



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 6

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

January 2017

Joint Service Sunday January 1 at Swan Lake

New Year's Day, Sun., Jan. 1
Joint Service, Swan Lake, 9:30 a.m.;
Fellowship BEFORE the service, at 8:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting Dates Set

- Bernadotte—Sun., Jan. 22, during 9:30 a.m. service
- First Lutheran—Sun., Jan. 29, during 11:00 a.m. service

Heidi taking some time off

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

Community Bible Study Schedule

Community Bible Study at Big Dog's in Lafayette will meet four times in January—the 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th—at 9:30 a.m.



First Communion

After attending First Communion classes, John Haler was welcomed to the Lord's table for the first time at First Lutheran Sunday, December 4. John is the son of Mark and Jil Haler of Lafayette.

Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation classes resume Wednesday, January 4 at Swan Lake; they will also meet at Swan Lake on January 11 & 18. The classes will move to Bernadotte on Wednesday, January 25.

Sunday School Resumes

Bernadotte will resume Sunday School classes Sunday, January 8 at 8:45 a.m. First Lutheran's Sunday School will resume at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 15.

Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., Jan. 2, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Jan. 25, 7:45 p.m. at Bernadotte

FLC Scholarship Applications Due

First Lutheran youth are reminded to submit their applications for the Roman Fischer and John S. Johnson scholarship programs immediately. Applications are in the entryway of First Lutheran. Completed applications should be put in the offering plate or dropped off at Citizens Bank. Checks will be issued after applications and grades are received.

BLC WELCA First of Year Brunch

Women from all Fields of Grace churches are invited to Bernadotte WELCA's 2017 First of the Year Brunch at Hahn's Dining in Winthrop, Saturday, January 7, at 9:30 a.m. It's a fun time to visit over a good meal. Please feel free to bring a guest(s). Please RSVP to Deb Sjostrom at 228-8768 ASAP.

Bernadotte Quilting Days

- Quilting Days at Bernadotte—Wed. & Thurs., Jan. 25 & 26. Everyone welcome! Bring sack lunch, beverages provided.

Lions Club Waffle Breakfast

The Lafayette Area Lions Club will hold its annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday, January 15. Serving is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center. Come hungry—the menu includes Dad's Belgian Waffles with toppings (including strawberries), sausage, milk and coffee. Proceeds go toward community projects.

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

JANUARY 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 8-Jim Langhoff & Jacob Broste; 15-Jim Langhoff & Connor Hoffmann; 22 & 29-Merrill & Lila Ellies

Greeter: Jamie Friedrichs

Liturgists: 8, 15 & 22-Jorja Langhoff; 29-Brad DeBoer

Readers: Tyson Hutton

Visiting: Darlene Ulrich & Bonnie Dinsmore

Altar: Carmen Broste & Trudy Hofstad

Coffee Servers: 8-Heidi & Tyson Hutton; 15-Laurie Larson & Cindy Youngblom; 22-Linda Isaacson & Laura Isaacson; 29-Shauna Hoffmann & Jill Haler

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ben & Andrew Radke

Readers: 8-Trish Gieseke; 15-Bob Helget; 22-Jim Bartels; 29-Judy Radke

Acolyte: Ben Radke

Ushers: Trish & John Gieseke, Ruth Klossner, Joel & Wanda Anthony

Communion (Jan. 8): S-Trish Gieseke; C-Jerry Oscarson; U-Bruce White & Tim Anderson

Coffee Servers: 8-Karen Wingen; 15-Doris Kaduce; 22-Sally Webster; 29-volunteer needed

Heidi's Message ~ 'Made New in Christ'

I read recently about a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church who, on the occasion of his ordination, was given a book called the *Rite of Baptism for Children*. The little green book includes all the prayers and readings for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. On the inside cover he wrote: "Margaret Flanagan. July 1, 2007. First baby baptized." He wrote that in the book so he'd never forget. It was a big day for Margaret—and for the deacon. It isn't too late for me to adopt that practice!

Of course, the biggest day for baptism is the one we will celebrate on January 8, the baptism of Jesus, called the Baptism of our Lord Sunday. I don't know that John the Baptist wrote Jesus' baptism in any book, but we do have an account of Jesus' baptism in the gospels. When we hear Matthew's account on January 8, we will be reminded that this is where it all began.

Baptism was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Our own baptisms mark the beginning of our lives as Lutheran Christians. Most of us were baptized as infants so we don't remember it. And chances are, if you have been a part of a baptism—as a parent or sponsor or in the congregation looking on, there's a lot happening that you may not have noticed.

On Baptism of our Lord Sunday, we have a good opportunity to notice what we may have been missing—to look beyond the water and the oil, the candle and prayers, the crying baby, and the baptismal gown that was worn by someone's great grandmother's second cousin. This celebration is a chance to reflect on what this sacrament means for our daily walk of faith. The same Spirit that accompanied Jesus accompanies us as we strive to live the gospel,

to love beyond all measure, to make the world new. Baptism gives us the grace to do that. It has made each of us a new creation.

