



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<http://www.fields-of-grace.org>

Vol. 7, Issue 10

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

May 2018

Heidi's Ordination Update

Heidi is humbled to announce that Wartburg Seminary faculty are recommending her to the Synod Candidacy Committee. Heidi will undergo an interview with the Candidacy Committee in late May, and is assuming they will recommend her for ordination, pending the successful completion of internship in late August.

Heidi has set an ordination date of Sunday, September 23, at 3:00 p.m. at her home congregation, Cokato Evangelical Lutheran in Cokato. All are welcome to attend the celebratory worship in Cokato.

*Check out the new
Fields of Grace website—
fieldsofgracemn.com*

Youth to serve M'Day brunches

The Fields of Grace confirmation classes will serve Mother's day brunches at all three churches—starting this Sunday, April 29 at Bernadotte. The breakfast will be served at 10:00 a.m., before the church service.

On May 6, the group will serve after the 8:00 a.m. service at Swan Lake and on May 13, before the 9:30 a.m. service at First Lutheran. The menu will be egg bake, fruit, coffee cake, and beverages. Free will donations will be accepted.

Youth director Mark Haler is coordinating the brunches.

**Joint Worship Service
Sunday, May 28, 9:30 a.m.
First Lutheran Church**



Students deliver blankets

The First Lutheran Sunday School and confirmation students delivered tied blankets to NUMAS Haus March 29. Jayden Broste, Landon Uhde, and Zoe Uhde met Pastor Jo Anne Taylor, from United Methodist Church, at the house to deliver 12 fleece blankets and some children's bibles.

Linda Youngblom and Howard Lokensgard applied for and received \$250 each from Thrivent for the project. Linda, Carmen Broste, and Marti Uhde organized the students to cut and tie the blankets.

NUMAS Haus is a women's/children's shelter in New Ulm. When children come to the house they choose a warm, colorful blanket to use and then take it with them when they leave.

FOG graduates to be recognized

Bernadotte Lutheran will honor high school graduate Jason Ross at a special baccalaureate service Sunday, May 20. Cake and coffee will be served before the service. Jason will also receive a quilt, made by the quilting ladies, during the worship service.

BLC members who have completed post secondary degrees since May 2017, will also be recognized.

Clara Drummer of Swan Lake will also graduate this spring.



Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council— Mon., May 7, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council— Mon., May 21, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council— Wed., May 30, 7:00 p.m., Swan Lake.

FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

Swan Lake Lutheran—8:00 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

First Lutheran—9:30 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month

Bernadotte Lutheran—11:00 a.m.—Communion the 2nd Sunday of the month

Heidi's Intern Minister Thoughts

This month I would like to pose some big questions:

- 1) Why are we here, in this universe?
- 2) Why are we here, in the Lafayette, Minnesota area?
- 3) Why are we here, part of Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish?

There are various reasons for approaching these questions, but this post is just about the particular phrasing of the questions. I thought at first of asking why are you here, but I want to talk about more than that. Why are you here is an important question, but asking why are we here will, hopefully, encourage you to start thinking in terms of community—which includes all of the “why are you here’s,” as well as a collective answer that is bigger than the sum of its parts.

I've thought about this kind of thing before when praying the Lord's prayer, which begins, “Our Father...” It's a collective prayer. We pray for our daily bread. We ask that the Lord “forgive our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

If I really think about what I'm praying, it is both a comfort and a challenge. When I pray, “Give us this day our daily bread,” I'm asking the Lord to give me and the community I'm praying with—my children, my church, the world—what we need. And if I'm praying that from my heart, I'm also going to be concerned about being a part of the answer to that prayer for our communities.

When I pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” it's not only a commitment to forgive those who have hurt me (as if that wasn't hard enough!)—it's a commitment to foster a spirit of forgiveness within the communities that pray with me.

It is incredible and humbling to recognize that the Lord Jesus Christ loves each of us, as individuals, with all our failings. But it's also so vital for us to remember that God also loves us as part of us. It's never me on my own with God—it is always us.

To contact Heidi: 507-766-2729 or heidijohagstrom@gmail.com

Swan Lake to celebrate 150th anniversary

Mark it on your calendar! Swan Lake Lutheran will celebrate it's 150th anniversary with a festival worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19. Bishop Jon Anderson will be the guest preacher. Everyone is welcome!

There will be an outdoor tent for worship at the church site. A catered brunch will follow the service.

Special music will be provided by Rachel Kurtz, a nationally-known singer and songwriter from Minneapolis. Rachel sings a combination of gospel and soul and has a powerful voice and vision. It's exciting to have Rachel share her message. Check out her website at rachelkurtz.org.

