



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 10

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

May 2021



Christmas in April at Fields of Grace



It was Christmas in April at Bernadotte Lutheran, Sunday April 25. The Fields of Grace churches, along with Scandian Grove, Trinity and St. Paul's of Gaylord are reading through the Bible this year—and today we were as far as the gospel of John. So...the church was decorated for Christmas and we sang Christmas songs. Actually, it was

pretty fitting, in that we did not have a Christmas service this past December. Pastor Dee Pederson from the synod office conducted the service and we were treated to "O Holy Night" by Charles Youngblom. And, as usual, the "good Lutherans" sat in the back of the church...all socially distanced, of course!

Upcoming worship schedule

The FOG council has set the summer worship schedule which will have rotating 9:30 a.m. Sunday services at our three churches.

May Services

- May 2 at Swan Lake with Bishop Jon Anderson
- May 9 at Bernadotte
- May 16 at First (Graduation Breakfast)
- May 23 at Swan Lake
- May 30 at Bernadotte (Graduation recognition)

Summer Services

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| June 6—FLC | July 25—SL |
| June 13—SL | Aug. 1—BLC |
| June 20—BLC | Aug. 8—First |
| June 27—First | Aug. 15—SL |
| July 4—SL | Aug. 22—BLC |
| July 11—BLC | Aug. 29—First |
| July 18—First | |

FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

For the foreseeable future:

One 9:30 a.m. service with communion on a rotating schedule between churches

**‘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

I have a new sense of urgency about the ministry of the church since being diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer. My urgency is not limited simply to the witness of our parish, but it extends to the Christian church in general. I can accept that my life will be shortened by this ugly disease. But I can’t as easily accept the church’s complacency at this time in its history. We have work to do people of God!

I believe the church* should always be asking how it is being called to situate itself in the world. Answering that question requires exploring our understanding of and relationship with God in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

There is something about God’s story that is transformative, probably because it is so counterintuitive. The kingdom of God that Jesus came to inaugurate is about things like suffering, and participating in suffering, about dying to oneself, and about dramatic reversals like the poor are made rich, the hungry are fed, the weak are most powerful.

It is not enough for Christians to only point to the kingdom of God with words. It is not enough to say to the poor and the oppressed that the kingdom will come. Christ calls us to proclaim the kingdom of God as powerfully present today, and to live in the world in faith that God is already creating that kingdom in our midst. That is one way of defining the mission of the church.

But what if our fidelity to Jesus is wedded to principalities and powers, such as white supremacy** or Christian nationalism?*** Then we have a problem. Because when we study God’s word with our mature selves, we discover that the one we call Lord—the second person of the Trinity, the eternal Son, the

image of the invisible God—is diametrically opposed to those top down, totalitarian, cross-building powers.

Please don’t take this personally, but my hunch is that most of us are still interacting with the bible and articulating a theology that reflects the developmental stage of faith of a junior high student.

Let’s face it: we treated confirmation like graduation, and we didn’t seek any higher Christian education. But no one who wishes to grow stays in junior high school. Everyone who wishes to grow graduates to higher/deeper levels of being and understanding.

Many historians, philosophers, and spiritual teachers now agree that collective history itself is going through an evolution of consciousness. We can readily observe stages of consciousness or stages of “growing up” in the world at large (e.g. today Christians do not believe that slavery is acceptable, but many at one time did).

Being a person of faith, a disciple of Jesus Christ, involves grappling with the gospel as a present reality and not just a ticket out of hell so you don’t go there when you die. That is junior high thinking.

We need to mature beyond that and engage with the liberating, life-giving Jesus who invites us to address a lot of the problems facing the world. I am thinking about starting a virtual bible study with all of the Fields of Grace councils called “How to Read the Bible (like adults). I probably will open it to others as well. Watch future FOG Newsletters and/or bulletins for more details.

* “Church” means us, the people of God, a community whose way of showing up in the world is formed and shaped by God’s story.

** Beliefs and ideas purporting natural superiority of the lighter-skinned, or “white,” human races over other racial groups.

*** The belief that the American nation is defined by Christianity, and that the government should take active steps to keep it that way.

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

FOG is looking for a part-time administrative assistant

Fields of Grace is looking for administrative assistance to work with Pastor Heidi and all three churches. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Johnson (507-327-8852), Traci Abrahamson (507-276-3778), JoAnn Gieseke (507-276-4565) or Pastor Heidi (507-766-3471) by May 15.

MAY 2021 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 16-Jeff Donnay, Marlin Wendorff
Reader: Sandy Donnay, Jeff Donnay
Liturgist: 16 Charlie Hartley
Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays)—Joyce Reese
Altar: Traci Abrahamson, Cindy Youngblom
Visiting: Sandy Burger, Sandy Hartley
Graduation Breakfast: Shannon Krueger, Mary Martens, Sandy Burger, Laura Isaacson

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Romi White, Pam White
Acolyte: Marissa Anderson
Readers: 9-Rosanne Johnson; 30-Ruth Klossner
Ushers: Lori Fenske, Arlin Nelson, Jerry Oscarson, Brent Johnson, Sarah Johnson
Communion (May 9 & 30): S-Lori Fenske, C-Jim Bartels
U-Jerry Oscarson, Dwayne Ross



First communion at FLC

Three fifth graders celebrated their first communion at the Maundy Thursday service at First Lutheran April 1. The youngsters pictured with Pastor Heidi are Briana Engel, daughter of Tony and Mindy Engel; Bodey Hagberg, son of Mark and Kelly Hagberg; and Madden Hagberg, son of Matt and Emily Hagberg.