As we remember the baptism of Jesus, and its significance for our own baptisms, let us strive every day to be that "new creation" in 2017.

A moment with Martin (Luther)

"We conclude, therefore, that a Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and the neighbor," Luthers said. "He lives in Christ through faith, and in his neighbor through love" (Freedom of a Christian, LW 31:371). Luther rules out salvation by works, even as he puts a premium on works of love:

"If you find yourself in a work by which you accomplish something good for God, or the holy, or yourself, but not for your neighbor alone, then you should know that that work is not a good work. For each one ought to live, speak, act, hear, suffer, and die in love and service for another, even for one's enemies, a husband for his wife and children, a wife for her husband, children for their parents, servants for their masters, masters for their servants, rulers for their subjects and subjects for their rulers, so that one's hand, mouth, eye, foot, heart and desire is for others; these are Christian works, good in nature."

(Adventspostille, quoted in Wingren, 120)

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

Called to his heavenly home

Bernadotte member Wallace Peterson passed away Sunday, December 18 at the age of 90 years. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 22 at Bernadotte Lutheran, with Heidi Hagstrom officiating. Burial followed in the Bernadotte cemetery. Wallace is survived by his wife of 69 year, Gerry Peterson, daughter Paulette Botten, sons Bradley, Randal, and Kevin, and their families.



Bernadotte's 150th items still available

Prices have been reduced on select BLC 150th Anniversary items.

- Bernadotte History Books — now \$25 each or 2/\$40
- Pewter 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.

Married at Bernadotte

First Lutheran member Kayla Altmann and Allan Campbell were married Saturday, December 17 at Bernadotte Lutheran, with Heidi Hagstrom officiating. Parents of the couple are Randy and Aimee Altmann and James and Colette Campbell.

Stevenson Benefit Postponed

The Dawn Stevensen benefit—planned for Saturday, January 14—has been postponed until further notice due to scheduling complications. When a new date is chosen, that information will be published.

Something to Think About

Carol Lytch in her study of adolescents and church observes, "Passing on faith to the next generation is challenging today in a new way. In fact, 'passing on the faith' is no longer the task it used to be. Teens choose faith instead. American society has changed to favor individual choice of a highly personal religion that is less tethered to religious traditions and institutions." (Lytch, 13)



Confirmation Students' Service Project at NUMAS Haus

Participating in Christian service has a powerful impact in the faith life of teens. That is why service is part of FOG's confirmation curriculum.

This year's class of seventh through ninth graders participated in the first of several service experiences by organizing donations at the NUMAS Haus, an emergency shelter for homeless women and their children in New Ulm. It was a priv-

ilege for the young people to be welcomed into the home, and something that is not generally done.

Program Director Patty Paulson said that what the kids did in an hour would have taken volunteers months to accomplish. In addition to doing the work, the young people learned about the causes of and misconceptions about homelessness, and about the challenges of people who are homeless in New Ulm.

Bernadotte Notes

- Special thanks to the many organists who have helped accompany our congregation. We are delighted to have Lorie Grunzke back as our long term sub. Also, a huge thanks to Eric Larson who filled in at BLC December 11 and generously donated his time. Finally, a big thanks to Michael Asmus who played Christmas Day at BLC. Michael is originally from Gaylord but now attends college and resides in New York City.

- December head usher Deb Sjostrom thanks Steve

Radke and Kevin Johnson for assisting with sidewalk shoveling and to Bruce White for clearing the lot. (And to anyone else who may have helped during the month.)

- Part-time or regular organists/pianists are still being sought for Sunday Services. Anyone who might consider filling in will be considered. BLC offers \$50/service plus 50¢/mile. Please contact Deb Sjostrom at 276-0452 if you or someone you know can help out.



First Lutheran Sunday School Program

Extremely cold weather postponed First Lutheran's Sunday School Program from Sunday morning, December 18 to Friday

evening, December

23. The students told the story "A Christmas to Believe In," interspersed with congregational singing. Some of the students played handbells. Kaylyn Broste and Bailey Langhoff were the narrators.





Bernadotte Sunday School Christmas Program



The Bernadotte Sunday School kids presented “The 12 Days of Christmas” during the Sunday morning, December 11, service. Unfortunately, some kids weren’t able to reach the church because of the snow that morning.

At the end of the program, the Sunday School students collected an offering for their special project, ELCA’s God’s Global Barnyard.

In usual Bernadotte tradition, younger BLC kids and visitors came forward to give a Christmas greeting—or blow a kiss to the audience.



Community Hymn Sing Held at St. Gregory the Great

The 44th annual Lafayette Area Community Hymn Sing was held at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church Sunday evening, December 4. Musicians from area churches took part, singing solos or in a choir or playing

instruments. The program finished with the reading of the Gospel, with St. Gregory’s young people acting it out.

