



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 5 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran December 2016

Holiday Schedule

- Community Sing-a-Long—Sun., Dec. 4, 7:00 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great; refreshments follow
- Bernadotte S.S. Program, Sun., Dec. 11, 9:30 a.m.
- First Lutheran S.S. Program, Sun., Dec. 18, 11:00 a.m.; BBQ meal follows.
- Christmas Eve—7:00 p.m., Swan Lake; 9:00 p.m., First Lutheran.
- Christmas Day—8:00 a.m. Bernadotte.
- New Year's Day, Sun., Jan. 1—Joint Service, Bernadotte, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship follows

FLC Sunday School Program

The program will be presented Sun., Dec. 18, during the morning worship service. A BBQ lunch will follow.

Benefit for Dawn Stevenson

A benefit will be held Saturday, January 14 for Dawn Stevenson who suffered a medical issue in September. The benefit will be held at the Lafayette Fire Department, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. (This event was originally scheduled for Dec. 3, but has been changed to Jan. 14.)

Dawn is a member of First Lutheran and the mother of Brittany, Brianna, Brooklyn, and Bailey and the significant other of Corey Langhoff.

The benefit will include a bake sale. FOG members are invited to provide bake sale donations, preferably in ready-to-sell form, by January 12 or 13.

For more information, call 507-217-3689.

Prices reduced on Bernadotte's 150th items

Just in time for Christmas shopping! Prices have been reduced on select BLC 150th Anniversary items.

- Bernadotte History Books — now \$25 each or 2/\$40
- Pewter Christmas Ornaments — Now \$8 each or 2/\$15
- BLC Lapel Pins — Now \$2 each
- BLC Can Coozies — Now \$1 each

Limited items of Bernadotte clothing, as well as Anniversary DVDs, are also available.

Contact Ruth, Lori, Sally or Mary for purchases.

Bernadotte S.S. Program Dec. 11

With help from Jason Ross, the Sunday School kids at Bernadotte will present "The Twelve Days of Christmas" by Gail Gaymer Martin during the 9:30 a.m. service Sunday, December 11.

Christmas program practice will be at 8:30 a.m. Sunday December 4 and at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, December 7.

There will be a Sunday School Christmas break the three Sundays following the program—Dec. 18 & 25 and Jan. 1. Sunday School resumes Sunday, Jan. 8 at 8:45 a.m.

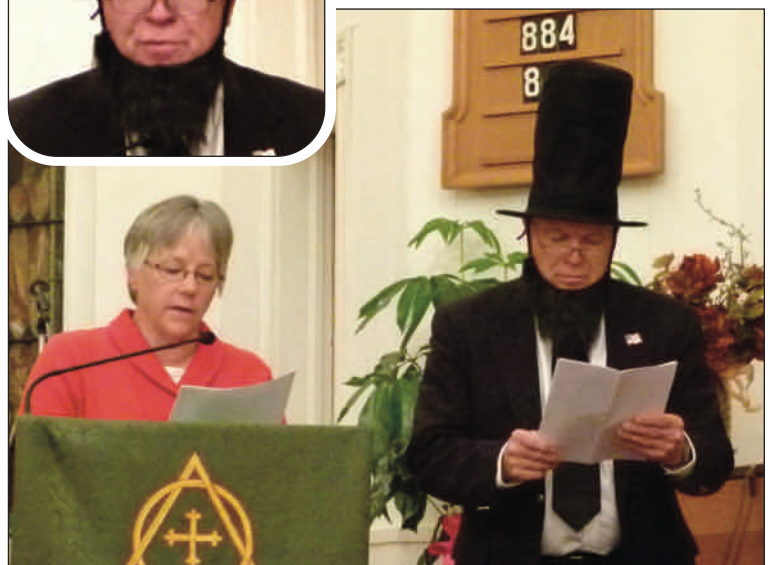
Confirmation schedule

Classes will be held Wednesdays, December 7 and 14 at First Lutheran. The classes will meet Sunday, December 18 at First for Christmas program rehearsal, then will have a Christmas party at Bernadotte on Wednesday, December 21. There is no class on December 28. Classes will resume in January, meeting on the first three weeks at Swan Lake.

