



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 5, Issue 9

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

April 2016

## First Communion for 5th graders

Minister Heidi will offer four classes to prepare fifth graders for first communion on May 15, Pentecost.

The classes will be held at First Lutheran, April 20 and 27 and May 4 and 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. These classes are mandatory for any fifth grader wanting to start receiving Holy Communion. At least one parent (preferably two) must also attend.

These classes are being made available to the parish, but Heidi is only aware of fifth graders at First Lutheran. If you have a fourth grader whom you think is ready for this instruction, please let Heidi know at [Heidijohagstrom@gmail.com](mailto:Heidijohagstrom@gmail.com).

## Joint choir members sought

Singers are being recruited for a combined Fields of Grace choir that will sing on the Sundays that the parish has joint worship services four or five times a year—Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Christmas weekend.

Music is a great way to bring our three congregations together. Familiar songs will be sung from the hymnal. If interested, contact Charles Youngblom or Laurie Larson at First Lutheran.

## FLC Quilting Days April 4-5

Quilting Days will be held at First Lutheran on Monday and Tuesday, April 4 and 5, from 9:00 am to ?? Bring something to share if you wish. Everyone is welcome.



**BLC decorated and ready for Easter**

## The Swedes are coming soon!

The Sodra Vatterbygdens Folkhögskola college choir from Jonköping, Sweden will present a 7:00 p.m. concert at Bernadotte on Wednesday, April 13. Everyone is welcome to enjoy their wonderful performance—which is the kickoff event for Bernadotte's 150th anniversary. A free will offering to help cover the choir's expenses will be accepted.

The choir members will stay overnight in the area and **four more families** are needed to host them Wednesday evening April 13 to Thursday morning April 14. Please contact Deb Sjostrom (276-0452) ASAP for details if you can help! Thank you!

## Vacation Bible School

Calling all people who want to dream with Heidi about one of the most powerful outreach tools a congregation can have—Vacation Bible School.

The old school days of Methodists attending the Methodist VBS, and Lutherans attending the Lutheran VBS—and so on—are long gone. Aside from including children of all denominations, VBS has become a primary tool of outreach to the unchurched for many congregations.

Please join Heidi to dream and pray about the possibilities for Fields of Grace to help children and parents find their home close to God's heart, and rediscover the joy of life in a community of faith. A brainstorming session will be held Sunday, April 17, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at First Lutheran.

## Seeking donations for NUMAS Haus

The NUMAS Haus committee is asking our churches to consider helping NUMAS Haus residents.

NUMAS Haus will be featured at the Thrivent Home Show booth Saturday, April 2. Home Show participants will be asked to help make Welcome Baskets of personal care items that will be given to the residents. The following items are needed for the baskets—

*Shampoo, no tears shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, deodorant, bath toys, plush toys, bath sponges or loofah, hairbrushes, combs, nail clippers, emery boards, tweezers, Band-Aids, facial tissue, cotton swabs, cotton balls, lip balm, hand/body lotion, and dental floss.*

Any items that can be collected by **THURSDAY, MARCH 31**, would be appreciated. Boxes for these items are at each church.

# 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 (3rd Sunday in April)

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## APRIL 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 3 & 10-Bill Youngblom & Doug Durheim; 17-Jim Langhoff & Connor Hoffmann; 24-Myron & Linda Isaacson

**Greeter:** Linda Youngblom

**Liturgists:** 3 & 10-Charlie Hartley; 17 & 24-Jorja Langhoff

**Readers:** Linda Youngblom (all month)

**Visiting:** Bette Johnson & Darlene Ulrich

**Altar:** Jorja Langhoff & Shauna Hoffmann

**Coffee Servers:** 3-Linda Youngblom & Sue Helget; 10 & 17-Ann Gieseke & Beth Gavranovic; 24-Angie Hartmann & Sherri Portner

### Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Tim & Beth Anderson

**Ushers:** Denise Johnson, Ron Johnson, Scott Johnson, David Nelson & Kelly Peters

**Acolyte:** Mia Ross

**Readers:** 3-Bob Helget; 10-Jessica Helget; 17-Jim Bartels; 24-Judy Radke

**Communion** (April 17): S-Denise Johnson, C-Deb Sjostrom, U-Brad White, Brent Johnson

**Coffee Servers:** 3-Donna Webster; 10-Food For Kidz; 17-Doris Kaduce; 24-volunteer needed.

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## Heidi's Reflections for April

I am writing this during Holy Week. I can't believe that I have already been at Fields of Grace for two great seasons of the church year—Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter—and that Pentecost is just around the corner, May 15.

