



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 11, Issue 6

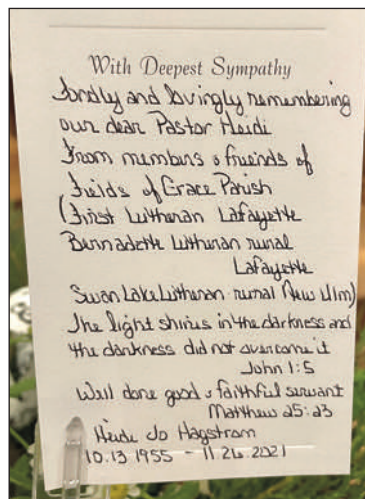
Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Jan. 2022



Saying our good-byes

Many Fields of Grace members traveled to Cokato December 2-3 for Pastor Heidi's visitation and funeral.



Fields of Grace Schedule

One worship service each Sunday, at 9:30 a.m., on a rotating schedule

Coffee & fellowship at 8:30 a.m. at First and Swan Lake; at 10:30 a.m. at Bernadotte

Jan. 2—Bernadotte	Feb. 13—Swan Lake
Jan. 9—First Lutheran	Feb. 20—Bernadotte
Jan. 16—Swan Lake	Feb. 27—First Lutheran
Jan. 23—Annual Meetings (no pulpit supply that day)	Mar. 6—Swan Lake
Jan. 30—Bernadotte	Mar. 13—Bernadotte
Feb. 6—First Lutheran	Mar. 20—First Lutheran
	Mar. 27—Swan Lake

FOG council seeks new treasurer

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

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. Guests are welcome.

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.

God's blessings in the New Year!

Lafayette Charter School Backpack Food Program continues

The Backpack Program is back up and running. It provides supplemental food items to 12 children from seven families who 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 appreciated by the kids and families. Food items most used are juice boxes, snack puddings, fruit cups, microwaveable meals,

soups, and cereal boxes.

The program really misses Pastor Heidi's input, but plans to continue as long as possible. Donation envelopes are available at each church and can be dropped in the collection plates or at Citizens Bank MN, Lafayette.

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

Donations are appreciated!

Thank You

Fields of Grace Parish -

How can I begin to thank all of you for calling my sister, Pastor Heidi, to serve as your faith leader? At the time I am sure it seemed like a bit of a risk...she was coming from many years of working on a huge event at the churchwide office in Chicago...but it was indeed a match made in heaven!

At the time, no one knew you would be providing the opportunity for her to live her final years fulfilling the dream of a little farm with a bountiful garden and chickens (thankfully she listened and did NOT get any of her beloved cows). She was drawn to the farming community and rural living with an open mind and heart...she wanted to learn and understand. Heidi was a country girl at heart!

Recently I read the Christmas poem, "Sitting on the Hillsides" by Ann Weems. I thought of you.

Sitting on the Hillsides

Most of us who gather in Bethlehem
on this night are not the star seekers.
We've not traveled our dreams
month after month and year after
year, pouring over predictions and
promises.

Most of us sit on the hillsides tending
our sheep, business as usual.

Oh, we've heard rumors of stars,
but we don't really give ourselves to
seeking.

After all, there's more than enough
to do in the daily tending.
We're simply not on the lookout for
stars, nor expecting any light in our
darkness.

I suppose the important thing is, in
the light of the glory of the Lord,
to recognize the voice of an angel
and to get up, and in spite of our
sheep, to go even unto Bethlehem
to see this thing that has happened.

I am sure Heidi ruffled a few feathers
while serving as your faith leader but she did
so out of love and a sincere desire for FOG to
grow and survive the inevitable changes we
are seeing today in organized religion. She
often told me, "I don't want FOG to fade
away on my watch!" She wanted the parish
to prosper and grow. She wanted to lead you
on that journey.

Heidi was not afraid to die; she was just
sad to not have more time with her friends,
family, and YOU.

Thank you for the friendship, generosity,
and love you gave my dear sister, Heidi. She
was an angel on earth (of course, I am a bit
prejudiced) with vision, drive, faith, and a
beautiful singing voice.

We miss her dearly but know she is get-
ting things done in heaven!

We hope to see all of you again soon.

Sincerely,
Tracy Hagstrom Durant
and family

*(If you wish to send a card to Tracy, her address
is 102 Maplewood Pl., Buffalo, MN 55313-1246)*

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.

Annual meetings will be held at all three churches on Sunday, January 23, at the regular worship time, 9:30 a.m.

There will be no pulpit supply that day. Each church may choose to have a short devotion, led by a church member.

Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Monday, January 3, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Lutheran Council—Monday, January 17, 7:30 p.m.
- Fields of Grace Council, Wednesday, January 19, 7:30, FLC

Mark your calendar for these April BLC events

- Father-Son Brunch, Saturday, April 16 (Easter Saturday); everyone welcome.
- Food for Kidz Food Packing, Sunday, April 24 (joint FOG event).

Called to his heavenly home

Bernadotte member David Martin, 78, of rural Gaylord passed away Monday, December 13, 2021, at the New Ulm Medical Center in New Ulm.

Funeral service was Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at Bernadotte Lutheran, with interment in the church cemetery. Military honors were by the Minnesota National Guard Funeral Honor Guard.

David is survived by wife Sandy, daughters Carey Martin McLaughlin and husband, Michael; and Amy Martin and husband, Ron Hvinden; and five granddaughters.



Calls to parish phone go to administrative assistant

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.

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

Upcoming Lions waffle breakfast and benefit for the family of Aaron Thedens at Lafayette

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.



Thank you to Pastor Maggie Falenschek for leading all three Christmas services.

JANUARY 2022 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 9-Jay Hagberg, Matt Hagberg
Reader: 9-Sandy Hartley
Liturgist: 9-Brad DeBoer
Communion Bread: Joyce Reese
Altar: Shauna Hoffmann, Jorja Langhoff, Shelly Langhoff
Visiting: Wendy Hagberg, Sue Helget
Coffee: 9-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Mia Ross, Jason Ross
Acolyte: Tanner Johnson
Readers: (unknown)
Ushers: Dwayne Ross, Judy Ross, Jason Ross, Jim Young, Carol Young
Communion (Jan. 2 & 30): S-Dwayne Ross, C-Lori Fenske; U-Rosanne Johnson, Tim Anderson
Coffee: (volunteers needed)

Youth participate in December 12 service



The Sunday School kids, above, and the confirmation students, top right, sang and played the bells during the Sunday service, December 12. Pastor



Donna Olsen led the service, as she did for much of December. She'll be back for three Sundays in January. Aubrey Campbell "helped" mom Kayla lead the S.S. choir. A barbecue lunch was served afterwards.





Community Hymn Sing held at First Lutheran

The 49th Lafayette Area Community Hymn Sing was held at First Lutheran Church Sunday evening, December 12. Area musicians took part, singing solos or in a choir. First's choir sang from the front of the church, as well as from the balcony. The group that will always be known as "St. Gregory's choir" was there, even though they don't have a church anymore. As always, there was group singing. Also pictured are Carol Hoffmann, Charles Hartley, Larry Mages, and emcee Traci Abrahamson.



Everyone enjoyed refreshments in the fellowship hall afterwards.

Thank You

The Fields of Grace council, our three churches, and all our members greatly appreciate the pastors who have graciously provided pulpit supply while we are between pastors.

Pastor Donna Olsen of Hutchinson led worship on a number of Sundays in November and December—and will be with us the first three Sundays in January.

Pastor Angela LaMoore provided pulpit supply once each in November and December.

Pastor Maggie Falenschek of Gustavus Adolphus spent Christmas with us—doing all three Christmas Eve and Christmas day services.

Pastor Ken Bentson of Broken Chain Fellowship provided the message for our Community Thanksgiving service. Thank you to all!

*With God,
Every Day is A New Day*



New Day Worship Service
On 860AM KNUJ
Sundays at 10:05 a.m.

Tune in for a word of hope & songs of praise

A New Day is a worship service brought to you by St. Paul's & Trinity Lutheran Churches of Gaylord, Scandian Grove Lutheran Church of Norseland, and the Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish.

KNUJ
 • 860AM • knuj.net • 97.3FM •
Your Friend in Southern Minnesota

Please join the Lafayette Lions
in supporting a

BENEFIT FOR THE FAMILY OF AARON THEDENS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

LAFAYETTE CHARTER SCHOOL

- Lafayette Lions cash raffle
- Silent Auction
- Cash donations accepted for the family
- Proceeds to the Thedens family to help with massive medical bills

Silent auction items may be dropped off at Community Insurance in Lafayette thru Fri., Jan. 14, or brought to LCS by 8:30 a.m. Sun., Jan. 16.



Lafayette resident Aaron Thedens passed away May 29, 2021 from a non-Covid form of pneumonia which began in the fall of 2020.

Aaron spent three months on a ventilator, transferred from hospital to hospital for rehab, and was in and out of the hospital for fluid removal in his last months.

Aaron had been disabled by a massive heart attack suffered in 2004.

PLEASE ATTEND, EAT, BID, AND GIVE FROM THE HEART!

**DAD'S BELGIAN WAFFLE BREAKFAST
SERVED FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

Raffle and waffle tickets available from Lions members.