Thanksgiving Eve Service



Abe Lincoln (aka Jim Bartels) made an appearance at First Lutheran for the Thanksgiving Eve service November 23. "Abe" presented his Thanksgiving proclamation from 1863, interspersed in the sermon which was delivered by Sandy Hartley, since Heidi wasn't able to be there.



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

DECEMBER 2016 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 4-Jim Langhoff & Jacob Broste; 11-Jim Langhoff & Riley Hoffmann; 18-Matt & Mark Hagberg; 24-Bill Youngblom & Stanley Youngblom

Greeters: Bucky Wendorff & Al Youngblom

Liturgists: 4 & 11-Jorja Langhoff; 18 & 24-Charlie Hartley

Readers: Linda Youngblom & Harley Sjogren

Visiting: Wendy Hagberg & Charlene Nelson

Altar: Lindsey Pehrson & Heidi Hutton

Coffee Servers: 4-Beth Gavranovic & Ann Gieseke; 11-Jo & Dean Pehrson; 18-Emily & Wendy Hagberg

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ruth Klossner & Jill Bartels

Readers: 4-Ruth Klossner; 11-Sally Webster; 18-Shaun Anderson; 25-Steve Sjostrom

Acolyte: Jason Ross

Ushers: Deb Sjostrom, Steve Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Brad White & Pam White

Communion (Dec. 11 & 25): S-Deb Sjostrom; C-Trish Gieseke; U-Lori Fenske & Denise Johnson

Coffee Servers: 4-Carol Young ; 11-S.S. Program, volunteers needed ; 18-volunteer needed; 25-Merry Christmas!

Heidi Introduces Sunday Advent Vesper Services

Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber wrote about singing Vespers for the first time during Advent in 1996. “All I knew of Vespers (evening prayer) or Matins (morning prayer),” she wrote, “was that monks and nuns in movies about medieval Europe had to keep a strict schedule of prayer. If they were late or disruptive, their stern Mother Superior (or whatever the monk version of that would be) would scold them and make them scrub the scullery floor.” But her experience of Advent Vespers that year was “one of the most beautiful things I’d ever experienced.”

I would like to invite anyone in the FOG Parish who wants to experience Vespers to join me on Sunday nights, December 4, 11, and 18, at 5:00 pm. (Dec. 4 at Bernadotte, Dec. 11 at First, and Dec. 18 at Swan Lake)

We will gather in a darkened sanctuary illuminated only by the light and warmth of the Advent candles and other candles placed around the room. We will start with a silence needed at this time of year when life itself is so loud. It will be 45 minutes of song and silence, and a time to hear me sing about the angel Gabriel and Mary.

People all over the world sing Mary’s Magnificat at Vespers, and when we sing it we sing it with all who have come before, all the monks and nuns and faithful of every age, as well as all who gather from Fields of Grace.

November 27 marked the beginning of a new church year, a liturgical year. To enter that calendar is to sing the

story of Jesus, live the story of Jesus, be re-oriented by the story of Jesus and to do it all with others...all who did this before, all who do it now and all who will do it after we have gone. As Pastor Nadia reminds us, to celebrate the church years is “to have dual citizenship in the now and the not-yet. To...be sewn into the story of Jesus in a way that allows the fabric of our lives and our world to take on a holy texture.” It allows us to see Jesus in those who disagree with us politically, or who ask us to give more when we feel depleted, or who “sin against us,” because earlier that week we heard Jesus’ mom sing about how God fills the hungry and uplifts the lowly. And having sung the song Jesus’ mom had sung, we start to see Jesus.

Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wed., Nov. 30, 7:45 p.m. at Swan Lake
- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., Dec. 5, 7, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Community Bible Study Schedule

Community Bible Study at Big Dog’s in Lafayette will meet twice in December—Monday, December 12 and 19.

