



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 5, Issue 7

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

February 2016

## Lent Begins Wednesday, February 10

Easter is early this year so the start of Lent is less than two weeks away. The Ash Wednesday service will be held at Swan Lake, 7:00 p.m. on February 10. The schedule for the additional Lenten services follows. All are at 7:00 p.m.

- Wednesday, February 17 at Swan Lake
- Wednesday, February 24 & March 2 at First Lutheran
- Wednesday, March 9 & 16 at Bernadotte
- Maundy Thursday, March 24 at Bernadotte
- Good Friday, March 25 at First Lutheran

## Heidi's office hours; contact information

- First Lutheran: Mondays, February 1, 15, 22, and 29 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. (No office hours on February 8)
- Bernadotte Lutheran: Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, and 24, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- Swan Lake Lutheran, Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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](mailto:heidijohagstrom@gmail.com) or [flc-sec@centurylink.net](mailto:flc-sec@centurylink.net).

## Confirmation Classes/Lenten Services

Confirmation will continue Wednesday, February 3, 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran. With the start of Lent on Wednesday, February 10, and continuing through Lent, confirmation students are to attend those services in lieu of class.

## Community Bible Study

Heidi is holding Monday morning Bible Studies at Big Dog's in Lafayette. February dates are February 1, 15, 22, and 29 from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. (No Bible Study on February 8) Please join her and invite your friends!

## Bernadotte 150th Anniversary memorabilia items available

In celebration of Bernadotte's 150th Anniversary, the church is offering several items of memorabilia. Two items are available now.

- 150th Commemorative Pewter ornaments with a picture of the church on the front and a Bible verse on the back. Cost is \$10.00;
  - A set of 12 photo note cards depicting 12 unique scenes of the BLC church and park (pictured on page 3.) Cost is \$10.00. Contact Adrienne Sjostrom, Sally Webster, or the BLC Church Office to purchase either item; make checks to "BLC 150th Anniversary."



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

## Benefit Breakfast for Daniel Fenske

Come show your love and support! 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 Sunday, February 14 at the Berdan Center in the United Farmers Cooperative Office Building in Winthrop, with serving from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A silent auction will also be held. If you have an item to donate to the auction, or are willing to work a two- to three- hour shift at the event, please contact Deb Sjostrom at 507-276-0452.

Monetary donations can be made to "Dan Fenske Benefit," c/o Citizens Bank, PO Box 3, Lafayette MN 56054.

This event is co-sponsored by Bernadotte Lutheran, the Lafayette Area Lions Club, the GFW FFA/Alumni, Thrivent, and others. Feel free to join us! Questions? Contact Deb Sjostrom at 507-228-8768 or [sdsjostrom@centurytel.net](mailto:sdsjostrom@centurytel.net).

## Sunday School Classes

Sunday School classes are on a regular schedule at both First Lutheran and Bernadotte, meeting at 10:00 a.m. at BLC and 10:30 a.m. at First Lutheran.

# 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

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## FEBRUARY 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 7-Bob & Cindy Youngblom, 14 & 28-Eric Sjogren & Denny Sjogren, 21-Aimee & Randy Altmann

**Greeter:** 7, 14 & 21-Darlene Ulrich; 28-Dawn Stevensen

**Liturgists:** 7 & 14-Jorja Langhoff, 21 & 28-Charles Hartley

**Reader:** Mary Martens

**Visiting:** Charlie Youngblom & Stanley Youngblom

**Altar:** Trudy Hofstad & Carmen Broste

**Coffee Servers:** 7-Lori Brethorst & Shauna Hoffmann, 14-Laurie Larson & Traci Abrahamson, 21-Trudy Hofstad & Carmen Broste, 28-Laura Isaacson & Linda Isaacson

### Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Jerome & Shaun Anderson

**Ushers:** Tim Anderson, Beth Anderson, Laura Dalquist, Kyle Dalquist, Jackie Helget.

**Acolyte:** Marissa Anderson

**Readers:** 7-Lowell Sjostrom, 14-Rosanne Johnson, 21-Ruth Klossner, 28-Sally Webster

**Communion** (Feb. 14). S-Tim Anderson, C-Bruce White, U-Jim Young, Trish Gieseke

**Coffee Servers:** 7-Dorothy Martens, 14-Donna Webster, 21-(volunteer needed), 28-Trish Gieseke

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## Heidi's February Newsletter Message

During the season of Lent, which is right around the corner, we will be pondering the fruits of the Spirit, how we manifest our gratitude for God's grace toward us.

The confirmation students will be leading us in this

It is by grace that you are saved, through faith, not by anything of your own, but by a pure gift from God, and not by anything you have achieved. Nobody can claim the credit. You are God's work of art. —Ephesians 2:8

By grace you notice, nothing to do with good deeds, or grace would not be grace at all. —Romans 11:6

Happy are those servants whom the master finds awake. I tell you he will put on an apron, sit them down at table, and wait on them. —Luke 12:37

I think grace, arising from God's limitless love, is the central theme of the entire Bible. It is the divine Unmerited Generosity that is everywhere available, totally given, usually undetected as such, and often even undesired. This grace was defined even in the old (Roman Catholic) Baltimore Catechism as "that which confers on our souls a new life, that is, a sharing in the life of God himself [sic]." [1] We always knew it on paper, but much less in experience and conviction.

