



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 7    Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran    February 2017

## Equipping Congregations Day

Heidi would like a large contingent from the FOG churches to benefit from a day of learning that many people in the synod rave about—Equipping Congregations Day, 2017: Everyday Reformers. The event will be held Saturday, February 25, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Vinje and Bethel Lutheran Churches in Willmar.

Each participant will be able to attend three of 24 different workshops that include • Messy Church!; • Live More, Spend Less; • Becoming an Effective Treasurer; • Who Is My Neighbor?; • Understanding Depression; • Myth buster: A Millennial Talking About Young Adults; • Congregations and Healthy Boundaries; • Young Adult Round Table: • Wondering About Confirmation; • My Neighbor is Muslim; • Navigating your Synod Online; • Death & Dying; • The Joy of Aging; and a whole lot more!

To learn more about the event, go to [www.swmnelca.org/equipping\\_congregations\\_day.html](http://www.swmnelca.org/equipping_congregations_day.html).

Registration is due February 20. Email Lori Fenske at [bernadottelutheranchurch@centurylink.net](mailto:bernadottelutheranchurch@centurylink.net) if you can go, and she will process registration.

## Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Tues., March 28

## Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation classes continue at Bernadotte during February—the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

## Community Bible Study Schedule

Community Bible Study at Big Dog's in Lafayette will meet February 6, 13, 20, and 27—at 9:30 a.m.

## Looking ahead, Lent Begins Wednesday, March 1

The start of Lent begins with the arrival of March. The Ash Wednesday service will be held at Bernadotte at 7:00 p.m. on March 1. The next two mid-week Lenten services will also be at Bernadotte.

## Celebrating Carl's Birthday



Birthday treats will be served in honor of Carl Martens' 90th birthday on Sunday, February 12 at First Lutheran Church. The treats will be served prior to the 11:00 a.m. service, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

All are welcome!

## Stanley has a new address

Stanley Youngblom has moved to Oak Hills Assisted Living in New Ulm. His address is 1314 8th North Street, Room 204, New Ulm, 56073. Stan's phone number is 507-276-7397.

## March Newsletter will be published early

Because I won't be able to work on the newsletter the last week of February, the next FOG newsletter will come out early (about February 22). All input for that newsletter should be submitted by Friday, February 17. Thanks for your help!

## Upcoming Events at Bernadotte

- Brief Women of the ELCA meeting following services Sunday, February 19, to discuss the April 18 Spring Gathering
- Father-Son Brunch, Saturday, April 15 (the day before Easter). Tell the kids & other relatives!
- Mission Sunday with Food for Kidz food packing, Sunday, April 23, 9:00 a.m.
- Pie & Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 7
- Swedefest Midsummer Picnic, Saturday, June 24
- Outdoor Services—Sundays, July 2 (joint) & 23 and August 6 & 20

## Sunday School

Sunday School classes continue as usual at First (9:45 a.m.) and Bernadotte (8:45 a.m.) each Sunday.

# 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

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## FEBRUARY 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 5 & 12-Merrill & Lila Ellies; 19-Kevin & Laura Isaacson; 26-Denny, Eric & Harley Sjogren

**Greeters:** Mary & Brian Martens

**Liturgists:** 5-Jorja Langhoff; 12 & 19-Charles Youngblom; 26-Brad DeBoer

**Reader:** Mary Martens

**Visiting:** Susie Wendorff & Amy Davies

**Altar:** Lila Ellies & Myra Shingobe

**Coffee Servers:** 5-Carrie Nelson & Sue Helget; 12-Laurie Larson & Charlene Nelson; 19-Heidi Hutton & Lindsay Pehrson; 26-Harley & Deanna Sjogren

### Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Jerome & Shaun Anderson

**Readers:** 5-Lori Fenske; 12-Lowell Sjostrom; 19-Ruth Klossner; 26-Rosanne Johnson

**Acolyte:** Mia Ross

**Ushers:** Tim Anderson, Beth Anderson, Jackie Helget, Bob Helget, Kyle Dalquist

**Communion (Feb. 12):** S-Tim Anderson; C-Bruce White; U-Jim Young & Trish Gieseke

**Coffee Servers:** 19-Dorothy Martens; 5, 12 & 26-Volunteers needed

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## Heidi's Message ~ New Faith Formation Ecosystem Needed

*For well over 100 years in the United States, Christian churches had a highly integrated religious ecosystem. It was comprised of multigenerational family faith practice and religious transmission at home; strong congregational community relationships and church life, especially participation in Sunday worship; weekly Sunday school for children and youth (and in many cases adults); and church groups (youth, men, women). Many Christian traditions relied heavily on the ethnic faith traditions of their people to transmit faith from generation to generation—at home and at church. And all of this was surrounded by an American culture that explicitly or implicitly supported the Christian value system and Christian practices.*

That description comes from an organization called LifeLong Faith Associates. It sounds accurate to me.

Because of all the changes in culture and society, the family, and use of technology over the past several decades, this older ecosystem has eroded. There is no way to go back to it. If Christ's church is to be faithful to its mission to make disciples, we need a new faith formation ecosystem that reflects our changed context.

John Roberto, founder of LifeLong Faith Associates, thinks a new ecosystem must include five, essential, interconnected components:

1. Intergenerational faith formation in the congrega-

tion

2. Age group and generational faith formation

3. Family faith formation

4. Missional faith formation to the spiritual-but-not-religious and the unaffiliated

5. Online and digitally-enabled faith formation

If FOG congregations took that seriously, it may mean that we'll start making room for bible study and topic-oriented study in our congregations. It may mean intentionally inviting people to gather by age groups for study and fellowship. It may mean providing faith practice materials that can be used in the home. It may mean seeking out those who aren't part of our congregations. It may mean spending time and money to update our presence online. If we took on even some of the above, I know we'd have our own reformation in 2017.

### A moment with Martin (Luther)

"No matter what happens, you should say: There is God's Word. This is my rock and anchor. On it I rely, and it remains. Where it remains, I, too, remain; where it goes, I, too, go."

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



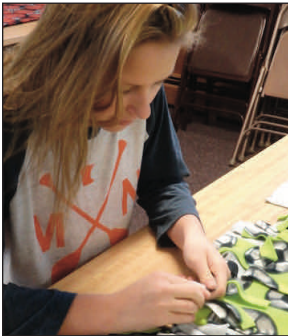


About two dozen ladies took part in Bernadotte's brunch at Hahn's in Winthrop January 9. It was a nice get-together on a winter morning.



## Confirmation project for NUMAS Haus

The FOG confirmation students are making tied blankets for the NUMAS Haus in New Ulm. They got extra help from FLC members and Sunday School students during coffee hour recently. To finance the fleece fabric and equipment, Linda Youngblom applied for and received a \$250 grant from Thrivent Financial.



## Two days of quilting at Bernadotte



Snow postponed Bernadotte's quilting days 24 hours, but the ladies got right to work Thurs., Jan. 26. Konnie, Donna, Renee, Rosanne, Sally, Dorothy, and Adrienne were busy tying and sewing quilts Thursday morning—and will be back to finish the job Friday.

