



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 11, Issue 2

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Sept. 2021

Fields of Grace takes part in St. Gregory's closing service, picnic and auction



The First Lutheran choir presented an anthem during the prelude to the closing mass at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church Sunday, August 8. FOG members served hot dogs and chips during the afternoon program — and again the next week at St. Greg's auction.



Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday services
Coffee & fellowship at 8:30 a.m.

The FOG council approved holding one service each Sunday, on a rotating schedule, through the end of 2021. The schedule for September and October is:

- Sept. 5 — Swan Lake
- Sept. 12 — Bernadotte
- Sept. 19 — First Lutheran
- Sept. 26 — Swan Lake
- Oct. 3 — Bernadotte
- Oct. 10 — First Lutheran
- Oct. 17 — Swan Lake
- Oct. 24 — Bernadotte
- Oct. 31 — First Lutheran

Sunday school help is needed

Fields of Grace is attempting to start a new year of Christian education for preschoolers through ninth graders—but FOG needs people to help guide the young people. Notice we didn't say "teach," as that word seems to freak people out.

Really, what the young people need is trusted relationships with adults who are Authentic, Available and Affirming. If no one steps up, FOG won't be able to hold Sunday school. Please contact Mark Haler at 507-766-6327 to volunteer.

Preschool through grade 4 will meet on Sundays, 10:45-11:30 a.m., and grades 5-9 will meet on Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Kids...bring your school bags for Blessing of the Backpacks at the 9:30 a.m. service at First Lutheran September 19

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council — Monday, September 13, 5:30 p.m.
- Fields of Grace Council — Wednesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., SL
- Bernadotte Lutheran Council — Monday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.

FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

For the foreseeable future:

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

Fellowship and coffee hour before the service at First and Swan Lake; afterwards at Bernadotte

**‘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

Harvest season is my favorite time of year.

That old, stale summer air turns fresh and crisp, a cue that we are entering newness. Schools resume (hopefully), the kids have gone back to college, farmers will soon begin harvest, and programs will start up at Fields of Grace.

Every year this season reminds me that life is not stale. We may follow new opportunities to grow, to help others, and to see God differently in the world.

We’ll probably have to wait a month before the dynamic colors of the world around us change. The autumn season reminds me that our faith and understanding of God undergo constant development.

But this change isn’t always easy or as obvious as we would like. Sometimes we may feel stuck or as stale as the late summer air.

And then there is the other side of Autumn. Despite its appeal, it may be saddening and challenging for others. Luckily, like the cold fall air, we have each other to freshen our perspective on God’s presence in our lives. We have each other to learn from, to walk with and support as we go through the joys and challenges that change may bring.

The ambivalence of change, whether joyful or sad,

may be stabilized by our faith that God is in our midst.

Although we may not know what lies ahead, God is active in our lives through the people around us. We are guided and supported by Christ so that we may see each other more clearly, and love one another more fully.

Paul’s verse in 2 Corinthians 5:17 says just that: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” I enjoy autumn because I am reminded of the changes we undergo in life with Christ in our midst.

At the August meeting, I asked the FOG Council to spend time prayerfully pondering the story of Jesus calming the stormy sea from Mark’s gospel. There is just something about that story that feels familiar. We aren’t in a ship being tossed to and fro, but we are being battered by outside forces with unprecedented intensity.

The stale air of summer weighs heavy with conflict, injustice, sorrow, a pandemic, and natural disasters. We need the assurance that God in Christ supports and loves us through uncertain times.

Especially in the midst of a shifting season, I am reminded of God’s never-ceasing presence and the exultation “Peace. Be still.” Thanks be to God.

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

Administrative assistant Trish Gieseke responds to calls to parish phone

At this time, Fields of Grace administrative assistant Trish Gieseke has the parish phone (507-766-3471). She will answer all calls and forward texts and voicemails to Pastor Heidi as needed.

Noisy offering—Help for Haiti

Destruction was everywhere after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake devastated part of Haiti’s southern peninsula, and then survivors were soaked by Tropical Storm Grace. That was a one-two punch to the vulnerable people of Haiti. They need our help.

Many FOG members have continued to collect change in the “Homes for Haiti” cans distributed last year. If not, you are encouraged to start collecting the change from your pocket(s), purse(s) and/or between the pillows on the couch.

Bring your change to worship at Bernadotte on October 3. It is our goal to fill Ruth’s milk can once again to help Haiti!

**New email addresses: Trish Gieseke, FOG administrative assistant: trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com
Ruth Klossner, FOG communications coordinator: fogcommunications2@gmail.com**

SEPTEMBER 2021 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 19-Jim Langhoff, Jacob Broste
Reader: 19-Sandy Burger
Liturgist: 19-Jorja Langhoff
Communion Bread: Joyce Reese
Altar: Lori Brethorst, Sheri Portner, Angie Hartmann
Visiting: open
Coffee: 19-Ann Gieseke, Sandy Burger. (Coffee hour is before the service, at 8:30 a.m.)

