



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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Vol. 11, Issue 5

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Dec. 2021



Celebrating the life of
HEIDI JO HAGSTROM
October 13, 1955—November 26, 2021



*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

Look for more photos on page 2.



Well done, good and faithful servant.
You will be missed.



Remembering Pastor Heidi at a Celebration of Life

Friday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. at Cokato Evangelical Lutheran Church, 280 3rd Street SW, Cokato, MN.

Lunch and fellowship to immediately follow.

Visitation Thursday, December 2 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and also one hour prior to the celebration of life.

Cokato Evangelical Church encourages all in attendance to wear a mask, but please do so if you are not vaccinated.

The celebration of Heidi's life will be live-streamed.

FOG Holiday Schedule

- First Lutheran youth will take part in the 9:30 a.m. worship service, Sun., Dec. 12.
- Community Christmas Sing-a-long—Sun., Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m., First Lutheran
- Christmas Worship Services—7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve at Swan Lake; 9:00 p.m., Christmas Eve at First; and 8:00 a.m. Christmas morning at Bernadotte. Thank you to Maggie Falenschek from Gustavus for leading all services.
- NO service—Sun., Dec. 26
- Church Annual Meetings—Sun., Jan. 23, 9:30 a.m. (No pulpit supply)

Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m.
- FOG Council, Wed., Dec. 15, 7:30, FLC
- BLC Council—Mon., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Youth to sing at December 12 service

The Fields of Grace Sunday School and confirmation kids will take part in the 9:30 a.m. morning worship service at First Lutheran December 12.

The Sunday School children will sing “Go Tell it on the Mountain” and “Away in a Manger” while the confirmation students will play “Silent Night” on the bells.

Christmas Sing-a-long at FLC

First Lutheran will host the annual Lafayette Community Christmas Sing-a-long Sunday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The event continues the 50-year tradition—started by the Methodist Church in Lafayette—of gathering the community to sing Christmas carols and enjoy songs by church choirs and individuals.

Anyone wishing to sing or play an instrument is welcome—just come that night and tell those in charge that you want to participate.

The annual event began in 1972 when members of the Methodist Church gathered to sing carols—since they didn't have a Sunday School program. When the Methodist Church closed, the event first moved to St. Gregory the Great and First Lutheran, with Bernadotte now also taking a turn in the rotation.

First's WELCA will serve coffee and cookies after the sing-a-long. If you have questions, please contact Traci at 507-276-3778.



All in two days' work

The Bernadotte ladies—with help from several ladies from Lafayette—spent two days quilting in early November. They completed a whole pile of quilts that will be distributed around the area. They'll be back at it Monday and Tuesday, February 14-15. Check page 5 for more photos from the quilting days.

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.

Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday services

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

**One worship service each Sunday,
on this rotating schedule:**

Dec. 5—Bernadotte
Dec. 12—First Lutheran
Dec. 19—Swan Lake
Dec. 26—NO service
Jan. 2—Bernadotte
Jan. 9—First Lutheran
Jan. 16—Swan Lake
Jan. 23—Annual Meetings
Jan. 30—Bernadotte
Feb. 6—First Lutheran
Feb. 13—Swan Lake
Feb. 20—Bernadotte
Feb. 27—First Lutheran
Mar. 6—Swan Lake
Mar. 13—Bernadotte
Mar. 20—First Lutheran
Mar. 27—Swan Lake

FLC scholarship applications available

Scholarship applications for First Lutheran members, for the Roman Fischer and John S. Johnson scholarships, are now being accepted. Applications are available in the entryway at First Lutheran (on the east side of the front door).

Completed applications must be turned in by December 26, 2021. They can be placed in the offering plate at First Lutheran or in the night drop at Citizens Bank MN, Lafayette branch, marked “Attn: Laura.” Grades from the first semester must be turned in to receive scholarship payment.

FOG council is seeking a volunteer treasurer

After serving as the Fields of Grace treasurer for a number of years, Brad DeBoer has resigned, effective December 31. The FOG council is looking for someone to step up to handle the financial matters of the parish as treasurer. If you’re willing to do that job, please contact Karlen Nelson at 507-351-1963 or another FOG council member.

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 voice-mails to the proper person.

Trish can also be reached at trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com.

First Lutheran Choir practice

The FLC choir will practice for the December 12 Community Sing-a-long at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 4 at First Lutheran. Everyone in the FOG Parish is welcome to participate.

BLC WELCA brunch

Women from all Fields of Grace churches are invited to Bernadotte WELCA’s 2022 Brunch. It’s Saturday, January 8, at 9:00 a.m. at Hahn’s Dining in Winthrop. It’s a fun time to visit over a good meal. Feel free to bring a guest(s).

A sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary at Bernadotte—or those planning to attend can call or text Romi White at 507-276-2651. Please sign up or call by Monday, January 3.

FOG youth to serve hotdogs at Santa Day December 14

Fields of Grace youth (with help from parents and others) will host a free will offering hot dog and chips meal as part of Lafayette’s expanded Santa Day, Tuesday, December 14, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you can help, contact Trish Gieseke at trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com. The community Christmas tree in the bandstand in the mini-park will be lit at 6:30 that night, just as the Lafayette Lions-sponsored Santa Day wraps up.