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

Charles Youngblom Recognized

Charles Youngblom of First Lutheran received the Riverblender of the Year Award at the Mankato Riverblenders' annual banquet at the Mankato Golf Club Tuesday, November 22. He has been with the barbershop chorus for nearly 20 years and brings the chorus to area churches each summer when they do church sing-outs.

Charles will celebrate his 80th birthday on Christmas Eve. His family will host a dessert party at 7:30 p.m. on December 24, at First Lutheran Church. The Christmas Eve service follows at 9:00 p.m.



Called to his heavenly home

First Lutheran member Earl Wise, 86, passed away Thursday, October 27, at Oak Hills Living Center in New Ulm. Funeral service was Monday, October 31, at First Lutheran Church, with burial in the church cemetery.

Earl is survived by his wife Audrey, sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Jill Wise and Jeff and Geri Wise; four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.



Check out These Area Events!

- **26th Cookie Walk** at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church in Lafayette, Sat., Dec. 3, 10 am-1 pm. Cookies \$4.50 per dozen; lunch available.

- **Christmas Cantata, *In Adoration of the King***, by T-Bird Community Arts, Sat., Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Fairfax and Sun., Dec. 11, 6 p.m. at GFW High School in Winthrop. A free will donation will be taken.

Birth & Baptism at Bernadotte

Congratulations to Scott and Keri Johnson on the birth of their daughter, Melanie Kathryn, on Friday, November 11. Grandparents are Ron and Denise Johnson.

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Carter Gavin Prah, born August 11 and the son of Chas and Addie Prah, was baptized Sunday, November 20. Grandparents are Kevin and Rosanne Johnson and Clayton and Rita Prah. Carter's sponsors are Kevin Lilienthal, Lexi Prah, and Brent and Sarah Johnson.

Author Talk at New Ulm Library

The History of Bernadotte Twp. will be the topic at a "Meet the Author" presentation at the New Ulm Library Saturday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. Author Ruth Klossner will share stories and pictures from the book. The program is free and open to all.

Heidi to take some time off

Heidi will be on vacation from December 26 through January 3, making up for the vacation she missed this past summer. Enjoy your time off, Heidi!

Clothing Drive for Africa

FOG contributions to the clothing drive to assist our partnership synod in South Africa were sent on their way Tuesday, November 15. Bernadotte, First Lutheran, and other area churches contributed bags and bags of items, helping to fill the truck that made the rounds to pick them up. John Nelson, Sally Webster, and Adrienne Sjostrom assisted the truck drivers in loading the bags at Bernadotte.



Christmas Sing-along December 4

St. Gregory the Great will host the annual community sing-along Sunday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. Fellowship will follow. Please share your talents with a special song.

Verone has a New Address

Bernadotte member Verone Langhorst has moved to assisted living in Gaylord. Her address is 638 3rd St. Apt. 32, Gaylord, 55334. Her phone is 507-237-8694.

Open House at 'Moo-seum' Dec. 4

The annual Holiday Open House at the Mooseum in Bernadotte will be Sunday, December 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Everyone welcome—milk and cookies will be served.

Heidi visits Swensons' dairy



On one of the rare days that Heidi had a little time away, she visited the Paul and Cindy Swenson dairy farm. She not only saw cows being milked with robotic milkers, but got to meet Ashley Swenson's state fair

grand champion Brown Swiss cow, and petted baby calves and the Swenson's collies. As she watched the robotic milkers, we all agreed that milking cows has changed a lot over the years!



Those baked goods looked very good...and flew off the tables!

First's Fall Festival

First Lutheran in Lafayette held its Fall Festival Saturday, November 19 with a lot of activities—a bake sale, a craft sale, quilt raffle and silent auction, coffee and cookies, and dinner.



Jenny Massmann of St. Cloud, daughter of Sue Helget and the late Jim Nelson of Lafayette, won the quilt in the raffle.

Unfortunately, I couldn't stay for the dinner but I caught the kitchen crew, getting ready for the ham dinner.