



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 5, Issue 10

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

May 2016

Sesquicentennial Sunday at Bernadotte May 1

After more than a year of planning and preparation, the time has come—Bernadotte Lutheran will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sunday, May 1. Festivities begin with a 9:30 a.m. joint anniversary communion service and will be followed by a group photo, dedication of an anniversary tree and cemetery marker, catered dinner (free will offering), and afternoon program that will include the first showing of a sesquicentennial video and comments by former pastors and others.

Everyone is welcome to join past and present Bernadotte members in celebrating this milestone. Be sure to check out the historical displays and souvenir items that will be available.

First Communion for 5th graders

After attending classes, fifth graders will take communion for the first time May 22 at First Lutheran.

Two classes have been held, with two more coming up, May 4 and 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. At least one parent (preferably two) must attend the classes with their child.

Graduates to be recognized

First Lutheran will recognize its high school graduates with a graduation breakfast after church on Sunday, May 8. The graduates will be presented with blankets from WELCA during the morning service.

Bernadotte Lutheran will honor its graduates with a special morning coffee hour Sunday, May 22. The grads will receive quilts, made by the quilting ladies, during the worship service.

Confirmation at First Lutheran

Jasenko Gavranovic and Stuart Hartley will be confirmed at First Lutheran on Sunday, May 15. Individual confirmation photos will be taken at 8:30 a.m., with the group photo about 9:15, when Heidi arrives.

The Gavranovic/Gieseke and Hartley families wish to thank the congregation for its support over the years, in preparing the boys for this event. To do so, they will host a meal, with assistance from WELCA. The brunch/lunch will consist of a hot sandwich, potatoes, beverages, and cake and will be served after the service. This is to say a small "Thank You" to all the teachers, mentors, fellow parishioners, and anyone who has helped to guide the boys along the way, and who have offered prayers.

Swedish Concert Thank You

A big thanks to everyone who contributed to the Swedish Choir Concert Wednesday, April 13! Nearly 180 were in attendance and over \$1,100 was generously placed in the offering which helped defray the students' expenses. Special thanks to all the host homes, kitchen help, and to the LCM and Thrivent for donations towards the group's meal and publicity. (Also thanks to Mike and Kathy Stuber for making a trip to the Mall of American to return one traveler's forgotten cell phone!)

It was greatly appreciated to see the community support!



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)

Joint Service at Swan Lake—Sunday, May 29—9:30 a.m.

MAY 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 1-Joint service at BLC; 8-Randy Sandquist & Todd Nelson; 15 & 22-Stanley & Al Youngblom; 29-Joint service at SL

Greeters: Darlene & Howard Lokensgard

Liturgists: 8-Charlie Hartley; 15 & 22-Charles Youngblom

Reader: Sandy Hartley

Visiting: Marilyn & Arden DeBoer

Altar: Myra Shingobe & Mary Martens

Coffee Servers: 1-Joint at BLC; 8-Jay Hagberg & Tom Brethorst; Laurie Larson & Marilyn DeBoer; 22-Ann Gieseke & Beth Gavranovic; 29-Joint service at SL

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ken & Dorothy Martens

Ushers: David Nelson, Arlin Nelson, John Nelson, Tim Schulz & Wendy Schulz

Acolyte: Jason Ross

Readers: 1-Lori Fenske; 8-Lowell Sjostrom; 15-Rosanne Johnson; 22-Ruth Klossner; 29-Joint service at SL

Communion (May 1 & 8): S-David Nelson, C-Trish Gieseke, U-Jerry Oscarson, Steve Langhorst

Coffee Servers: 1-150th Anniversary; 8-Rosanne Johnson; 15-volunteer needed; 22-Graduation coffee; 29-Joint at SL

Heidi's Reflections for May

In her book, *The Silent Cry*, Dorothee Soelle writes that we Christians have generally been pretty good at proclaiming God's love for us, but that we have been less good at emphasizing the importance of our love for God. In my sermon on April 24, I spoke about how Jesus commands us to love one another. Command isn't a word we, as Lutherans, relate to very easily. But we know that in both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament we are commanded "to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your life force (soul), and with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 12:30, Matthew 22:37, Luke 10:27) This was the greatest commandment. So what does it mean for us?

Author Marcus Borg suggests that it means practice. "Loving God," says Borg, "means paying attention to God

and to what God loves."

And the way we do that is through practicing living the Christian way. That means doing things that Christians do together and individually as a way of paying attention to God, like being part of a Christian community, a church.

When someone told First Lutheran member Ardis Lokensgard that she "went to church online," Ardis told her, "That's one way to get out of serving at funerals."

