



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 1

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

August 2016

## 'Team Heather' Benefit set for Sunday, September 11

Plans are coming together nicely for a benefit for Heather Giefer and her family. It will be held Sunday, September 11 at the Nicollet Public School.

Swan Lake and Bernadotte members, along with individuals from many other groups, are involved in the planning.

The day will include an outdoors ecumenical worship service at the football field at 10:00 a.m., led by Heidi Hagstrom and Pastor Scott Richards from Lori Giefer's home church, Trinity Lutheran, Sibley Township. (Moves to the school theatre if weather is bad)

A Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Other events include a bake sale, silent auction, live auction, kids' games, and more.

Anyone willing to volunteer to help at the benefit is asked to contact Deb Sjostrom or Trish Gieseke. Those wishing to donate items for the silent auction may leave them with Donna Webster or Rosanne Johnson by Friday, September 9, preferably earlier. (Bake sale items will also be accepted the day before the event). Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

Heather, her parents, Tim and Lorie, and sister Clarissa are members of Swan Lake. Heather was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in May. Lorie updates a Caring-Bridge page, [heathergiefer.com](http://heathergiefer.com), regularly. A fund, Heather's Fund, has been set up at ProGrowth Bank, PO Box 77, Nicollet 56074. Please keep Heather and her family in your prayers.

## Five Church Event at Fernando

The women of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church-Fernando will host the annual Community Gathering for Women of area churches Wednesday, August 3 at 5:30 p.m., with a meal at 6:00 p.m.

Theme for the evening is "Peace Like a River" with a focus on hymnody and Psalms. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Denise Johnson at 507-228-8341.

*Mark your calendars...*

**Joint Worship Service  
Sunday, Sept. 4, 9:30 a.m.**

**First Lutheran Church**

Fellowship follows service

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**NO Worship Services at  
FOG churches, Sunday, Sept. 11,**

***Everyone is invited to  
attend the service at the benefit***

## Outdoor Services at Bernadotte's Church Park

Outdoor services continue through August at Bernadotte. The music-based services feature a variety of groups —

- 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. — Meghan Moore & Co.

Everyone is welcome to these unique, refreshing outdoor services with special music. If the weather is bad, the services will move indoors.

Light refreshments will be served BEFORE the services.

## Service Time Changes in September

Beginning Sunday, September 18, Bernadotte will have worship at 9:30 a.m. and First Lutheran at 11:00 a.m. Swan Lake services will continue to be at 8:00 a.m.

## Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council — Mon., Aug. 1, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council — Mon., Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council — Wed., Aug. 24, 7:00 p.m. at Bernadotte;

**To contact Heidi, please use her new cell phone number — 507-766-2729  
or email [heidijohagstrom@gmail.com](mailto:heidijohagstrom@gmail.com)**

# 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

*NOTE—Joint service at First Lutheran, Sunday, Sept. 4, 9:30 a.m.*

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## AUGUST 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 7-Arden DeBoer & Jamie Friedrichs; 14-Dwight & Geni DeBoer; 21-Jamie Friedrichs & Bucky Wendorff; 28-Susie & Bucky Wendorff

**Greeters:** Todd & Charlene Nelson

**Liturgists:** 7 & 14, Brad DeBoer; 21 & 28, Charlie Youngblom

**Readers:** Bailey Langhoff & Kaylyn Broste

**Visiting:** Audrey Wise & Cindy Youngblom

**Altar:** Jorja Langhoff & Shauna Hoffmann

**Coffee Servers:** 7-Diane Durheim & Mindy Engel; 14 & 21-Kris Hagberg & Pam Martens; 28-Sandy Hartley & Sandy Burger

### Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Sally Webster & Elias Webster

**Ushers:** Lori Fenske, Dave Martin, Sandy Martin, Phil Wingen, Karen Wingen

**Acolyte:** Austin Gieseke

**Readers:** 7-Lori Fenske, 14-Lowell Sjostrom, 21-Rosanne Johnson, 28-Ruth Klossner

**Communion** (August 14): S-Lori Fenske, C-Denise Johnson, U-Jim Young, Steve Radke

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

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## Heidi's Reflections for August

When I attended an intensive summer session at Wartburg Seminary in July, I took two classes. Some of my classmates—too many, in my opinion—told painful stories about congregations and parishes in conflict.

Comparatively, the people of Fields of Grace are—for the most part—stable, healthy, reasonable, and good-humored.

Why is that so? Did FOG have leaders who set a tone for the parish that continues today? Is it because so many people are related? Is this still the honeymoon period for me? Am I just not hearing the grumbling? Or is it something else? Am I not articulating the prophetic challenges of the gospel? Am I watering down the gospel message into a slow, manageable drip, instead of the knock-you-off-balance, raging fire hose that the gospel really is?

