



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 5, Issue 11

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

June 2016

One Week, Two FOG Ice Cream Socials

If you love ice cream and band concerts, you'll won't want to miss this! Our churches are putting on not one, but two ice cream socials and band concerts the first full week of June.

The annual Bernadotte Ice Cream Social is first, Wednesday, June 8, in the Bernadotte Church Park. Cold ham and hot turkey sandwiches are on the menu—along with homemade pie and cake—beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Lafayette Band will play at 6:30 p.m. Homemade bake sale items will also be available.

If the weather is bad, the event will be held in the church. (BLC members are asked to help with park clean-up Saturday, June 4 from 9:00 a.m. to noon)

Then, on Friday, June 10, First Lutheran Church will host an ice cream social at the Lafayette Community Center, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in conjunction with the weekly band concert on main street. The menu includes walking tacos or hot dog meal, desserts, and beverages.

To contact Heidi, please use her new cell phone number—507-766-2729 or email heidijohagstrom@gmail.com



Bernadotte grads Dylan Gieseke and Jessica Helget on May 22.

The FLC grads received fleece blankets, the Bernadotte grads got quilts made by the church ladies.



Matthew Hartley, Connor Hoffman, Jacob Broste, and Alyssa Kelley at graduation Sunday at First Lutheran May 8.

The graduates, their parents, their schools and future plans

Jacob Broste
Matthew Hartley
Connor Hoffman
Alyssa Kelley

Jeremy & Carmen Broste
Charlie & Sandy Hartley
Mike & Shauna Hoffman
Wendy Kelley, the late Dave Kelley & Brad DeBoer

New Ulm High School
New Ulm High School
New Ulm High School
New Ulm High School

South Central College, Agribusiness Service Technician
Army National Guard Medic Training; college in 2017
Vocational School
Bemidji State University, Nursing

Dylan Gieseke
Jessica Helget

John & Trish Gieseke
Bob & Jackie Helget

Nicollet High School
New Ulm High School

So. Central College, Multimedia Tech. & Graphics
University of South Dakota, in the medical field

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

**Joint Communion Service at Swan Lake—Sunday, May 29—9:30 a.m.
Refreshments & Fellowship at 8:30 a.m.**

**Joint Outdoor Service at Bernadotte—Sunday, July 3—9:30 a.m.
Refreshments & Fellowship following service**

JUNE 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 5-Darlene & Howard L.; 12-Dean P. & Tyson Hutton; 19-Todd N., & Randy Sandquist; 26-Al P. & Dean Pehrson

Greeters: 5, 19 & 26-Brian M.; 12-Dawn S.

Liturgists: 5 & 12-Charlie Youngblom; 19 & 26-Charles Hartley

Readers: Stuart Hartley & Jasenko Gavranovic

Visiting: Howard & Darlene Lokensgard

Altar: Laura Isaacson & Linda Isaacson

Coffee Servers: 5-Diane D. & Mindy Engel; 12-Jo P. & Lindsay Pehrson; 19-Sandy H. & Ann Gieseke; 26-Sandy B. & Bette Johnson

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Renee Rasmussen & Andrew Rasmussen

Ushers: Bruce White, Romi White, Arlin Nelson, Jim Bartels & Konnie Bartels

Acolyte: Ben Radke

Readers: 5-Sally Webster; 12-Shaun Anderson; 19-Steve Sjostrom, 26-Tim Schulz

Communion (June 12): S-Bruce White, C-Dave Nelson, U-Brent Johnson & Lori Fenske

Coffee Servers: Fellowship for the summer months will be on special occasions or by special request

Heidi's Reflections for June

Summer is a great season in which to focus on one's relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For parents, the endless running associated with the school year is much diminished; for some, the pace of work is slower; and for some the daily routines change because of the ability to be outside. This is the perfect time of year to begin a spiritual practice.

In traditional Christian language, being a Christian is being engaged in the task of "becoming Christ." Whatever else we might say about the Apostle Paul, one thing is sure—he understood what was being offered us, the chance to "be in Christ and Christ in us." "Becoming Christ" is the code word for living our lives as Jesus lived his. Jesus lived his life with total openness to the Spirit. Openness to the Spirit meant that he engaged in regular, intentional spiritual practices, as attested to in the many references to "the desert," praying, going alone in the desert. Spiritual practices are ways to open ourselves to God's presence,

to make ourselves available to God.

