



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 8

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

March 2017

Schedule for Lent & Holy Week

Ash Wednesday, March 1 marks the beginning of Lent. The Fields of Grace Ash Wednesday service will be held at Bernadotte, at 7:00 p.m.

FOG is participating in a pastoral round robin during the season of Lent. This lightens the load of each pastor a bit, as each only has to prepare one sermon for the mid-week services, and it gives their congregations an opportunity to hear the Word proclaimed by a fresh voice.

Taking part, in addition to Heidi, are Pastor Scott Richards of St. Paul's and Trinity Lutheran, Gaylord; Pastor Joy Ekstedt of Trinity Lutheran, St. Peter; Intern Caitlin Jensen of First Lutheran, St. Peter; and Pastor Kay Rohloff of Scandian Grove, St. Peter.

The group will base their sermons on the five main topics in a book by Kelly Fryer entitled Reclaiming the "L" Word—

1. Jesus is Lord (Intern Caitlin)
2. Everybody is welcome (Pastor Scott)
3. Love changes people (Minister Heidi)
4. Everybody has something to offer (Pastor Joy)
5. The world needs what we have (Pastor Kay)

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The Lenten services are all at 7:00 p.m. (no soup supper prior)

March 8	Minister Heidi	At Bernadotte
March 15	Pastor Scott	At Bernadotte
March 22	Intern Caitlin	At Swan Lake
March 29	Pastor Joy	At Swan Lake
April 5	Pastor Kay	At First Lutheran

The Holy Week Schedule is:

April 9	Palm Sunday & 1st Communion	
April 13	Maundy Thursday	At Swan Lake
April 14	Good Friday	At First Lutheran
April 16	Easter—6:30 a.m. at First; 8:00 a.m. at Swan Lake, and 9:30 a.m. at Bernadotte	

Confirmation Schedule

No confirmation classes will be held during March or the first half of April. Confirmation students are to attend Lenten services.

Meeting Dates

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

Sw. Lake Chili/Game Night

Swan Lake will hold a Chili and Game Night Saturday, February 25, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited!

First Communion Classes

First Communion Preparation for fifth graders will be held on Tuesdays in March—the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. Time is 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and place is First Lutheran Church.

All fifth graders and their parents are invited to participate in classes leading up to the fifth graders' first communion on Palm Sunday, April 9.

Burying the Alleluias

We observe the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 1. This year Bernadotte is host to the parish-wide worship service at 7:00 pm. Worship will include the imposition of ashes.

Since at least the fifth century, the church has adopted the practice of not speaking or singing the word "Alleluia" during Lent. Alleluias are joyful proclamations which we put away during the more contemplative season of Lent.

We will observe the historic practice by "burying the Alleluias" on Sunday, February 26. The children have prepared Alleluia banners and they will participate in worship by locking the alleluia in a box until Easter.

You will notice that alleluia is intentionally omitted from the liturgy during the season of Lent, a kind of verbal fast which has the effect of creating a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returns.

In addition to not using it at church, you are encouraged to not use it at home. We let it rest during Lent so that, when it reappears on Easter, we may hear it anew. In fact, once it returns on Easter, we give it no rest at all, repeating it again and again, in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Community Bible Study

Community Bible Study at Big Dog's in Lafayette will meet March 6, 13, 20 & 27—9:30-10:30 a.m.

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

MARCH 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 5-Darrell & Corey Abrahamson; 12 & 26-Denny, Harley & Eric Sjogren; 19-Traci & Darrell Abrahamson

Greeters: Jamie Friedrichs

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

Reader: Linda Youngblom

Visiting: Lila Ellies & Myra Shingobe

Altar: Mary Martens & Traci Abrahamson

Coffee Servers: 5-Laurie Larson & Marie Carlson; 12 & 26-Harley & Deanna Sjogren; 19-Carrie Nelson & Linda Youngblom

Spring Cleaning Chair—Nancie Carlson

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Lynnette Sondag & Elaine Holberg

Readers: 5-Sally Webster; 12-Shaun Anderson; 19-Steve Sjoström; 26-Tim Schulz.