Good News Item

Matthew Hartley of First Lutheran has been practicing Brazilian jiu-jitsu with the Flow Yoga and Martial Arts gym in Winona during his four years of college. Jiu-jitsu teaches participants how to survive on the mat and thrive in the world.

Hartley recently took first place in the 189 weight class for the Gi division. He also finished second in the nogi division where participants grapple against an opponent of any weight.

The Flow gym is affiliated with several other gyms in the upper Midwest and that are part of Team Vaghi.

Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council— Mon., May 3, 5:30 p.m.
- BLC Council— Mon., May 17, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council— Wed., May 19, 7:00 p.m., BLC



Remember! Flower pickup for Blooming in Bernadotte is this Saturday, May 1, from 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. .

A wine pull will also be held Saturday and raffle tickets will be available for sale.

Planning for Christian education

For parents of preschoolers to fourth graders, there will be a meeting later in May or early June to discuss fall Christian education for this level. Your input and involvement are key to move forward with this age group.



St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church



24TH ANNUAL SPRING CHICKEN DINNER
Sunday, May 2, 2021
510 North Brown St. WINTHROP, MN

**DRIVE THRU
TAKE OUT ONLY**

**SERVING FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.
OR UNTIL GONE.**

Menu: ¼ grilled chicken (light or dark meat)
potatoes, bread, vegetable, and dessert.

Meal Tickets \$10.00 each

Korean War veteran Vern Paulson honored

Friday, April 16 was a special day for Vern Paulson.

Mayo Hospice staff presented an "Honor a Vet Program" that day at the Paulson home in Alfsborg Township, northeast of Lafayette.

Paulson, 92, is believed to be one of only two living members of Service Battery, 125th Field Artillery Battalion, 47th Infantry Division from St. Peter that served in Korea during what is often called "the forgotten war."

Hospice staff, every day caretakers, family, and special Bernadotte Lutheran church friends Bruce White and Jim Young attended the gathering that included a message and prayer by the hospice chaplain, a poem read by a hospice nurse, and daughter Nancy Rubischko sharing Vern's military story. The hospice social worker emceed the program and presented Paulson with a certificate. He also received a special Army blanket from the Hospice Veterans Program.

"It was a great celebration filled with honor, stories, laughter, and even a few tears as Dad looked back on his years in the military," Rubischko said. "Special thanks to Mayo Hospice staff for the program and blanket, the wonderful daily care from a great staff of caregivers—Nancie, Ann, Maddie, Betty and Kari, the beautiful flowers from the Doehling Family and Elke, support from friends and neighbors—especially Jim and Bruce—and the love from family. It truly is a lasting memory. Dad was a pretty happy man that day."

Friends and neighbors were also invited to pull into the Paulson driveway to honk their car horns to let Vern know that they are thankful for his service.

Rubischko is working with the Korean Consulate in Chicago for Vern to receive the Korean War Service Medal.

"Dad never talked about his time in Korea—I don't think it was an easy time," Rubischko said.



She was able to gather information about her dad's service. Following are excerpts from the history she wrote and shared during the program.

SGT (T) Vernard G. Paulson Korean War Service

Written by Nancy Rubischko

On January 16, 1951, the St. Peter Division was sent to Camp Rucker, Alabama for military training as a result of the sudden reinforcement of North Korean forces by soldiers from Communist China.

After about four months of training, the Army began ordering officers and enlisted men to Korea as replacements. Many in Vern's division were assigned to Texas, but Vern and four other soldiers were informed they would be deployed to Korea. After a visit home to see his new bride, Neva, Vern reported to Fort Lawton in Seattle, Washington.

The Korean War brought a flurry of activity as troops heading to—or returning from—Korea were processed through Fort Lawton. But, on October 31, 1951, Vern was standing on Pier 39 with the HQ Company 1st Battalion 223rd Inf. Regt APO 6, ready to board the U.S. Naval Ship Marine Lynx for the voyage to Inchon, Korea.



Upon arrival at their post about one mile behind the enemy line, the responsibility of the four soldiers was to supply the front line with ammunition. The current soldiers had been sleeping in a cave, but Vern was glad to see the arrival of a tent for the four to sleep in. They made quick work of building it. Even though it was winter, meals were "enjoyed" standing by an elevated plank. The food was good, but standing in the cold and snow for dining left much to be desired, especially on Christmas Day.

Vern's job was to oversee the Korean locals who unloaded the ammunition when it arrived and to inventory the ammunition that went to the front line.

In March of 1952, after a tour of duty of five months and 13 days, a ceasefire was declared and Vern was on a ship back to Fort Lawton in Seattle.

For nine weeks, Neva waited patiently in a hotel in Seattle until—on August 24, 1952—SGT (T) Vernard G. Paulson received an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army and was awarded the UN Ribbon-Combat Infantry Badge and the Korean Service Medal-Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive.

Vern and Neva were happy to return to Mankato to begin their life together—Neva as a homemaker and Vern as a tile setter, auctioneer, and farmer.

Vern and Neva will be married 70 years this July.