Wednesday School Schedule

Students in grades 5 through 9 will meet at Swan Lake May 2 and 9. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend. The evening starts with a light supper at 5:30, followed by class time from 6:00 to 7:00 and worship at 7:30 p.m.

WELCA Synod Convention

The 2018 WELCA Synodical Convention will be held June 29 & 30, 2018 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4310 County Road 137, St. Cloud.

In-kind offerings include personal care kits (all Lutheran World Relief kits will be accepted), Christian literature, white socks, and lip balm for St. Cloud VA, and any footwear is welcome for Soles 4 Souls.

Anyone who would like to attend and needs a registration form or scholarship application, is asked to contact Shaun Anderson at 507-232-3100 or shaun.anderson@ridleyinc.com.

Community Bible Study

Community Bible Study will conclude on Monday, May 21, 9:30 a.m. at First Lutheran. The group will begin again in the fall.

Clothing Drive during May

A used clothing drive to benefit our South Africa companions will be held during May. The details are the same as before—any kind of clothes, shoes, purses, or raggedy stuff for mats. Leave the bags with clothes in the church.

One week, two ice cream socials

It doesn't get much better than this...two church-sponsored ice cream socials in one week!

Bernadotte's annual social and band concert will be Wednesday, June 6 and First Lutheran's Friday, June 8—at the Lafayette Community Center.

The committee for Bernadotte's is Konnie Bartels, Carol Young, Abby Bartels, Sarah Johnson, and Wendy Schulz. Check the poster on the back page for all the details.



Charlene Guggisberg

Focus on Vision Resource Fair at FLC

People came from Arlington, St. Peter, New Ulm, Winthrop, and Lafayette for the Focus on Vision Impairment and Blindness Info & Resource Fair co-sponsored by the Fields of Grace churches and the Lafayette Area Lions Club Wednesday, April 25. Charlene Guggisberg, a staff member at Minnesota State Services for the Blind, was the main presenter. She is a Lafayette native and daughter of Wally and Louise Guggisberg. She and others spoke briefly, then answered participants' questions.



Bonnie Schirlinger of New Ulm visited with MN Lions Diabetes Foundation board members Diana Kroells and Mary Spille.



Lion Mary Spille, above left, and Meghan Kern of MN Services for the Blind, above, answered participants' questions.

Special thanks to Bonnie Dinsmore and Minister Heidi for planning and organizing an informative event!



MAY 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 6-Jamie Friedrichs & Randy Sandquist; 13-Jon & Stuart Hartley; 20-Al Pehrson & Todd Nelson; 27-Steve Langhoff & Riley Hoffmann.

Greeter: Bill Youngblom **Reader:** Deb Grant

Liturgist: 6-Jorja Langhoff; 13 & 20-Charlie Hartley; 27-Heidi.

Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays): Joyce Reese

Altar: Char Nelson, Sue Helget & Carrie Nelson

Coffee Servers: 6-Wendy Hagberg & Myra Shingobe; 13-Sandy Burger & Sandy Hartley; 20-Marilyn DeBoer & Char Nelson; 27-Marilyn DeBoer & Laurie Larson.

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ken & Dorothy Martens

Readers: 6-Lowell Sjostrom; 13-Rosanne Johnson; 20-Ruth Klossner, 27-Joint Service

Acolyte: Jason Ross

Ushers: Ruth Klossner, Arlin Nelson, John Nelson, Brent & Sarah Johnson

Communion (May 13): S-Ruth Klossner; C-Trish Gieseke; U-Jerry Oscarson, Dwayne Ross

Coffee Servers: 6 & 13-open; 20-Wendy Schulz & Pam White; 27-Joint Service.



Food for Kidz food packing

About 45 workers—ages four to 84—packaged 16,818 meals when the Food for Kidz truck came to Bernadotte for Mission Sunday April 23. Workers included Bernadotte members as well as FOG confirmation students and guests. Thanks to all!



The church raised \$3,113.93 to cover the cost of meals and transportation.

Afterwards, Minister Heidi led devotions as Jim Bartels played concertina. Everyone enjoyed a pizza lunch.



Community Notes

• **Fluff and Puff Pillow Cleaning**, Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hahn's Dining, Winthrop. Sponsored by Legion Post 314 ALA. For more information, call 507-276-8419.

• **VINE Faith in Action Transportation**. Blue Earth,

Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties TRUE Transit operates Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Routes and schedules can be found online at www.true-transit.org. Rides can be booked online or by calling 800-560-1575.

First Lutheran Notes

• The First Lutheran Board consists of Brian Martens, president; Charlie Hartley, vice president; Jamie Friedrichs, secretary; Alan Pehrson, memorial fund; and Marilyn DeBoer, Butch Altmann, and Norman Langhoff, property. Brad DeBoer is no longer on the board but has agreed to continue as treasurer. The council chose Weber Construction to do the siding on the church and Mankato Elevator to do the required yearly contract work on the elevator.

