



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 11, Issue 3

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Oct. 2021

FOG Blessing of the Backpacks at FLC



Pastor Maggie Falenschek, chaplain and director of Campus Ministries at Gustavus Adolphus College, led the worship service for the Blessing of the Backpacks at First Lutheran Sunday, September 19.

Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday services
Coffee & fellowship at 8:30 a.m.
at FLC and SL; at 10:30 at BLC

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

- Oct. 3—Bernadotte
- Oct. 10—First Lutheran
- Oct. 17—Swan Lake
- Oct. 24—Bernadotte
- Oct. 31—First Lutheran
- Nov. 7—Swan Lake
- Nov. 14—Bernadotte
- Nov. 21—First Lutheran
- Nov. 28—Swan Lake
- Dec. 5—Bernadotte
- Dec. 12—First Lutheran
- Dec. 19—Swan Lake
- Dec. 26—Bernadotte

Community farewell for Pastor Heidi

Although Pastor Heidi has completed her service in Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish, she will be around for much of the next month, as she packs up in preparation for a move to Buffalo, where she will live with her sister and brother-in-law.

Fields of Grace—along with the Lafayette Lions, Lafayette Charter School, and other community organizations—will bid her a fond farewell at a community celebration Sunday, October 24 at the Lafayette Charter School. The event will include a Dad’s Belgian Waffle Brunch (free will offering) and a program. A poster with all the details is on page 4.

Volunteers are needed to help with the brunch. Please check the sign-up sheet on page 5 to see where you can volunteer. Call Trish Gieseke to tell her which of the open slots you can help with.

The Lafayette Area Lions Club is doing a cash raffle to help Heidi. Tickets are available from Sandy Hartley, FOG or Lions members, or at Citizens Bank, Minnesota, Lafayette branch.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Monday, October 4, 5:30 p.m.
- Fields of Grace Council—Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m., BLC
- Bernadotte Lutheran Council—Monday, October 18, 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

Dear Beloved Parish,

It is with humble gratitude that I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. You took a chance on this rookie, allowing me to pursue seminary study while serving you, and then welcoming me into fulltime service as a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. I didn’t take that role lightly.

It has been my joy and honor to serve you, and even more than that, it has been a blessing to be served by all of you. As a parish, and as individuals, you have brought a multitude of blessings to my life, especially indulging my strange passion for chickens. You mean more to me than I can ever express. I am exceedingly thankful to God for placing me here on the beautiful prairies of southwestern Minnesota.

Ever since being diagnosed with cancer, I’ve pledged to be transparent with you. That will not stop here. I received the last of six chemo treatments on September 23, and was told by my doctor that there was evidence it had stopped working. That was a blow, but it also served to affirm my decision to retire. I do so with a heavy heart, as I

had promised to stay with you for many more years. Apparently, God has other plans for both of us.

I am ready for whatever comes. Thanks to my lovely mother’s example, I am not afraid of death. I trust God’s promise that eternal life means more life, whatever that will be.

I will continue to pray that the Spirit moves among you to illuminate what’s next for Fields of Grace. You have the capacity to be a beacon of light for people desperately seeking God’s mercy, justice and love in a time that feels unhinged. People are seeking an anchor in an unstable world, and God can use you to fill that need. I hope you can trust how God might be reshaping you to respond faithfully.

Thank you for the opportunity to occupy the parsonage through the month of October. It will take extra coordination to consolidate two households as I will be moving in with my sister and brother-in-law, 102 Maplewood Place, Buffalo, MN 55313.

In Christ,
Pastor Heidi

To contact FOG: 507-766-3471

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 the proper person.

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 gather 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!

Email addresses: Trish Gieseke, FOG administrative assistant: trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com

Ruth Klossner, FOG communications coordinator: fogcommunications2@gmail.com

Fields of Grace web page: <https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

OCTOBER 2021 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 10-Stacy & Kevin Reinhart; 31-Tom Sandberg, Jon Hartley
Reader: 10 & 31-Mary Martens
Liturgist: 10-Sandy Donnay; 31- (open)
Communion Bread: Joyce Reese
Altar: Mary Martens, Laura Isaacson
Visiting: Wendy Hagberg, Sue Helget
Coffee at 8:30 a.m.: 10-Myra Kienlen, Wendy Woller; 31-Deb Sandberg, Sandy Burger

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Daniel Fenske, Deb Sjostrom
Acolyte: Mia Ross
Readers: 3-Jim Bartels; 24-Lori Fenske
Ushers: Elias Webster, Steve Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Kyle Dalquist, Jim Henderson
Communion (Oct. 3 & 24): S-Elias Webster, C-Steve Radke; U-Shaun Anderson, Steve Sjostrom
Coffee: 3-Carol Young, Denise Johnson. 24- Waffle Brunch.

Sunday school help is needed

Fields of Grace plans to start the new year of Christian education for preschoolers through ninth graders—but needs people to help guide the young people.

Sunday School is set to start October 3—10:45-11:30 a.m. at First Lutheran—but additional helpers are still needed. Please contact Mark Haler at 507-766-6327 to volunteer for a week, a few weeks, a month, or....

Confirmation will meet on Wednesday evenings, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran, starting October 13.

Called to his heavenly home

Robert "Bob" Isenberg, 92, of St. Peter departed this life in mid-August. A memorial service was held Saturday, September 25, at First Lutheran Church in St. Peter.

A memorial/burial service will be held at the First Lutheran Cemetery in Lafayette on Tuesday, October 5 at 11:00 a.m., with the Lafayette Legion Color Guard providing military honors.