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came seven weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.

What happened on the first Pentecost continues to happen to Christians throughout the world today, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. Nevertheless, God pours out

the Spirit upon all who put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3), empowers us to serve God (1 Corinthians 12:4-11), binds us together as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13), helps us to pray (Romans 8:26), and even intercedes for us with God the Father (Romans 8:27). The Spirit guides us (Galatians 5:25), helping us to live like Jesus (Galatians 5:22-23).

We celebrate Pentecost on May 15. On that day we will also welcome fifth graders to the Lord's Table for the first time, and we'll acknowledge our high school graduates. It also happens to be the opening of fishing season that weekend. I hope that the fisher people can plan their time so that they can be with us in worship as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit! And don't forget to wear **RED** that day!

## Heidi will hold office hours in the parsonage

Heidi has moved into the parsonage next to the Bernadotte church, and will keep office hours there, rather than traveling between the three churches.

You can reach Heidi—or stop by—at these times, starting the first week of April—Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.; and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

to noon.

Heidi is also always available by phone—507-228-8194 (parsonage landline) or 773-255-4845 (cell) or by email at [heidijohagstrom@gmail.com](mailto:heidijohagstrom@gmail.com).

Please keep Heidi informed of any events that need pastoral care or attention.

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**Please share church or parish announcements, news and/or photos for the next newsletter; email to Ruth at [cowlady@centurylink.net](mailto:cowlady@centurylink.net) or call Ruth's cell phone at 507-240-0048.**

**Deadline for the May newsletter is April 22!**

## Confirmation Schedule

The year of instruction for confirmation will end with two teaching sessions, March 30 and April 6, from 6:30 to 7:30 at First Lutheran, and a time of fellowship on April 13 at Bernadotte, time TBD.

## 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. On Sunday, April 10, the BLC kids are asked to help with Food For Kidz packing. April 24 is the last day of S.S. at First Lutheran.

## Community Bible Study

Heidi will restart the Community Bible Study at Big Dog's in Lafayette on Monday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m. Come and bring a friend!

## Called to their heavenly home

Leo Arnold Cox, age 68, of North Mankato, died on Monday, March 7, 2016, at his home. Funeral service was at Swan Lake Lutheran on Friday, March 11 with Minister Heidi Hagstrom officiating. Burial was in Swan Lake Lutheran Cemetery.

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Delores Myrtle Johnson, 93, passed away Tuesday, March 22 at Oak Terrace Health Care Center in Gaylord. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 26 at Bernadotte Lutheran with Minister Heidi officiating. Burial followed in the Bernadotte Cemetery.

## Meeting Dates

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

## WELCA Spring Gathering

Minnesota Valley Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering will be held Tuesday, April 12 at Christ Lutheran in Glencoe. This year's theme is "Power to Make a Difference." Registration and the meal will be at 5:30 p.m., the program at 6:30 p.m. Meal cost is \$7.00.

Contact Sally Webster (228-8541) for more information. Meal reservations are due April 4 to Cheryl at 320-864-4194.

## Singers needed for BLC's 150th

Singers are encouraged to join the choir for Bernadotte's 150th anniversary event. Members from all FOG parishes or the community, as well as former choir members, are encouraged to join us for special music at the May 1, 9:30 a.m. anniversary service. Two practices will be held—Wednesday evenings, April 20 and 27, at 7:00 p.m. at BLC. Please join us if interested!

## Bridal shower planned

An open house bridal shower will be held for Kelsey DeBoer, bride-to-be of Joe Hoepner, at the Lafayette Community Center, Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Parents are Cheryl DeBoer, Brad DeBoer, and Brenda and Jim Hoepner. The couple is registered at Target and Menards.



## Easter Breakfasts at each church



With a 6:30 a.m. sunrise service, Bernadotte Lutheran held a breakfast afterwards. Swan Lake's breakfast was also after it's service. First Lutheran also had a breakfast.



Egg bake, muffins, rolls, and fruit headed the menu at Bernadotte.





## Bernadotte 150th Anniversary Schedule and Plans

Everyone is invited to Bernadotte Sunday, May 1 for the celebration of the congregation's 150th anniversary. Special events will begin with a joint 9:30 a.m. worship service led by Bishop Jon Anderson. He will be joined by ministry leader Heidi Hagstrom and former pastors.

Following the service, a group photo will be taken (outdoors if weather permits) and the church's sesquicentennial tree and cemetery marker will be dedicated.