- WELCA meeting Sunday, April 29.

Upcoming Events at Bernadotte

- Spring Grounds Clean-up...still pending on conditions! Bring yard and lawn tools when it happens—all welcome!
- Installation of new council members, Sunday, May 6 at 11 a.m. service. Welcome and thanks to Tim Schulz, Ruth Klossner, and Rosanne Johnson. (Postponed from Apr. 15)
- Pie & Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 6
- Swedefest Midsummer Picnic, Saturday, June 23
- Sunday Outdoor Services—Jul. 1 joint service with George's Concertina Band; Jul. 15 w/Carver Creek; Aug. 12 w/Gerry & Carol Larson; and Aug. 26 w/Alan & Matt Carlson. (Hosts needed for Jul. 15 & Aug. 12.)

FOG reorganization

Fields of Grace Council officers were unanimously elected at the February meeting: Brad DeBoer, chair; Karlen Nelson, vice chair; Jim Bartels, secretary; Kyle Dalquist, treasurer.

Bernadotte WELCA dates

May is the month that BLC's WELCA serves at Good Samaritan. The schedule for the Friday 1:30 p.m. devotions and serving at the care center is:

May 4, 18 & 25 – Need volunteers

May 11 – Birthday Party: Mary Langhorst, Denise Johnson, Romi White.

• • •

Serving Sunday treats to about 16 residents at The Lodge at 2:30 p.m. will be:

May 20 - Pam White & Wendy Schulz

May 27 – Judy Ross & Beth Anderson



Although these photos are from Bernadotte, Minister Heidi led festive Easter services at all three Fields of Grace churches. Each also had an Easter breakfast or coffee hour.



**Easter
at BLC**



Swedish Concert Thank You

The concert by the choir from Vettern College in Jonkoping, Sweden was wonderful! The organizing committee is VERY appreciative of everyone who helped in some way.

Thank you to meal servers Wendy Schulz, Pam White, Romi White, Carol Young and Doris Kaduce; Thrivent Financial for support for the meal and advertising; Karen & John Arlandson for coordinating the choir's Minnesota's travels; Deb Sjostrom for arranging host families; Minister Heidi for her greeting; and host families Jerome & Shaun Anderson, Neal & Joni Anderson, John & Karen Arlandson, Dave & Annette Asmus, Jim & Konnie Bartels, Ted & Barb



The 44-member group presented music from different times and traditions, singing in both English and Swedish. Group members stayed with host families Tuesday evening, then left for Chicago the next morning.

Thanks to your wonderful support in the free will offering, we were able to provide the choir with more than \$1,200 toward their travel expenses.

Bergstrom, Ron & Barb Dietl, Chris & Kristie Gurrola, Brent & Sarah Johnson, Kevin & Rosanne Johnson, Terry Johnson & Karen Rolloff, Dr. Greg & Jerilyn Kjellberg, Ron & Kay Klement, Phil & Lisa Klenk, Ruth Klossner, Gladys LeGare, Steve & Pam Morson, David & Doris Nelson, Jeff & Tammy Rose, Lowell & Adrienne Sjostrom, Steve & Deb Sjostrom, and Conrad & Camille Wyffels.



Bernadotte Lutheran's Annual WELCA PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL BAKE SALE & FUN

Hoppas Vi Ses Där!

WEDNESDAY JUNE 6TH
5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
BERNADOTTE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

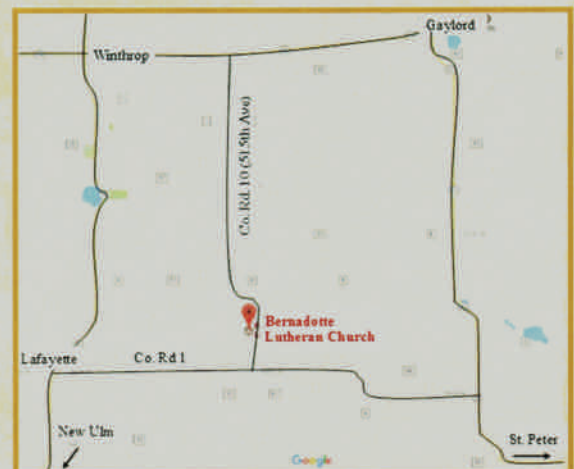


Pie Social Menu:
BBQ Sandwiches
Hot Turkey Sandwiches
Pie, Cake & Ice Cream
Coffee, Lemonade, & Milk



**Featuring Music
from the
Lafayette City Band**

“Bake Sale”
Specialties of the
Bernadotte Ladies



Bernadotte Lutheran Church Park
34122 515th Ave (Co. Rd. 10)

In case of bad weather event will be held indoors.