



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 5, Issue 6

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

January 2016

It's Annual Meeting Time

Swan Lake Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 17, after a brief worship service (8:00 a.m.).

Bernadotte Lutheran Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 24 during 11:00 a.m. worship service. (History book group photos will be taken before the meeting—See Page 4)

First Lutheran Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 31, following a brief devotional/worship time (9:30 a.m.).

Community Bible Study

Pastor Heidi will resume the Monday morning Bible Studies at Big Dog's in Lafayette, starting Monday, January 11 from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Please join her and invite your friends!

FLC Scholarship Applications Due

First Lutheran youth are reminded to submit their applications for the Roman Fischer and John S. Johnson scholarship programs as soon as possible. Applications are in the entryway of First Lutheran. Completed applications should be put in the offering plate. Application deadline is January 10. Checks will be issued after applications and grades are received.

BLC WELCA First of Year Brunch

Women from all three Fields of Grace churches are invited to Bernadotte WELCA's 2016 First of the Year Brunch at Hahn's Dining in Winthrop, Saturday, January 9, at 9:00 a.m. It's a fun time to visit over a good meal. Please feel free to bring a guest(s).

Cost is \$10.00 per person, including tip. Please RSVP by Monday, January 2 by calling Sally Webster at 228-8541 or signing up on the sheet at the back of BLC.

Pastor Heidi's office hours; contact information

- First Lutheran: Mondays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 11:00 a.m. to noon.
- Bernadotte Lutheran: Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- Swan Lake Lutheran, Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21 and

28 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Note new time)

Please keep Pastor Heidi informed of any events in your life that need pastoral care or attention. Contact her at 773-255-4845 or at FLC (228-8906) or by emailing heidijohagstrom@gmail.com or flsec@centurylink.net.

Benefit Breakfast for Daniel Fenske

A benefit breakfast will be held to help cover medical and other expenses incurred by Daniel Fenske after he was injured in a farm accident in early November.

The Dad's Belgian Waffle benefit will be held Sunday, February 14 at the Berdan Center in the UFC building in Winthrop, with serving from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A silent auction will also be held. Auction items or monetary donations are welcome. Checks can be made to "Dan Fenske Benefit," c/o Citizens Bank, PO Box 3, Lafayette MN 56054.

This event will be co-sponsored by BLC, the Lafayette Lions Club, and the GFW FFA/Alumni. Other organizations or individuals are still welcome to assist. The next planning meeting is Wednesday evening, December 30, 7:00 p.m. at Hahn's Restaurant in Winthrop. Feel free to join us! Questions? Contact Deb Sjostrom at 507-228-8768 or sdsjostrom@centurytel.net.

Bernadotte 150th Anniversary memorabilia items available

In celebration of Bernadotte's 150th Anniversary, the celebration committee is offering several items of memorabilia. Available now are 1) 150th Commemorative Pewter ornaments with a picture of the church on the front and a Bible verse on the back. Cost is \$10.00; 2) A set of 12 photo note cards depicting 12 unique scenes of the BLC church and park, photos by Ruth Klossner. Cost is \$10.00. Contact Adrienne Sjostrom or Sally Webster to purchase either items; make checks to "BLC 150th Anniversary."



Other items—a lapel pin, shirts, and the Bernadotte history book—will be available later. All items will have the 150th anniversary logo designed by BLC's talented graphic artist, Trish Gieseke. Thank you for sharing your talent, Trish!

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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

JANUARY 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 3, 10, 17 & 24-Merrill & Lila Ellies; 31-Mark & John Haler

Greeter: Stanley Youngblom

Liturgists: 3 & 10-Jorja Langhoff; 17, 24 & 31-Brad DeBoer

Reader: Cindy Youngblom.

