



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 2 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran September 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, 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’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. (Extra help is needed with set-up from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday!) Those wishing to donate items for the silent auction may leave them with Donna Webster or Rosanne Johnson by Friday, September 9, preferably earlier. (They will also accept bake sale items the day before the event).

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 CaringBridge page, [heathergiefer](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.

With help from fellow 4-Her Andrew Radke, Heather exhibited the champion beef animal at the Tri-County Fair August 17 in Mankato. The animal was purchased by CHS in the auction.



Mark your calendars...

**Joint Service at First Lutheran
Sun., Sept. 4, 9:30 a.m.**

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**NO Worship Services at
FOG churches, Sun., Sept. 11,
*Please attend the service at the benefit***

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**Service Times Change,
starting Sunday, September 18
9:30 a.m. Bernadotte; 11:00 First Lutheran**

September 18 first day of Sunday School at First & Bernadotte

The first day of Sunday school for both Bernadotte and First Lutheran will be September 18.

Bernadotte will hold a Sunday School teachers’ meeting Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. New teachers are welcome and volunteers are always welcome to do a special project or lesson with the class. Please call Rosanne to volunteer.

Bernadotte’s class time is 8:45 a.m. The Sunday School program is offered for children ages 4 to 15. Kids are invited to ask a friend to join them this year.

First Lutheran’s Sunday School will run from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., with the church service at 11:00 am. The blessing of the backpacks will take place Sunday, September 18 and Sunday, September 25. Also on September 25, Bibles will be presented to second, third, and fourth graders and confirmation students. Parents will be notified that their child will receive a Bible.

Confirmation & Bible Study

The Monday Morning Community Bible Study held at Big Dog’s in Lafayette will resume Monday, September 19, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation for students from all FOG churches will begin Wednesday, September 21, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at First Lutheran.

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

FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

Swan Lake Lutheran—8:00 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

Bernadotte Lutheran—9:30 a.m.—Communion the 2nd Sunday of the month

First Lutheran—11:00 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month

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



Note time changes!

SEPTEMBER 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 4-Brian & Mary Martens; 11-Dean P & Tyson Hutton; 18-Charlie & Matthew Hartley; 25-Charlie & Andrew Hartley

Greeters: Bill Youngblom & Stanley Youngblom

Liturgists: 11-Jorja Langhoff; 18 & 25-Charlie Hartley

Reader: Mary Martens

Visiting: Audrey Wise & Marilyn DeBoer

Altar: Lori Brethorst, Sheri Portner & Angie Hartman

Coffee Servers: 4-Mary M & Laurie Larson; 11-Lindsay P & Heidi Hutton; 18-Lori B & Angie Hartmann; 25-Kris H & Emily Hagberg

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Brenda Lindmeyer & Pam White

Ushers: Jim & Carol Young, Kevin Johnson, Jeff Young, Brad White

Acolyte: Marissa Anderson

Readers: 4-Joint Service at FLC; 11-no service at BLC; 18-Shaun Anderson; 25-Steve Sjostrom

Communion: S-Jim Young, C-Brent Johnson, U-Deb Sjostrom, Steve Langhorst

Coffee Servers: 18-Volunteer needed; 25-Carol Young

Heidi's Reflections for September

Fall has always been a time of new beginnings for me, almost more than the start of a new year. Maybe that is because I was the only one in my family, after my father died, who wasn't a teacher, preparing for the start of a new school year.

Fall is a good time to remember Jesus' promise to make all things new. (Rev. 21:5)

As Christendom declines and Emergence Christianity continues to blossom in all its messy glory, we in the institutional church face a central question. Can we get over ourselves? Can we give up our self absorbed fretting about how good things used to be so we can see the beautiful possibilities now? Can we get over calling local comfort zones "tradition" so that we can hold onto and live the meaning of the real tra-

dition—God in Christ, making all things new? Can we let go of the same, tired, polarizing, labeling questions that keep us from loving our neighbors and take up new questions that help us risk living in the way of Christ? The church that gets over itself is the church that will join God's great adventure unfolding before our eyes, the new reformation. It is the church that sees and joins God in the neighborhood, at the protest movement, under the bridge, at the county jail, God who is making all things new.

As we enter a year of celebration in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the Reformation, I think it is a perfect time to ask what newness is God calling each congregation in the Fields of Grace Parish?

Heidi begins CPE training

As part of her seminary study, Heidi will begin Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Friday, September 1. That means she will spend every Thursday at the hospital in Marshall, Minnesota. CPE is an experience that uses real-life ministry encounters of students to improve the ministry and pastoral care provided by caregivers.