Can you imagine an athlete preparing for a marathon by simply thinking it's a good idea some day, by watching others practice, or by reading about it in a good book? If you want to become good at any sport, you need to train. Your coach will get you to do exercises you think are pretty remote from your goal, but you trust him or her. You hang out with people with similar interests, you talk about your training and you learn from each other. One day you find yourself doing things you never dreamed you could before you began practicing.

Spiritual practices are the exercises we undergo in order to develop the "spiritual muscle tone" we need to grow into the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13) Like athletes, Christians are not static. We grow and learn. Like the athlete, I encourage you to use the slower pace of summer to start your training routine.

If you need ideas, I can make suggestions.

Synodical Convention

The SW MN Synodical WELCA convention will be held Friday & Saturday, June 17-18 at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. Check with WELCA officers for more info.

Member Updates

Earl Wise of First Lutheran has moved to Oak Hills Living Center in New Ulm.

Deadline for the July newsletter is June 24. Email your news to Ruth at cowlady@centurylink.net or call 507-240-0048.

Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., June 6, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., June 20, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., June 22, 7:00 p.m., Swan Lake



Confirmation at First Lutheran

Three young men took part in confirmation services at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette Sunday, May 15. Pictured with minister Heidi Hagstrom are, from left: Patrick Sandberg, son of Tom and Deb Sandberg; Stuart Hartley, son of Jon and Lesa Hartley; and Jasenko Gavranovic, son of Zijad and Beth Gavranovic.

Summer Outdoor 'Music with a Message' Services at Bernadotte's Church Park

Bernadotte will again welcome guest musicians for special services this summer—outdoors, hopefully, if weather permits. Services will move indoors if the weather is bad.

- Sunday, July 3, 9:30 a.m.—Joint Service with George's Concertina Band (Garfield Eckberg's group)
- Sunday, July 17, 11:00 a.m.—Larry Mages
- Sunday, July 31, 11:00 a.m.—Slewfoot Family
- Sunday, August 14, 11 a.m.—Gerry & Carol Larson
- Sunday, August 28, 11:00 a.m.—TBA

Everyone is welcome to join us for these unique, refreshing outdoor services with special music. Services will be moved indoors in case of uncooperative conditions. Light refreshments will be served after the July 3 service and BEFORE the others.

Community Bible Study

Heidi will hold Community Bible Study at Big Dog's in Lafayette on Monday, June 6, 13, and 20 to complete a study of Romans. Time is 9:30 a.m. The group will then break until fall.

Bernadotte News Notes

- The assembly of School Kits and Personal Care Kits was postponed to Sunday, June 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the church basement prior to worship. Everyone welcome to help!
- Erin Radke, daughter of Judy Radke and Steve Radke, graduated from South Dakota State University with a BS degree in animal science May 7.
- Thanks to the many BLC women who volunteered to serve or provide devotions at Winthrop Good Samaritan or The Lodge.
- Used clothing, shoes, and rags are being collected until the end of May. Leave in the church entry.

BLC Swedefest June 25

Bernadotte's annual summer festival, Swedefest, will have a new twist when it's held Saturday, June 25 in the church park. Like usual, the event will feature a Swedish smorgasbord, afternoon entertainment (Donnie Klossner and Matt & Allen Carlson), kids' activities, horse-drawn wagon rides, a silent auction, and a quilt raffle. New this year will be evening entertainment (the Bockfest Boys) and FIREWORKS at 10:00 p.m. In case of bad weather, events will be held in the church.

There will also be evening devotions as there is no church service the next morning...but committee members (and volunteers) will be back to clean up!

Everyone welcome!

Baptisms at our Churches

Henry Lucas Sjostrom was baptized at Bernadotte Lutheran Sunday, May 15. Henry's parents are Lucas and Alise Sjostrom, his grandparents are Steve and Deb Sjostrom and Linda and Jerry Jennisen, and his great-grandparents are Lowell and Adrienne Sjostrom and LeRoy and Gertie Rathmann. Henry's sponsor is Jacob Sjostrom. Henry was born March 2.