First Lutheran notes

• The First Lutheran 2021 Fall Bazaar will be drive-through only on Sunday, November 21, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (or until sold out), following the church service at FLC. The menu will include ham, meatballs, mashed potatoes/gravy, corn, coleslaw, bun, and pumpkin bars. There will be no bake/craft sale. Quilt raffle tickets will be mailed to sell and additional tickets may be purchased when driving through. Donated prizes for the raffle can be dropped off at FLC or with Laura Isaacson at the bank. Member donations will be accepted that day or may be put in the collection plate or given to Laura at the bank at any time.

• FLC members should check the WELCA/First Lutheran calendar 2020/2021 church book for job duties.

• The FLC calendar job duties will again remain the same for 2022. Anyone wanting to change job duties is asked to call Sue Helget at 507-276-5536 or Wendy Hagberg at 507-276-4421.

Bernadotte WELCA meeting

BLC's WELCA will meet Sunday, November 14 at approximately 11:00 a.m.—after the coffee hour following worship. Doris and Myron Kaduce and Steve and Mary Langhorst will be coffee hour servers.



Overflowing flower boxes

Even with the drought this summer, the ladies at BLC were able to keep the flowers in the planters by the front entryway looking great!

Good News Item

In a surprise announcement, Ruth Klossner received Minnesota Milk's "Bruce Cottingham Friend of Dairy" award at the 4-H Dairy Show at the Minnesota State Fair on August 28. The award recognizes individuals who foster the goals and ideals of Minnesota Milk through their own personal efforts, display leadership, and are involved in their local communities. The award has been presented just 12 times since it was began in 2006.





Bittersweet day as Pastor Heidi leads her final FOG service

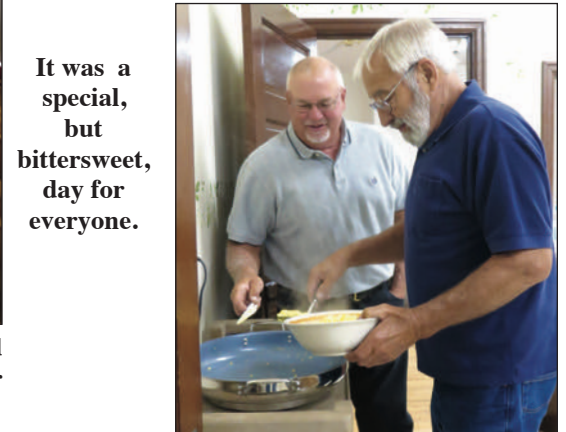


The Sunday, September 26
worship service at Swan Lake
was Pastor Heidi's last as
Fields of Grace pastor.



Victoria and Rod Flood visit with Heidi.

Swan Lake served a special brunch before the service and we were privileged to have special guests from the Chicago area—Victoria and Rod Flood, former co-workers with Heidi when she led the National Youth Gathering.



It was a
special,
but
bittersweet,
day for
everyone.



Just look
at all
those
goodies
that
Swan
Lake
served
up!





Community Farewell FOR PASTOR HEIDI HAGSTROM

by Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish with
assistance from the Lafayette Area Lions Club

Pastor Heidi joined Fields of Grace as Pastor in December of 2015. She has been active in the Lafayette area through her church family, the Lafayette Charter School, Lafayette Area Lions and other community organizations and events. During the summer of 2021, she was diagnosed with cancer and will be retiring and leaving Fields of Grace and the Lafayette Area.

DAD'S BELGIAN WAFFLE BREAKFAST *Sunday, October 24th*

10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Lafayette Charter School

351 6th St, Lafayette

Short program at 1:30 pm. • Lions Raffle Drawing at 2:00 pm.
Free Will Offering • Take-Outs Available

*All proceeds will be given to
Pastor Heidi to assist with
medical and living expenses.*

For more information, contact:
Trish Gieseke - 507.514.1022
Sandy Hartley - 507.276.4692
Ruth Klossner - 507.240.0048

To purchase a
Lions raffle ticket,
contact Sandy Hartley
at 507.276.4692.

Fields of Grace Community Farewell for Pastor Heidi Hagstrom

(with assistance from the Lafayette Area Lions)

Sunday, October 24

Waffle Breakfast

10 am-1 pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

To volunteer for any of the open slots,
call Trish Gieseke on the FOG phone,

507-766-3471

Set-up tables, etc.
SAT., OCT. 23, 10 A.M.
JoAnn Gieseke & Bruce

Servers

(Meat, beverages, syrup)

9:45-11:30 am

Mark Haler

Dining Area

10:00 a.m.-12:00 pm

Dining Area/Clean-up

11:30 am-1:30 pm

Clean-up/Load Truck

12:30-2:00 pm

Bruce White

Jim Bartels

Konnie Bartels

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

Unload Waffle Truck/Set-up

8:30-10 am

Karlen Nelson

Greeters

11:30 am-1:30 pm

Traci Abrahamson

Kitchen Help/Clean-up

11:30-1:30 pm

Put Up Posters in area towns

Lafayette: Mark Haler

Winthrop: Pam White

Gaylord: Mark Haler

New Ulm _____

Courtland _____

Nicollet: Ruth Klossner

(other) _____

Greeters

9:30 am-11:30 am

Adrienne Sjostrom

Kitchen Help

9:30-11:30 am

Judy Ross

Shaun Anderson

Carol Young

Pam White

Servers/Clean-up

(Meat, beverages, syrup)

11:30 am-1:30 pm

Romi White

Denise Johnson

Rosanne Johnson

Raffle Tickets for the Lions-sponsored Raffle

are available from

Sandy Hartley

**Call 507-276-4692 or at
Citizens Bank, Lafayette**