Bernadotte Notes

- Executive & Finance Committees will meet Sunday, December 5, Executive at 6:30 and Finance at 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 2021 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 12-Dean Pehrson, Tyson Hutton; 24-Mark Haler, Jon Haler, Jon Hartley
Reader: 12 & 24-Sandy Donnay
Liturgist: 12 & 24-Charlie Hartley
Communion Bread: Joyce Reese
Altar: Lila Ellies and Myra Kienlen
Visiting: Brian Martens and Mary Martens
Coffee: 12-Heidi Hutton and Jo Pehrson

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ruth Klossner, Konnie Bartels
Acolyte: Brock Peterson
Readers: 5-Ruth Klossner; 25-Sarah Johnson
Ushers: Tim & Wendy Schulz, Elias Webster, Jim & Konnie Bartels
Communion (Dec. 5 & 25): S-Tim Schulz, C-Steve Sjostrom; U-Neil Rasmussen, Shaun Anderson
Coffee: 5- Carol Anderson & Doris Kaduce



Quilting at Bernadotte November 1-2

After two busy days of quilting—and socializing—the Bernadotte quilters put things away for the time being. But, they'll be back at it

Monday and Tuesday, February 14-15. They invite anyone interested to join them for a good time.



FLC says 'Thank You!'

First Lutheran Church would like to thank all who attended the Fall Dinner Drive Thru Sunday, November 21. A huge thank you, also, to all the volunteers who helped to make the drive thru a success.

Special thanks to Tami Stadtherr and Nancie Carlson who coordinated the meal and all the extra work that went into an event like this. Without everyone's participation, the fall dinner fundraiser would not be able to happen.

Thank you also to those who gave a raffle donation and to all who purchased raffle tickets and gave donations.

First Lutheran Church is truly blessed to have parishioners who are willing to give of their time and talents for the benefit of their church.

FLC raffle winners

Sue Nelson was the lucky winner of the quilt in First Lutheran's raffle held as part of the fall dinner.

Sue sends her thanks—"Thank You to First Lutheran Church for the beautiful quilt I won at the Fall Festival. I love it!!!"

Twenty-two other raffle prizes were also awarded, donated by area businesses and church members. Many were cash prizes, with others being gift baskets.

First Lutheran Church's drive-thru dinner

It took a whole new level of organization, but First Lutheran nailed it—switching from a sit-down dinner to a drive thru dinner for its annual Fall Festival. Everyone—men, women, and kids of all ages—worked together to make the experience run smoothly! Good job and great food, First Lutheran!





Baptism at Bernadotte

In a family ceremony, Pastor Donna Olsen baptized Owen Daniel Sjostrom at Bernadotte Lutheran Sunday, November 21. Owen, the son of Jacob and Lindsay Sjostrom, was born January 5, 2021. His middle name is in honor of Lindsay's dad, Daniel, who passed away unexpectedly eight years ago at age 53. Other grandparents are Steve and Deb Sjostrom and Lorie Thomes. Great-grandparents include Lowell and Adrienne Sjostrom and LeRoy Rathmann.

Owen's sponsors are Jake's brother Lucas Sjostrom, Lindsay's sister Jessica Thomes Pepin, and his parents' best friend and Owen's "daycare mom" Amber Wentzlaff.

The entire family gathered for the baptism and a meal followed in the church basement. Special thanks to Pastor Olsen, as well as Carol Young who got things ready for the baptism.



LCS Backpack Food Program continues

The Backpack Program is up and running again since school started in September. It currently provides supplemental food items to 12 children from seven families that attend Lafayette Charter School. Food items include two each of breakfast, entree, fruit, and snack. The average cost per bag each week is \$7.00 to \$8.00.

Monetary and purchased food items are greatly appreciated by the kids and families. Food items used often are Juicy Juice boxes, Snack Pack puddings, individual fruit cups; microwaveable meals such as Mac 'n' cheese, ravioli, and Compleats meals; soups, and larger boxes of cereal for holiday or long weekends.

While the program really misses Pastor Heidi's input, the plan is to continue as long as possible. Donation envelopes are available at each church. They can be dropped in the collection plates or can be left at Citizens Bank MN, Lafayette.

If you have any questions, contact Sandy Hartley at 507-276-4692 or Mark Haler at 507-766-6327.

Upcoming Area Events

- Santa Day in Lafayette—Tues., Dec. 14, Lafayette Community Center, 4:30-6:30 p.m.; horse-drawn wagon rides; hotdog meal (free will donation), cookies & milk at Community Center; Christmas tree lighting in the Mini-Park, 6:30 p.m.
- Trinity Lutheran's Christmas in the Barn on Christmas Eve has been cancelled for 2021 due to the current spike in Covid cases.

Two upcoming benefits at Lafayette

The Lafayette Fire Department Relief Association will hold a benefit fundraiser for Scotty VanDeest Saturday, December 11. Hours are 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the fire station. A free will offering will be accepted for the pork "sundae" meal consisting of pulled pork, mashed potatoes and toppings. There will also be a silent auction.

The Lafayette Lions will host a benefit for the family of the late Aaron Thedens on Sunday, January 16. Donations will be accepted for the family and a cash raffle is being held. There will also be a Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast served from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FLC note

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.

End of the year finances

With our "hit and miss" worship services all year—and now only having one service each Sunday—church finances may have taken a hit.

Contributions can be left at any church where you attend services—but may be delayed in getting to the proper church; or they can be made online through Tithe.ly.

Donations can also be mailed to the churches as follows:

First Lutheran, P.O. Box 14, Lafayette 56054.

Bernadotte: Ruth Klossner, 34085 515th Ave., Lafayette, MN 56054.

Swan Lake: JoAnn Gieseke, 29540 State Hwy 4, St. James MN 56081.