Alice Louisa Oseland-Cabanilla was baptized at Swan Lake on Sunday, May 15. Alice's sponsors are Mathew and Darnell Cabanilla and John and Casey Rubischko. Her father is Chad Cabanilla.

Heidi's College Classes

Heidi will take three college classes this summer, two on campus at Wartburg and one online. She will take "Intro to the History of Christianity" and "Lutheran Leadership, Ecclesiology, and Polity" on campus Monday-Friday, July 11-15. She is also taking an online course, starting June 6, entitled "Re-visioning Rural Ministry—Leadership in Multi-Point Parishes." (Heidi could probably teach that one after how busy her first few months here have been!)



Emily's last Sunday

Bernadotte organist Emily Rudquist finished her duties at Bernadotte Sunday, May 22. Emily recently graduated from Gustavus and will work at a music camp this summer, before seeking a full time organist position. BLC appreciates her music and sent her on her way with a basket of goodies.



Bernadotte's 150th Anniversary

Sunday, May 1, was a very special day at Bernadotte Lutheran. After a year of monthly meetings with a great group of interested volunteers, all our planning came together in an unforgettable day of music, ministers, memories, and a meal! We appreciate every member AND friend of Bernadotte who joined us that day in presence or spirit!

The day began with a very special worship service. The participation of former ministers and organists and/or their families was very heart-warming. The total attendance at worship—nearly 370 people—filled the sacristy like days of old! Current Minister Heidi created the meaningful celebration. She suggested and found young local musicians from GFW, as well as Gustavus, and a full choir as she “borrowed” about 15 members of her sister’s church choir from Cokato Evangelical Lutheran!

Our members contributed in many ways. Our young people led the processional which included the beautiful banner made by Konnie Bartels. The original artwork/logo created by member/artist Trish Gieseke decorated many items, including the program booklets, “Bernadotte-wear,” the banner, and much more, proclaiming our 150th message—“Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith.”

Following the service, everyone was invited to take part in the dedication of a tree planted near a new cemetery directory sign, which were gifts from the Churchmen and our church Memorial Fund, respectively. With the beautiful new sign, as well as the strong young Red Oak, planted firmly in Bernadotte Church soil, our history and memories will continue—“Rooted in Christ!”

The large group photo above was taken before everyone enjoyed a delicious Swedish meatball and roast beef dinner together. The large crowd of over 300 filled the basement

social hall twice, allowing for many warm conversations, hugs, and laughter.

Moving back to the church sacristy, everyone enjoyed a light-hearted program that included past ministers sharing memories, as well as random friends and members who filled the oak church pews once again. The program concluded with a taste of the video presentation that helped to tell the story of Bernadotte’s last 25 years.

In true Lutheran fashion, everyone was invited back to the church fellowship hall to enjoy cake, ice cream and, of course, coffee!

Special commemorative items were created to celebrate the church’s milestone 150th year. An inventory of items remains for those who would like them. Included are commemorative pins, stationary card sets with pictures of Bernadotte Church on the front, BLC Christmas ornaments, clothing (t-shirts, ladies jean shirts, ladies t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, youth long sleeve shirts, and polo shirts). All clothing items are blue with exception of the t-shirt which is white with light blue print. Copies of the commemorative DVD telling the story of Bernadotte’s last 25 years are also available.

Last, and NOT least whatsoever, is the 550-page hard-cover book that tells the history of Bernadotte and the entire area, written by our own member/editor Ruth Klossner. This “Bernadotte bible” is filled with nearly 700 photos and recollections of the years and comes highly recommended!

All of these items would make great gifts and keepsakes! They’re available and can be shipped for a small additional cost. (See photos, prices, and ordering information on next page.)

For those who would like to contribute to the 150th anniversary account, we gladly welcome general donations which will help offset expenses of the big day.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way—by attending, thinking of us in spirit, giving monetary gifts, or giving gifts of time and resources that made the day extra meaningful!

Finally, because of distance or time, not everyone was able to share memories that day, so we ask you to share your favorite BLC memory. We will collaborate the memories and share them in print in the future. (Please provide name, city/state, and your written BLC memory.)

