



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 8

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

March 2021



## Lent & Holy Week Schedule

- Wednesday evening services—March 3, 10, 17, and 24—7:00 p.m., First Lutheran (following confirmation classes)
- Maundy Thursday and First Communion Service for fifth graders Bodey Hagberg, Madden Hagberg, and Briana Engel, April 1, 7:00 p.m., First Lutheran
- Good Friday Service, April 2, 7:00 p.m., Bernadotte

## Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4

- 6:30 a.m. at First Lutheran
- 8:00 a.m. at Swan Lake
- 9:30 a.m. at Bernadotte



## The Season of Lent

Although social distancing prevented Pastor Heidi from imposing ashes on Ash Wednesday, she found a way for service participants to do it themselves. Pastor included small packets of ashes in small burlap bags—and asked family members to impose ashes on each other.



# 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

Author Anne LaMott says about those struggling to create something, “sometimes you’re not blocked, you’re empty.” As I attempt to write something for this month’s newsletter I don’t feel empty, I feel full.

Like after a Thanksgiving dinner, all I can do is lay down and unbutton my pants. It is a paradox—there is too much, yet I’ve got nothin’. I am full of gratitude for the expressions of love and care—and pledges to pray—that I’ve received since sharing my cancer diagnosis. I am overwhelmed by communication from high school buddies, to my group of friends from Chicago, to college roommates, even ecumenical and international partners with whom I have worked.

I am also full of questions as I wait—not so patiently—to learn the treatment protocol. The future is uncertain right now, and for a planner that is difficult.

But then came a word from the prophet Jeremiah. Just two words: “you know.” In Jeremiah 15:15, Jeremiah’s lament turns to prayer. He is feeling sorry for himself, overwhelmed by the gravity of his call to be a prophet to the nations. Then, out of his shroud of self-pity, his lament turns to prayer.

“O Lord, you know;

remember me and visit me,

and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;

know that on your account I suffer insult.”

“O Lord, you know,” reminds me of Anne LaMott’s suggestion that the three essential prayers are help, thanks, wow. She wrote a book by that title which I highly recommend.

Anne says “My belief is that when you’re telling the truth, you’re close to God. If you say to God, ‘I am exhausted and depressed beyond words, and I don’t like You at all right now,

and I recoil from most people who believe in You,’ that might be the most honest thing you’ve ever said. If you told me you had said to God, ‘It is all hopeless, and I don’t have a clue if You exist, but I could use a hand,’ it would almost bring tears to my eyes, tears of pride in you, for the courage it takes to get real—really real. It would make me want to sit next to you at the dinner table.”

I hear Jeremiah being that honest with God, and then collapsing into God’s heart with the beautiful assurance that God knows. That sets our God apart from others. Our God took on flesh, became like us to demonstrate how desperately we are known, as Jeremiah reminds us even before we were conceived. Part of the beauty of the Lenten season is that we are reminded that, in Jesus, we have a God who knows us, who will never leave us or forsake us, who sits with us in our pain, our questions, our anger, our dismay (add your own feeling here) to the bitter end—and beyond. Thanks be to God.

Postscript: In the Greek Bible, God is called the heart-knower.

### An extra note from Pastor Heidi

Not only are we accommodating a global pandemic for which many of us are experiencing COVID fatigue, but now our parish is having to deal with my cancer diagnosis. Those two realities mean that we need to remain flexible. FOG leaders are planning, but it is likely plans will change as I learn more about what kind of treatments I am facing. So please watch your inbox for updates, and also let your neighbors know who don’t use electronic communications. This can be a time when our collective faith is tested, but it is during times of testing that we also grow the most. I am sorry that my situation is impacting y’all. We will get through this.

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



***Daylight Savings Time starts March 14!***  
*Turn your clocks AHEAD one hour or you’ll be late for church*

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# MARCH 2021 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 7-Tristan & Eric Sjogren; 14-Steve Langhoff, Al Pehrson; 21-Doug Durheim, Randy Sandquist; 28-Tristan & Eric Sjogren.

Reader: Linda Youngblom

Liturgist: 7 & 14-Jim VanMaasdam; 21 & 28-Brad DeBoer

Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays)—Joyce Reese

Altar & Visiting: Lila Ellies & Myra Kienlen

Coffee: 7-Sandy Donnay; Tristan, Eric, Dan, Deanna Sjogren; 14-Sue Helget, Carrie Nelson; 21-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg; 28-Tristan, Eric, Den, Deanna Sjogren.

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ben Radke, Andrew Radke

Acolyte: Douglas Henderson

Readers: 7-Sarah Johnson; 14-Shaun Anderson; 21-Steve Sjoström; 28-Tim Schulz

Ushers: Steve Radke, Pam White, Brad White, Brent Peterson, Brad Peterson

Communion (Mar. 14): S-Steve Radke, C-Dwayne Ross, U-Roseanne Johnson, Tim Anderson

## Confirmation at FLC March 28

On Palm Sunday, March 28, eight young people will affirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation at First Lutheran at the 11:00 a.m. service. They are Avery Roiger, Kaitlin Donnay, John Haler, Saige Isaacson, Brooklyn Hagberg, Jaydan Youngblom, April Rose and Tristan Sjogren.