Date set for Fall Festival at First Lutheran

Mark the date on your calendar! First Lutheran Church's Fall Festival will be held Saturday, November 19 and will include a bake and craft sale and dinner. Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Oct. 26 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran

Life Events

Brandon Helget and Hallie Kuelbs were married Saturday, July 30 at Bernadotte. Brandon is the son of Bob and Jackie Helget and the grandson of Ken and Dorthy Martens.

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Charles and Addie Prah are excited to welcome Carter Gavin to their family Thursday, August 11. Carter's grandparents, Clayton and Rita Prah and Kevin and Rosanne Johnson, are just as thrilled.

Called to their heavenly home



Lorraine Honken, 96, of St. Peter and formerly of Nicollet died Friday, August 19 at the Benedictine Living Community in St. Peter. Funeral services were held Thursday, August 25 at Swan Lake with Heidi Hagstrom officiating. Burial was in Swan Lake Lutheran Cemetery.

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First Lutheran member **Sylvia Oscarson**, 97, of New Ulm died Thursday, July 28 at her home in New Ulm. Funeral services were held Saturday, August 6, 2016 at Bernadotte Lutheran Church. Heidi Hagstrom officiated. Burial was in the Bernadotte Cemetery.



Lily Franke, 92, of Gaylord passed away Wednesday, August 24 at Oak Terrace Health Care Center in Gaylord. Funeral services were held Monday, August 29 at Bernadotte Lutheran Church, with Heidi Hagstrom officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.



Clothing Drive set for October

An Africa partnership clothing drive will be held during October. Clothing, shoes, purses, hats, belts, bedding, and any type of material can be donated in tall plastic kitchen bags with drawstrings.

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is partnered with the Southeastern Diocese of Southern Africa to walk together in ministry. The Minnesota Valley Conference is paired with the Vryheid Circuit.

Funds collected from the clothing drive will pay for the packaging and sending of nutritious meals to all congregations in Vryheid. A donor will match whatever is raised.

More information on the drive is available from Oather Martin at 320-583-9011.

NUMAS Haus fundraising

NUMAS Haus in New Ulm has opened, but needs continued support and fundraising. To do that, NUMAS is taking part in Herberger's non-profit fundraising by selling coupon books. The books sell for \$5.00 and contain many coupons, including one good for \$10 off a regular or sale priced item of \$10 or more. Groups are encouraged to sell the coupon books to raise funds for NUMAS Haus. Call or email 276-4711 or sundell@newulmtel.net for more information.

Good News from FOG

Team Eric's Runners raised over \$3000 to help find a cure for multiple sclerosis by taking part in the annual "Muck Fest." The mud run obstacle course was held at the Scott County fairgrounds in Jordan August 20.

Team Eric's Runners was made up of members of the Webster family.

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Graphic designer **Trish Gieseke** was featured as one of two Superhero employees in the August issue of NU-Telecom's newsletter. Those planning the Team Heather benefit KNOW that Trish is a superhero as she has designed the poster and other promotional materials. Trish is a member of Bernadotte Lutheran.



Nicollet County 4-Hers from the FOG churches won a number of top honors at the Nicollet County Fair. **Ben Radke** (BLC) had the champion beef prospect heifer calf and was champion showman, grades 6-8. **Austin Gieseke** (BLC) was champion in Shooting Sports and reserve cham-

pion in fine arts, grades 6-8. **Clarissa Giefer** (SL) was reserve champion in senior pleasure in the horse project. **Heather Giefer** (SL) had the champion market beef steer and was reserve champion in creative/applied photography, grades 6-8.

Outdoor Services at BLC



Reader Lori Fenske



The weather was great for the July 31 and August 14 outdoor services at Bernadotte. The Slewfoot Family (top left and far left) provided the music for the July 31 service. Jodi Poehler accompanied Carol and Gerry Larson for the August 14 service. Light refreshments were served before each service.

Wet conditions and concerns about the weather moved the August 28 service, with Megan Moore & Co., indoors.



Bernadotte Notes and Events

- Special congregation meeting to discuss the parsonage bathroom remodeling project is set for Sunday, September 18 after the 9:30 a.m. service .
- The September 11 WELCA/LCM Joint Meeting has been rescheduled to *September 18* to avoid a conflict with the Giefer benefit. Devotions by Shaun Anderson, program TBA, hosts John/Trish Gieseke, Jim Henderson, Ron/Denise Johnson and Julia Oscarson.
- WELCA will host an area evening meeting/meal at Bernadotte Thursday, September 15. The ladies to host are Carol

Young and Wendy Schulz.

- Open house wedding dance honoring Daniel Fenske and Brittani Ruschmeyer Saturday, September 24, 8:00 p.m. at Arlington Community Center in Arlington. Daniel is the son of Lori and the late Darwin Fenske and Brittani is the daughter of Bruce and Hope Ruschmeyer and Pam Ruschmeyer.
- 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).