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Lori Fenske, Pam White
Acolyte: Douglas Henderson
Readers: 12-(name not available)
Ushers: John Nelson, Dave Nelson, Brad White, Pam White, Ruth Klossner
Communion (Aug. 12): S-John Nelson, C-Tim Schulz; U-Elias Webster, Dwayne Ross

Anden Fenske baptized at Bernadotte Lutheran

Anden Darwin Fenske was baptized at Bernadotte Sunday, August 1. He's the son of Daniel and Brittani Fenske and was born Friday, July 9, 2021.



Anden's grandparents are Lori and the late Darwin Fenske, Pam and Scott Brown, and Bruce and Rope Ruschmeyer. Great-grandparents are Dean Fenske, Mary Hoffmann, Diane and Lloyd Ruschmeyer, and Scott Callander. Anden's sponsors are Brenda and Nathan Lindmeyer and Brandan Ruschmeyer.

Happy retirement to Bernadotte members Judy Ross & Pam White

Not only did Bernadotte member **Judy Ross** celebrate her birthday early in August, but she also retired after 46 years of working for the same place of employment, the Good Samaritan Center, first in Lafayette and then in Winthrop.

Judy's sister LeAnn wrote on Facebook:

"You deserve some R&R! I know you will be missed beyond measure, not only by your co-workers, but many of the residents that you have been there for! You have helped so many to make one of the most difficult transitions in their lives. You have given them—over the years—a sense of calm understanding and acceptance, as they began this new chapter, along with humor and laughter, and a sense of normalcy. You've been someone they knew they could depend on and trust. You will be missed! You have made a difference in this world, where it matters the most."

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Pam White retired on July 30, after 40-plus years in the medical field as an LPN in various places. Pam started her nursing career at the Lakeview Nursing Home and finished with 22 years at Ridgeview Sibley Clinic (formerly Arlington Clinic). Her primary location was Winthrop. Like Judy, she also celebrated an August birthday, on the 10th.

Happy retirement to both of you!!





Pastor Leonard Hummel led the worship service and Mary Kavan of Lafayette provided the music when the third and final outdoor service was held August 22 at the Bernadotte Church Park.

BLC WELCA/LCM Meeting & Hamburger Fry, Sunday, September 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Called to his heavenly home



First Lutheran member **Charles Youngblom**, 84, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at his home in Lafayette. Just two days earlier, Charles had sung with the First Lutheran Choir at the closing service at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church.

Pastor Heidi officiated at the funeral service Tuesday, August 17 at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Charles is survived by three sons, three daughters, and their families. He enjoyed singing, was an active member of the Mankato Riverblenders, and often brought the group out to sing at the FOG churches.

Thank you from the Youngbloms

The family of Charles Youngblom appreciates all the prayers, support, and kind words from our FOG family. Thank you for all memorials given in his honor. Thank you Laurie for playing the organ and our First Lutheran Ladies for serving the lunch. We want to thank American Legion Post 300 Honor Guard. Pastor Heidi, your beautiful message and kindness was a blessing to us all.

Many thanks, Youngblom family

First Lutheran notes

- Planning has begun for the 125th Anniversary Celebration of First Lutheran on July 31, 2022. Volunteers willing to help with the planning are asked to contact Traci Abrahamson.

- The FLC Fall Bazaar has been set for the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 21.

- Like other parishes across the country, First Lutheran Church is encountering the challenges of financial constraints. With the reduction in services due to Pastor Hagstrom's health, and the change in how we gather each week, donations are down. To help provide a better picture, FLC expenses year to date total \$35,016.61. Unfortunately, due to lack of services and opportunities to give weekly offerings, total income is \$25,957.37, leaving a deficiency of \$9,059.24 to meet financial needs. To help maintain financial stability, please consider giving as you are able. Offerings can be done in the collection plate at all church services. Enveloped offerings will be routed to the identified church, but may be delayed. If unable to attend services in person, alternative opportunities include online by Tithe.ly, by mail, or dropping off at Citizens Bank MN, Lafayette.

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

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!!

Neighborhood Night Out held at Bernadotte Park

A big crowd—estimated at about 120— enjoyed the 24th annual Bernadotte/South Brighton Neighborhood Night Out Tuesday,

August 3 in the Bernadotte Church Park. Although usually held on farms, this was the second time at the park.



The 2021 hosts were Laura and Kyle Dalquist and Tim and Wendy Schulz



Farm adolescent and adult mental health study

Farmers and ranchers with an adolescent (between ages 13 and 17) in the house are invited to participate in a research opportunity.

The National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety and the University of Illinois are surveying farm families to better understand how farm stress is experienced by adults and adolescents in the household, and how individuals respond to stress. With the results, they will work to develop resources and programs to reduce farm-re-

lated stress, improve resiliency, and improve overall physical and mental health among farm adults and farm adolescents.

Contact josier@illinois.edu for more info and/or go to <https://go.illinois.edu/faam2021> to participate. Up to three members of a family can take part—the primary operator, the primary operator spouse/partner (if applicable), and one farm adolescent (between the ages of 13 and 17 years old). Everyone who participates will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card.