Because of the constraints of Covid, the FOG council asks that members of First Lutheran who are not directly connected to these young people worship at one of the other FOG congregations that day (8:00 a.m. at Swan Lake or 9:30 a.m. at Bernadotte).

That will allow the young people to invite family to attend and still remain socially distanced.

## New event at Bernadotte

In lieu of Swedefest, BLC will hold a new event this year, called “Blooming in Bernadotte.”

It will be an opportunity to pre-order summer flowers.

Flowers must be pre-ordered and will be available for pickup on May 1 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Payment will be due at the time of order.

A flyer and order form are included in this newsletter and information will be posted on the FOG website and Facebook. Extra order forms will be available at the church.

A wine pull will also be held on May 1 and raffle tickets will be available for sale.

## Local World Day of Prayer cancelled

St. Paul's Church of Nicollet was to host the local World Day of Prayer observance for area churches this year. However, because of restrictions due to coronavirus, and not being able to serve food, St. Paul's has cancelled this year's event.

The church plans to host the event next year.

## Note for Thrivent members

Thrivent members are reminded that the deadline to direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2020 is March 31. The dollars expire if not directed.

## Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council— Mon., Mar. 1, 5:30 p.m.
- BLC Council— Mon., Mar. 15, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council— Wed., Mar. 17, following the 7:00 p.m. Lenten service, FLC

## No Easter lily garden at BLC

Due to many uncertainties, Bernadotte Lutheran will not have its usual Easter lily garden this year. A few lilies will be purchased for the front of the church, but those who usually organize the garden are not asking for donations of flowers in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones this year.

We'll look forward to having the garden again in

## Christian Education updates

Pre-confirmation/confirmation classes (grades 5-9) will be continue to 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 the classes at First Lutheran.

Sunday School classes for pre-school through fourth grade have been paused for the time being.

The FOG and FLC councils will evaluate how Christian education for this age group can start fresh in fall. Input from parents, grandparents, and church members would be appreciated.

## It's a boy for the Websters

Congratulations to Elias and Jenna Webster on the birth of their son, Arlo Eric Webster, on Sunday, February 14. Now that's a sweet Valentine!



## First Lutheran notes

• FLC is looking for one more person to serve on the church council. Please contact any council member if you are interested.

• FLC is also looking for another person to serve on the Fields of Grace council. Please contact any council member or Pastor Heidi if you are interested.

• Copies of the annual meeting packet are available at church on the usher's table or by the Sunday school door.

## Weekend Backpack Program update

Because of the generosity of donors across the ELCA, the ELCA COVID-19 Fund Appeal was established. Our Synod applied for some of the funds specifically to support ministries that provide food support.

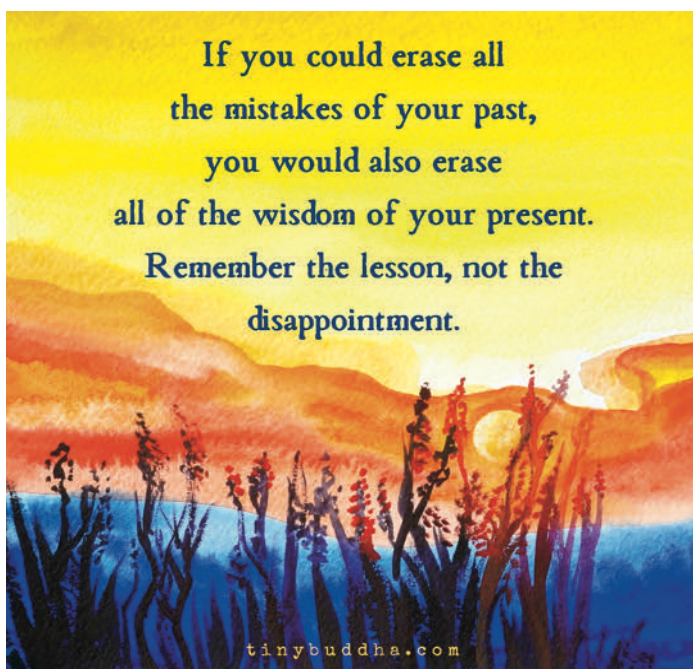
FOG's Weekend Backpack Food Program received a \$1,500 grant. Timing of the award is much appreciated as we are now supporting 18 to 20 children weekly.

Many thanks to Mark Haler who packs the food and to Sandy Hartley who distributes it weekly.

Such a generous gift does not let us off the hook. Please continue to hold the children and their families in prayer, and donate what you can. Checks can be sent directly to the Lafayette bank or any of the FOG congregations' financial secretaries. Make sure your gift is clearly identified for the backpack program.

## BLC Notes

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



## Bloodmobile at Lafayette March 29

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at St. Gregory the Great Social Hall in Lafayette on Monday, March 29 from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

To make an appointment, contact Lori Dick at 507-276-0876 or Traci Abrahamson at 507-276-3778—or go online (<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>).