In the parable of the watchful servants (Luke 12:35-40), God is actually presented as waiting on us--in the middle of the night! In fact, we see God as both our per-

sonal servant inside our house and the divine burglar who has to "break through the walls of [our] house." That's really quite extraordinary and not our usual image of God. It shows how much God—the "Hound of Heaven," as Francis Thompson says—wants to get to us and how unrelenting is the work of grace.

Unless and until you understand the biblical concept of God's unmerited favor, God's unaccountable love, most of the biblical text cannot be interpreted or tied together in any positive way. It is, without doubt, the key and the code to everything transformative in the Bible. People who have not experienced the radical character of grace will always misinterpret the meanings and major direction of the Bible. The Bible will become a burden, obligation, and weapon more than a gift.

Grace cannot be understood by any ledger of merits and demerits. It cannot be held to patterns of buying, losing, earning, achieving, or manipulating, which is where, unfortunately, most of us live our lives. Grace is, quite literally, "for the taking." It is God eternally giving away God—for nothing—except the giving itself. I believe grace is the life energy that makes flowers bloom, animals lovingly raise their young, babies smile, and the planets remain in their orbits—for no good reason whatsoever—except love alone.

## Equipping Congregations Day

Heidi is looking for people interested in attending the 2016 Equipping Congregations Day Saturday, February 20, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Willmar. She will drive.

To learn more about the event go to [http://www.swmnelca.org/equipping\\_congregations\\_day.html](http://www.swmnelca.org/equipping_congregations_day.html).

There will be workshops, including:

- Energizing your Congregation Through Strategic Visioning
- Formed for the Ongoing Reformation

- Engaging Youth in the Church
- Revising a Congregation's Constitution
- Faith & Citizenship
- Marriage and Divorce: Caring for Those in our Community
- Outreach to Young Adults
- World & Local Hunger...and more.

If you are interested, please let Heidi know via email [heidijohagstrom@gmail.com](mailto:heidijohagstrom@gmail.com) or phone 773-255-4845

**Women's Bible Study will be held Thursdays, February 4 11, 18 & 25 at Bernadotte, 7:00 pm.**

**Deadline for the February newsletter is February 20. Email your news to Ruth at [cowlady@centurylink.net](mailto:cowlady@centurylink.net) or call 507-240-0048.**

## Called to their heavenly home

First Lutheran member **Marjorie Carlson**, 89, of Arlington and formerly of Lafayette, passed away Thursday, January 21, at the Ridgeview Medical Center in Waconia. Funeral services were Monday, January 25 at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette with Minister Heidi Hagstrom officiating. Interment was in Clear Lake Baptist Cemetery, Severance Township, Sibley County.

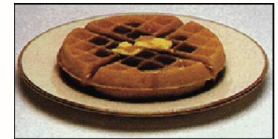
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Bernadotte member **Barbara Jean Nelson**, 66, of Gibbon passed away Saturday, Jan-

uary 16 at Oak Terrace Health Care Center in Gaylord. Memorial services were Saturday, January 23 at Bernadotte Lutheran Church with Minister Heidi Hagstrom officiating.

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**Linnea Blasingame**, 99, of Winthrop passed away Tuesday, November 24 at the Lodge Assisted Living in Winthrop. Funeral services were Friday, December 4, at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette with Pastor Bob Miner officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.



## Lions Waffle Breakfast Rescheduled

Extremely cold weather on Sunday, January 17 not only cancelled church services, but it postponed the scheduled Lafayette Lions Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast that day.

The breakfast has been postponed to this Sunday, January 31, with serving 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 (including strawberries), sausage, milk and coffee. Proceeds go toward community projects.

## Bernadotte 150th memorabilia



A set of 12 note cards with photos of the interior and exterior of Bernadotte's 1897 church, as well as the park bandstands, are available from Bernadotte Lutheran at a cost of \$10.00.

## Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council — Mon., Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council — Mon., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council — Wed., Feb. 24, after Lenten service., FLC

## Good News Item from FOG

Sunday, January 10 was a C-O-L-D day but friends and family wished Verone Langhorst a very warm and happy 95th birthday at Bernadotte Lutheran Church that morning. Family members served the morning coffee before the church service. Many more, Verone!





There was a nice turnout when Bernadotte's ladies and a few others gathered for a brunch at Hahn's in Winthrop January 9. It was a great social time on a cold January morning



## Quilting days at BLC



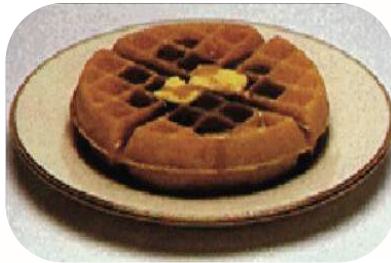
Eight Bernadotte ladies sewed up 17 quilts during two days of quilting January 19-20. Pictured above, are Sally Webster, Rosanne Johnson, Romi White, Sandy Martin, Dorothy Martens, Doris Kaduce, and Konnie Bartels. Not pictured: Adrienne Sjostrom.





***Benefit Breakfast  
& Silent Auction  
for Dan Fenske***

***Dad's***



***Belgian  
Waffles***

*Free Will Offering  
Take-Outs Available*

***Sun., Feb. 14 ~ 9 am-1 pm  
Berdan Center, UFC Bldg., Winthrop  
east edge of Winthrop on Hwy 19***

***Show your  
Love and Support!***

Dan suffered a severe hand injury in a corn picker accident in November and can use help with expenses

*Donations may also be sent to  
Dan Fenske Benefit,  
PO Box 3, Citizens Bank,  
Lafayette, MN 56054  
or check Facebook  
Dan Fenske <3 Benefit*