Visiting: Sandy Hartley & Dawn Stevensen

Altar: Lila Ellies & Dawn Stevensen

Coffee Servers: 3-Sue Helget & Carrie Nelson; 10-Laurie Larson & Dawn Stevensen; 17-Deanna Sjogren & Harley Sjogren; 24-Marie Carlson & Lila Ellies; 31-Jill Haler & Shauna Hoffmann

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ben Radke & Andrew Radke

Ushers: Dwayne Ross, Judy Ross, Ruth Klossner, Joel Anthony, Wanda Anthony

Acolyte: Austin Gieseke

Readers: 3-Bob Helget, 10-Jessica Helget, 17- Jim Bartels, 24-Judy Radke, 31-Lori Fenske

Communion (Jan. 10). S-Dwayne Ross, C-Bob Helget, U-Bruce White & Brad White

Coffee Servers: 3-Sally Webster, 10-Carol Young, 17-Dorothy Martens, 24-Romi White, 31-Wendy Schulz & Pam White

Pastor Heidi's January Newsletter Message

In today's world, calendars are omnipresent, from our cell phones, to computers, to stoves and microwaves, and even in cars. The calendar on my phone fills up quickly, as I'm sure does yours. Sometimes it feels like my calendar—in conjunction with the culture's calendar of events—orders my life, and it's rarely orderly.

As Christians, we could order our lives around the church's calendar, but very few of us do. The responsibilities of our busy lives tend to claim our calendars. I wonder what difference it would make if we intentionally chose to order our lives around the Church's calendar?

I like to think of the Church's liturgical calendar like a screw going into soft wood. With each turn, the screw is drawn deeper and deeper into the wood. As we go 'round and 'round the liturgical calendar year after year, we should be drawn deeper and deeper into the mystery of Christ's life and mission. The bible begins, in the first verses of Genesis by saying, "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:1-2)

In essence, God reaches through the chaos and brings order. In God's wisdom, God provides for us and commu-

nicates with us in ways we truly need. The church developed the liturgical calendar to give meaning to our journey through time. It might be helpful to see this ordering of time if we look at the basic periods established in the Church's liturgical year.

Each season tells a story regarding God's love for God's people. The seasons are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be nearing the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning "to reveal" or "appearance." The day of Epiphany is January 6. On that day, we celebrate God revealing Jesus as the Christ to the wise men. The wise men give gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In some traditions this is the day for gift-giving. Wouldn't that be a difficult tradition for our children to understand and embrace?

By identifying periods of the year through a calendar, the Church has been an instrument in God's reaching out to bring order and systems into the chaos of our world. As 2016 begins, I encourage you to ponder what difference it would make in your relationship with God and neighbor if you chose the church's calendar around which to order your life, rather than letting your calendar and our culture's calendar of events create feelings of chaos.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., Jan. 4, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Jan. 27, 7:45 pm., FLC

Sunday School Resumes

Sunday School classes will resume at both First Lutheran and Bernadotte on Sunday, January 10 at the regular times—10:00 a.m. at BLC and 10:30 a.m. at First Lutheran.

Confirmation Classes Resume

Confirmation classes will start again on Wednesday, January 6 at **First Lutheran Church** (note change of location). Class time is 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Classes will meet every Wednesday at First Lutheran through February 10. During Lent, confirmation students are to attend Lenten worship services.

Lions Club Waffle Breakfast

The Lafayette Area Lions Club will hold its annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday, January 17. Serving is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center. Come hungry—the menu includes Dad's Belgian Waffles with toppings, sausage, milk and coffee. Proceeds go toward community projects.



First Lutheran Sunday School Program

The First Lutheran Sunday School Christmas program was presented during the morning worship service December 13. The students told the story of "Three Wise Men and a Baby," interspersed with congregational and choir singing. Some of the students played handbells and others drums. Kaylyn Broste and Bailey Langhoff were the narrators.



Bernadotte Photo Day!

Group photos of Churchmen, WELCA, Cemetery Board, Sunday School, and FOGGY Youth are needed for the upcoming Bernadotte History Book. Since the book needs to go to press in February, the photos need to be taken soon.

Working with the church council, “Annual Meeting Day”—Sunday, January 24—has also been set as “Photo Day.”

ALL Churchmen, WELCA Members, Cemetery Board Members, and FOGGY Youth are asked to come to church a little early that day.

A group photo of Sunday School students and teachers will be taken during their class time, between 10:00 and 10:15 (whatever works best for them), likely in the church basement.