## Homes for Haiti thank you

Paul van Gorkom, Executive Director of Go Serv Global, sent this thank you after FOG made its donation to sponsor two Safe T Homes:

“Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$14,000 towards our Safe T Home Matching Fund Drive. Your gift put us over \$100,000 in pledges. With these pledges we hope to raise another \$100,000 once we start our matching fund drive later this spring. Thanks for helping GoServ Global deliver hope to families around the world with these homes.”



**ANNUAL**  
**LAFAYETTE—AMBULANCE**  
**FUNDRAISER**  
*Saturday*  
**1 PM ~ 9 PM**  
*or until gone!*  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH**  
**PRIME RIB \$21.95**  
OR  
**FRIED CHICKEN DINNER \$12.95**

**INCLUDES: MASHED POTATO & GRAVY, GREEN BEANS  
DINNER ROLL AND YOUR CHOICE OF A SALAD OR SOUP**

OR

**SERVED AT DAVE'S PLACE OF LAFAYETTE**  
**RESERVATIONS FOR DINE-IN (DUE TO LIMITED SPACE.)**



**TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE**  
**(507) 228-8910**  
**LAFAYETTE, MN**





Eight ladies quilted on Wednesday, February 10 (above) and ten on Thursday, February 11 (bottom).



## Quilting at BLC

Bernadotte ladies taking part were Konnie Bartels Doris Kaduce, Rosanne Johnson, Renee Rasmussen, Romi White, Judy Ross, Donna Webster, and Sally Webster.



Offering the BLC ladies a helping hand were Dianne Kuester, Paulette Messerli, and Michele Oswald. The ladies completed a lot of quilts—and had a lot of fun!



# Blooming in Bernadotte

## PLANT SALE

*Bernadotte Lutheran Church  
will be conducting a flower sale  
this year in lieu of Swedefest*

**Saturday,  
May 1, 2021**

**Just in time for Mother's Day  
and Memorial Day**

*Preorders are required  
and can be placed now  
through **April 10, 2021.***

Order forms are available via the  
Field of Grace Website  
([fieldsofgracemn.com](http://fieldsofgracemn.com)),  
Fields of Grace MN Facebook page,  
at the church, or by contacting  
Shaun Anderson at 507-381-3858 or  
[shaun.anderson@ridleyinc.com](mailto:shaun.anderson@ridleyinc.com)

You may pick up your flower orders at  
Bernadotte Lutheran Church on  
Saturday, May 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*If you decide you need more flowers, a limited number  
of baskets/containers will be available for sale the day  
of pick-up.*



*Wine Pull and opportunity to purchase raffle tickets too! We appreciate your support!*

## BLOOMING IN BERNADOTTE

Quantity	Hanging Baskets	Size	Color	Cost	Total
	Mixed Petunia Basket	10"	Pink Mixed	\$29.00	
	Mixed Petunia Basket	10"	Red Mixed	\$29.00	
	Mixed Petunia Basket	10"	Blue Mixed	\$29.00	
	Trailing Wave Petunia	10"	Purple	\$29.00	
	Trailing Wave Petunia Mix	10"	Mixed	\$29.00	
	Impatiens	10"	Pink Mixed	\$26.00	
	Ivy Geranium	10"	Red Mixed	\$29.00	
	Zonal Geranium	10"	Red Mixed	\$29.00	
	Mixed Basket	10"	Shade or Sun	\$29.00	
	Mixed Basket	12"	Sun	\$40.00	
	Mixed Basket	12"	Shade	\$40.00	

Quantity	Colorful Containers	Size	Color	Cost	Total
	Combo Patio Planter	10"	Pink Mixed	\$31.00	
	Combo Patio Planter	10"	Red Mixed	\$31.00	
	Combo Patio Planter	10"	Blue Mixed	\$31.00	
	Combo Patio Planter	12"	Pink Mixed	\$38.00	
	Combo Patio Planter	12"	Red Mixed	\$38.00	
	Combo Patio Planter	12"	Blue Mixed	\$38.00	
	Oval Planter	16"	Mixed	\$35.00	
	Geranium Tub	12"	Red Mixed	\$37.00	
	Suncoleus Planter	12"	Mixed	\$37.00	
	Succulent Mixed Planter	12"	Mixed	\$39.00	
	Color Bowl Mixed Annuals	12"	Mixed	\$33.00	
	Color Bowl Mixed Annuals	14"	Mixed	\$37.00	

Quantity					Total
	\$25 Hacker's Gift Certificate (Redeemed at Hacker's Tree Farm Nursery/Greenhouse 45372 190th Street Sleepy Eye MN OR Hackers Garden Center 15th S Broadway New Ulm MN <b>Not for use at AZZinnia</b> )				\$25.00

<b>Customer Name and Address:</b>

<b>Customer Telephone Number and e-mail address:</b>

<b>TOTALS (cash or checks payable to BLC Fundraiser due at time of order)</b>
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Completed order forms and checks can be sent to Shaun Anderson P.O. Box 426 Nicollet, MN 56074  
If questions, call 507-381-3858 or e-mail [shaun.anderson@ridleyinc.com](mailto:shaun.anderson@ridleyinc.com)