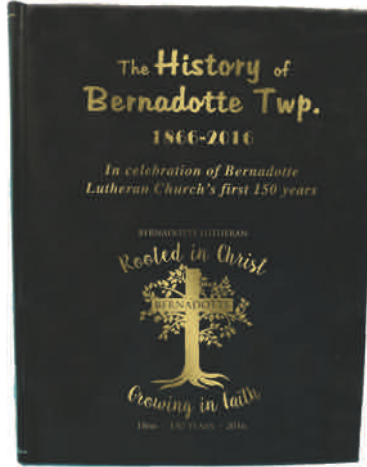
Everyone is invited to join the congregation for a Swedish meatball and roast beef catered meal at noon. Reservations are required—RSVP to Mary Langhorst or Sarah Johnson at 507-237-5581 (Wakefield Pork office) by Sunday, April 10. (Leave a message with name and number attending. Your call will be returned to confirm.). A free will donation will be asked for the meal.

An afternoon program with a special 150th anniversary video and comments by former pastors will be held at 2:00 p.m. In true Lutheran fashion, cake and ice cream will follow.

No personal invitations were sent—except to former

minister/families. Please help to spread the word!

A 550-page history book detailing the history of Bernadotte Lutheran Church—as well as all of Bernadotte Township—has been written and will be available at the anniversary celebration. Cost is \$40. Pre-orders can be placed by sending payment to Ruth Klossner, 34085 515th Ave., Lafayette, MN 56054. Copies can be picked up at the anniversary. Those wishing to have books shipped are asked to add \$7.00 per copy. Please make checks to “BLC 150th Anniversary.”



Other souvenir items available:

- Photo note cards, set of 12 different blank notes with envelopes, \$10.00. The photos reflect the different seasons and have a scripture verse below the photo.

- Pewter ornaments with an etching of the BLC building, approximately two inches by two inches, \$10.00 each.

- Souvenir lapel pins & clothing.

Contact Adrienne Sjostrom or Sally Webster for note cards or ornaments.

All souvenir items bear the 150th anniversary logo designed by BLC's talented graphic artist, Trish Gieseke.

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## News and Notes about other upcoming Bernadotte events

- BLC park clean-up will be Saturday, April 16.
- Bernadotte's April communion service will be Sunday, April 17, one week later than usual.
- Women and youth will work together to assemble health kits Sunday, May 15.

- Baccalaureate Sunday will be Sunday, May 15 or Sunday, May 22; cake and coffee will be served.
- WELCA will assist at Winthrop Good Samaritan Long Term Care Facility in May; a volunteer is needed for devotions at 1:30 p.m. on May 6.

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## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group will resume at Bernadotte Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. and continue Thursdays through the month.



### Happy 90th Birthday, Ardis!

First Lutheran member Ardis Lund celebrated her 90th birthday on Friday, March 25.

If you'd still like to send Ardis a card, her address is 720 23rd St., #301, New Ulm, MN 56073.

## Food for Kidz packing at BLC

Bernadotte's Mission Sunday event will be Food For Kidz packing on Sunday, April 10. Set-up will be at 8:00 a.m., with packing starting at 9:00 a.m. This is a great activity for all ages. All FOG parish members are welcome to take part.

The Food for Kidz center in Stewart will bring product to Bernadotte and will set up in the church basement. Donations for Food for Kidz will be accepted that day. The food packed will be distributed in Minnesota, other parts of the U.S., and internationally, with about a third going to each cause.

Pizza will be provided after the event, at 11:00 a.m. Short devotions will be held at the time, too. An offering will be taken, with money going to Food for Kidz.

With cleanup, the group expects to finish by noon.

# Bernadotte Lutheran Church



**JOIN US ON MAY 1, 2016**

AS BERNADOTTE CELEBRATES THEIR 150 TH ANNIVERSARY.

**WORSHIP: 9:30 AM**

**MEAL: NOON**

**PROGRAM: 2:00 PM**

**WITH CAKE & ICE CREAM TO FOLLOW**

**Free Will Donation**

We would like to have you and your family come and join us at our meal in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Bernadotte Lutheran Church.

Please RSVP to Mary Langhorst or Sarah Johnson

at 507-237-5581 (Wakefield Park Office)

Please leave a message with your name and number attending and we will call you back and confirm your request.

**Please RSVP by: April 10th.**

Contact us: [bernadottelutheranchurch@centurylink.net](mailto:bernadottelutheranchurch@centurylink.net) – 507-228-8380  
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