Group photos of Churchmen, WELCA, Cemetery Board, and FOGGY Youth will be taken at 10:30 a.m. in the church proper.

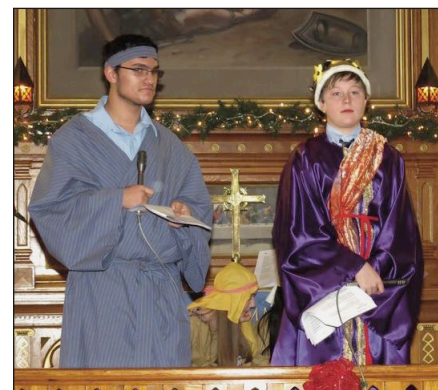
We ask that all members of these groups be there so everyone will be included in the Bernadotte History Book that’s coming out for Bernadotte’s 150th Anniversary!

Women’s Bible Study will be held Thursdays, January 7, 21 & 28 at Bernadotte, 7:00 pm.

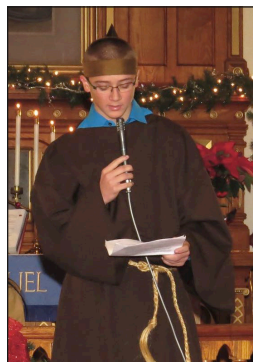
Deadline for the February newsletter is **January 22. Email your news to Ruth at cowlady@centurylink.net or call 507-240-0048.**



Bernadotte/ Swan Lake Sunday School Program



The Bernadotte and Swan Lake Sunday School kids presented “A Night in Bethlehem” during the Sunday morning, December 20, service. Taking part were Marissa Anderson, Heather Giefer, Austin Gieseke, Tanner Johnson, Ben Radke, and Jason and Mia Ross. At the end of the program, the Sunday School students collected an offering for their special project, ELCA’s God’s Global Barnyard.



In the usual Bernadotte tradition, younger BLC kids and visitors came forward to give a Christmas greeting and receive a present.

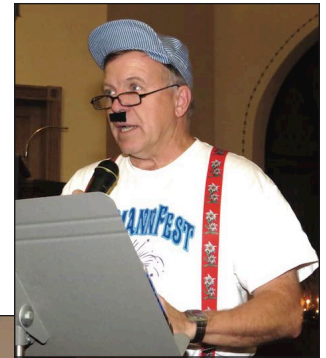


The annual Lafayette Hymn Sing, a community tradition for 40+ years, had some new features when it was held at Bernadotte Lutheran Sunday, December 13. As usual, the FOG and St. Gregory's choirs (with reinforcements) sang and Charlie Hartley played the harmonica.



Bernadotte Adds New Twists to Annual Community Christmas

In between congregation hymn-singing, "Axel," right, presented "The Night Before Christmas."



Storyteller Al Batt, left center, was the featured guest, as he shared wonderful stories of his youth. As the program wrapped up, Santa arrived to hand out gifts, getting help from two BLC elves. The evening finished with lunch



Bernadotte WELCA Notes

- Quilting Days at Bernadotte—Tues. & Wed., Jan. 19 & 20. Everyone welcome!

Mark the calendar

- BLC 150th Anniversary—Sunday, May 1
- BLC ice cream social—Wednesday, June 8
- Bernadotte's Swedefest, Saturday, June 25



Good News from the FOG Churches

Michelle Youngblom of First Lutheran is spending two years in Paraguay as a Peace Corps volunteer. She is working with a group of community members to plan several agricultural projects to improve crop yields in the village of General Morinigo. Youngblom is assigned to one of the poorest areas of Paraguay so feels very needed. Although her location is near some mountains, she described the area as flat, de-forested farmland with about 50 houses in the village. One of her first tasks was to visit each home and introduce herself. It's summer there now, with temperatures in the 80s and 90s, high humidity, and some severe thunderstorms. Low temperatures during the winter are in the 30s.

Letters take two weeks to reach Michelle. If you'd like to send her a note, her address is Michelle Youngblom, Barrio San Jose, General Morinigo, Departamento Caazapa, Paraguay, South America.