I talked to my supervising pastor about it, and I started reading more about the role of a pastor. I found one pastoral leader who came up with a top 10 list (a la David Letterman) of ways we all water down the gospel. I want to share it with you because I think he has some important insights from which we can all learn.

10. We water down the gospel when we attempt to live it out in isolation, instead of in the context of community.
9. We water down the gospel when we make it about changing someone else, instead of first changing ourselves.
8. We water down the gospel when we make it sound like following Jesus is easy (Spoiler Alert...it's not!).
7. We water down the gospel when we exclude people.
6. We water down the gospel when we tell people it's clear and simple.
5. We water down the gospel when we eliminate the centrality of social justice.
4. We water down the gospel when we explain away the whole nonviolent love of enemies part.
3. We water down the gospel when we over emphasize sins rarely mentioned in scripture, while conveniently neglecting the ones that are talked about constantly.
2. We water down the gospel when we exclusively use the concept of "[punitive] substitution" to explain the gospel.
1. We water down the gospel when we invite people to trust Jesus for the afterlife... but not this life.

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## Neighborhood Night Out

The 20th annual Bernadotte/Brighton Neighborhood Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m. It will be hosted by Rick & Nancy Grommersch at 49752 County Road 15, Nicollet. Everyone welcome—tell your neighbors!

Please bring a dish to pass. Pulled pork sandwiches, beverages, plates & utensils will be provided.

This is a great way to get to know your neighbors. A fun night is planned with a bounce house, corn hole games, live concertina music by Adam Munsterman and more.

## Harvest Festivals at area churches

St. Gregory's in Lafayette will hold its annual Harvest Festival Sunday, August 14. There's a family-style ham & meatball dinner, 10:30-1:30 p.m., raffle and entertainment.

Just a little farther west, St. George Catholic Church will hold its annual Harvest Festival Sunday, September 11.



## Swan Lake ice cream social benefits Giefer family



The ladies of Swan Lake Lutheran served egg salad sandwiches, BBQs, pie and desserts, ice cream, and beverages when they hosted their annual ice cream social Wednesday, July 30. Proceeds from the event went to the Tim and Lori Giefer family.

## Bernadotte Notes

- Brian Petterson takes part in the Miracle Softball League, Wednesdays July 27, August 7, 10 & 17 at 6:15 p.m., at Fallenstein Field at Caswell Park, Mankato. He'd appreciate a cheering section.

- Open house wedding dance honoring Brandon Helget and Hallie Kuelbs, Saturday, July 30, 8:00 p.m. at Turner Hall in New Ulm. Brandon is the son of Bob & Jackie Helget. All are welcome.

- Open house come-and-go shower for Daniel Fenske and

Brittani Ruschmeyer, Saturday, August 13, 10 a.m.-noon, at BLC. They're registered at Herberger's, Kohl's & Menards. Dan is the son of Lori and the late Darwin Fenske.

- The September 11 WELCA/LCM Joint Meeting has been pushed back to September 18 to avoid a conflict with the benefit.

- BLC 150th memorabilia items are still available from the church—history books, ornaments, note cards, lapel pins, and clothing. Also copies of the Bernadotte group photo taken outside the church (10x24 inches or 7x18 inches).

**July 3  
Joint Worship  
Service with  
George's  
Concertina Band**



**Outdoor  
Services at BLC**



The weather cooperated for the first two outdoor services held in the Bernadotte church park July 3 and July 17. The fellowship hours recognized Mildred Ross' 90th birthday July 3 and Vern and Neva Paulson's 65th anniversary July 17. Larry Mages provided the music at the second service.



Meanwhile, in the back row, Will kept an eye on the photographer!

**First Lutheran Notes**

- Daxton Del Decko, son of Katie Nelson and Tim Decko, was baptized Sunday, July 24 at First Lutheran Church. His sponsors are Carolyn and Zach Reeves.
- Here's a note from Jacob Broste and Connor Hoffman—"We would like to thank the ladies of the FLC/WELCA for taking the time to make our wonderful graduation blankets! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and talent. They're warm, cozy and so personalized! Thanks again."

**Winthrop Musical August 18-21**

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat," the delightful and entertaining musical based on Genesis chapters 37-45, will be presented in Winthrop Thursday-Sunday, August 18-21. Times are 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, in GFW's air-conditioned auditorium. The musical is part of the new T-Birds Community Arts organization. BLC members Jason Ross and Deb Sjostrom are cast members. Tickets are available at GFW school offices or at the Winthrop, Gibbon, and Fairfax banks. (\$8 adults & \$5 kids).