For example,
Though I am not a BLC “lifer,” but rather married into

the church, my heart was filled the day of our 150th Celebration. In seeing the former ministers and families, I came to quickly realize that all three of our children were confirmed by Pastor Grunzke, all three were baptized by Pastor Zust, our daughter was married at BLC two summers ago by Pastor Jakel, Steve and I were married with the assistance of Pastor Walfrid, and met under the guidance of Pastor Beyer as teenagers on a BLC youth canoe trip to the BWCA.

~Deb Sjostrom, Lafayette

Thank you from the 150th Committee—Denise Johnson, Ruth Klossner, Sally Webster, Lowell & Adrienne Sjostrom, Mary Langhorst, Jim & Konnie Bartels & Deb Sjostrom.



150th Anniversary Clothing, Various Styles
 Contact Mary for sizes and prices



Lapel Pins
 \$4.00 each



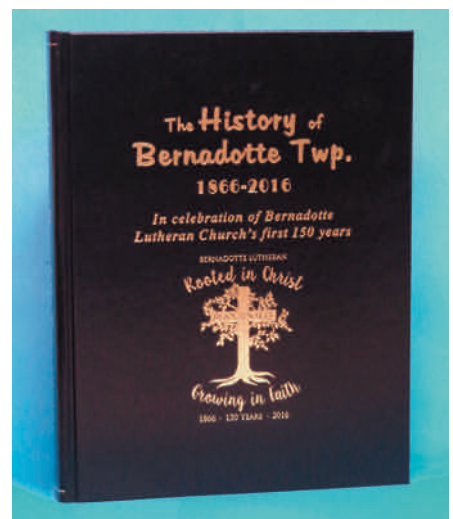
Photo Note Cards, set of 12
 \$10.00 set



Pewter Christmas Ornaments
 \$10.00 each



150th Anniversary DVD
 \$15.00 each



Bernadotte History Book
 \$40.00 each

To order the 150th Bernadotte Church/Township History Book, contact Ruth Klossner at 507-240-0048.
 To order all other BLC items, contact Mary Langhorst at 507-237-5581.



Bernadotte's 150th anniversary service was a festive affair with Bishop Jon Anderson, former pastors and Minister Heidi all taking part. The service was enhanced by organists Emily Rudquist and Eric Larson and the combined group that included musicians from GFW, Gustavus, Cokato, and Texas!

Celebrating 150 Years at Bernadotte Lutheran





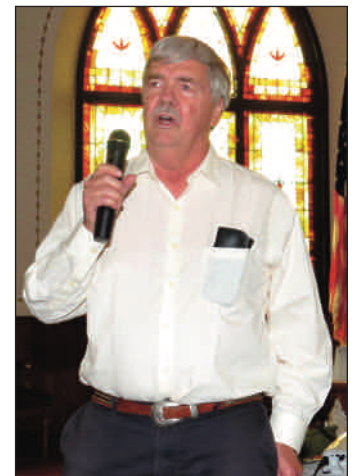
Pictured with the new cemetery marker are Deb Sjostrom who headed the committee, Dale Gleason who made the sign, and Jerry Oscarson who did the cement work.



Denise Johnson set up fantastic displays, both in the church basement and upstairs.



Jim Bartels emceed the after program. Among those sharing memories was Lori Grunzke.



Celebrating 150 Years at Bernadotte



Ryden Richardson, great-great-grandson of Bernadotte's first resident pastor, Rev. Carl Ryden, came all the way from El Paso, Texas for the event and even sang in the choir!

Kevin Johnson and Dean Peterson said they were the only complete confirmation class in attendance. The two were the only confirmands in 1963. (Look at the poster next to them!)

Bernadotte to be topic of Historical Society program

Ruth Klossner will be at the Treaty Site History Center, 1851 N. Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter on Thursday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book *The History of Bernadotte Twp. 1866-2016*. Klossner will talk about the 550-page history book

that details the history of Bernadotte Lutheran Church—as well as all of Bernadotte Township.

Regular site admission will be charged for the event which is free to NCHS and MNHS members.