What a great response! Ours is an incarnational, flesh 'n' blood faith, and I happen to think that requires being side-by-side with other people in worship, Christian formation (education), and deeds of hospitality and compassion. Practicing one's faith can also mean spending time in prayer and Bible study, and loving what God loves through the exercise of compassion and justice in the world.

Office hours at the parsonage will be by appointment

With a schedule that's constantly changing, Heidi has decided that it's best that her office hours be by appointment. If you'd like to meet with her, please contact her by phone—507-228-8194 (parsonage landline) or 773-

255-4845 (cell)—or by email at heidijohagstrom@gmail.com.

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

Meeting Dates

• FOG Council—Wed., April 27, First Lutheran

• First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., May 2, 5:30 p.m.

• Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., May 16, 7:30 p.m.

Called to their heavenly home



Lester "Bud" Peterson, 86, of Bernadotte Lutheran passed away Monday, April 25 at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital.

Funeral services will be Friday, April 29 at 11:00 a.m. at Bernadotte. Visitation is 4-8 pm. Thursday, also at BLC.

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Funeral services for Lisa Anderson, 52, of rural Lafayette were held at Bernadotte Lutheran April 16. Lisa died Tuesday, April 12 at her home. Sons Jack and Ben are members of BLC.

Vacation Bible School

At a meeting Sunday, April 24, it was decided that Fields of Grace will not try to do its own VBSI this year. Instead, Heidi will gather information from area churches that would welcome FOG kids, should parents want to send them.

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.

Community Bible Study

Heidi will hold Community Bible Study sessions at Big Dog's in Lafayette on Mondays, May 9, 16, and 23. Bring your own bible. (No Bible study on May 2 or 30.)

BLC Ice Cream Social June 8

Hard to believe but Bernadotte's ice cream social is just over a month away—Wednesday, June 8. Check the poster on the back page for all the details...and mark it on your calendar!

Turn on the TV

Bernadotte Lutheran Church will be featured in the Country Church Salute during the U.S. Farm Report on TV the weekend of April 30-May 1. The Country Church Salute is the last segment of the hour-long show.

The program can be viewed on Direct TV's channel #345 at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 30 and 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 1. Better set your DVR as that's during the 150th anniversary celebration.

U.S. Farm Report will also be broadcast on KEYC Channel 12 at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, May 1.

Bernadotte 150th Items Available

- Bernadotte History Book—550 pages with 16 pages in color; \$40 (\$7 extra if copies are mailed).
- Photo note cards, set of 12 different blank notes with envelopes, \$10.00.
- Pewter ornaments with an etching of the Bernadotte church building, \$10.00 each.
- Lapel pins \$4.00.
- Various clothing items can be ordered.

Items will be available at the anniversary and later at the church; make payment to "BLC 150th Anniversary."



Women from First Lutheran and St. Gregory's joined together to make quilts for missions at

Quilting at First Lutheran



First Lutheran April 4 & 5 and completed a bunch of beautiful and useful quilts.





Food For Kidz packing at BLC

40 people at Bernadotte's April 10 Mission Sunday packaged 2,919 bags of food—enough for 15,106 meals. BLC raised and donated a total of \$3,425, enough to provide over 8,000 additional meals—for a total of 23,975.



The morning wrapped up with pizza for all the volunteers.



Sunday School Classes

First Lutheran's Sunday School classes have wrapped up for the year. Classes will be held at Bernadotte through May 22.

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

News and Notes about upcoming Bernadotte events

- Women and youth will work together to assemble health kits Sunday, May 15.
- Baccalaureate Sunday will be May 22; cake and coffee will be served during the morning coffee hour.
- WELCA will assist at Winthrop Good Samaritan Long-

term Care Facility in May; volunteers are needed for devotions at 1:30 p.m. on May 6 and May 27. If you can help, contact Deb Sjostrom or Jackie Helget.

- Swedefest Saturday, June 25 will include 10:00 p.m. fireworks, in honor of BLC's 150th anniversary!

News Notes from the Fields of Grace Churches



- Meridith Hartley of First Lutheran has officially been hired to fill a supervisory internship position at Druid Hills Golf Club in Atlanta, Georgia for this summer. She will move there in May and is very excited!

- Two Fields of Grace members were among four recognized for longevity by the Sibley Lodge Saturday, April 16. Pictured, from left: Bud Peter-son of Bernadotte, 60 years; Dean Conklin, 65 years; a regional



official from the Minnesota Grand Lodge; Arden DeBoer of First Lutheran, 50 years; and John Polkowske, 60 years.

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

Hoppas Vi Ses Där!

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

Pie Social Menu:

Cold Ham 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)
6 miles east of Lafayette, MN

In case of bad weather event will be held indoors.