. They join Rosanne Johnson, Tim Schulz, Steve Radke, Neil Rasmussen, John Nelson, and Dwayne Ross. BLC's new FOG representative is Sarah Johnson, joining Bruce White and Neil Rasmussen.

• The Bernadotte church council is looking to change its BLC newsletter from printed to digital form. A survey form was 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.



# Epiphany bonfire January 6

FOG and Trinity of Sibley Township joined together at David Kahle's farm, near Trinity.



The evening, commemorating the day the Three Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus Christ, included lessons, prayers, and carols. Christmas trees were part of the bonfire. Hot chocolate and coffee were available before and after.



## Prayers for our partners in Vryheid, South Africa

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa (like the ELCA) has elected a new presiding bishop, and the Southeastern Diocese (like our synod) has all new deans (like our synod bishops). There are 10 circuits in the diocese that correspond to the 10 conferences in our synod. Our Minnesota Valley Conference is partnered with the Vryheid Circuit.

The recent surge of coronavirus is devastating our part-

ners. They are losing members of the circuit at various parishes weekly.

While we pray for those losing family members to the virus, we also pray for their new dean, Rev. Zanele Sibisi, one of the two female deans of the Southeastern Diocese. Rev. Sibisi has assumed office during a very challenging time, making travelling and visits to parishes difficult for her.