Acolyte: Austin Gieseke

Ushers: Steve Radke, Pam & Brad White, Brent & Brad Peterson

Communion (Mar. 12): S-Steve Radke; C-Dwayne Ross; U-Bruce White & Tim Anderson

Coffee Servers: 5-Shaun Anderson; 12-Wendy Schulz & Pam White; 19-volunteer needed; 26-Karen Wingen.

Heidi's Message ~ Repentance is Transformation

I love the line in the Confession and Forgiveness that asks God to “turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as [God’s] children.”

The upcoming season of Lent gives us an opportunity for a fresh start, a new beginning. During Lent, Christians are asked to return to God “with all their hearts” (Joel 2:12). I think that “turning” starts with repentance.

Repentance isn’t about “turning away” from something to avoid God’s anger. Repentance is actually about transformation. Metanoia, the Greek word that’s usually translated as repentance, actually means something more like “healing.” When John the Baptist, or Jesus, or Paul, or whomever was inviting people into repentance, they

were not nearly as focused on turning away from sin as they were focusing on the promise that awaited them in Christ.

The season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 1. FOG will meet for worship, including the imposition of ashes, at Bernadotte this year. I will preside at that service, and the first mid-week service the next Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 pm. On the next five Wednesdays I am participating in a round robin of preaching with pastors from other congregations in the area. See the schedule with the location of each mid-week worship service and the pastors who are preaching on page 1 of this newsletter.

A Moment with Martin (Luther)

The five solas are five Latin phrases popularized during the Protestant Reformation that emphasized the distinctions between the early Reformers and the Roman Catholic Church. The word sola is the Latin word for “only” and was used in relation to five key teachings that defined the biblical pleas of Protestants.

They are: 1. Sola scriptura: “Scripture alone;” 2. Sola

fide: “faith alone;” 3. Sola gratia: “grace alone;” 4. Solo Christo: “Christ alone;” and 5. Soli Deo gloria: “to the glory of God alone.”

Each of these solas can be seen both as a corrective to the excesses of the Roman Catholic Church at the start of the Reformation in the 16th Century and as a positive biblical declaration.

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



Daylight Savings Time starts March 12!
Turn your clocks AHEAD one hour or you'll be late for church

World Day of Prayer March 3

Area World Day of Prayer observances Friday, March 3 include:

- Trinity Lutheran Church, 511 S. 5th St., St Peter, 9:30 a.m. coffee, 10:30 a.m. service
- Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 605 N. State St., New Ulm, 9:30 a.m. coffee & rolls; 10:30 a.m. service.

Everyone is welcome to attend any ecumenical "World Day of Prayer" event that works best for them.

New/Returning Organists

Bernadotte and Swan Lake welcome Will Weikle to the organ bench. Will is a freshman at Gustavus and also happens to be the nephew of Rosanne and Kevin Johnson of Bernadotte. Will has a great deal of piano performing experience and is just now learning organist skills. Will's family lives in Andover.

In addition, Lorie Grunzke agreed to be Bernadotte's "long-term organ sub" this past fall and is accompanying at Swan Lake. Lorie is currently teaching math at New Ulm High School. She has enjoyed the warm "welcome back" from BLC members.

Please welcome Will and welcome back Lorie to our churches' music staff! We are so blessed to have them.

Annual Meetings Held

New church officers were elected when annual meetings were held at our churches in January. They are:

First Lutheran: Brian Martens, president; Charlie Hartley, VP, Brad DeBoer, secretary/treasurer.

Bernadotte: Deb Sjostrom, president; Bruce White, VP; Lori Fenske, secretary; Tim Anderson, treasurer.

Swan Lake: Darwin Gieseke, president; Jeanne Cox, secretary; JoAnn Gieseke, treasurer.

Swan Lake will celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2018; a planning committee has been formed.

Upcoming Bernadotte Events

- Father-Son Brunch, Saturday, April 15 (the day before Easter). Tell the kids & other relatives!
- WELCA Spring Gathering at BLC, Tuesday evening, April 18. Volunteers needed—contact Jackie Helget or Pam White or sign up at the back of church.
- 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.



Polar Plunge

Jess Gieseke and Marti Uhde from Swan Lake and Kevin Reinhart from Bernadotte were members of the Lafayette Ambulance & Fire Department team that took part in the annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Saturday, February 4. As usual, the team enjoyed tailgating—both before and after the plunge. The event raised over \$70,000 for Special Olympics.



Good News from FOG



Clarissa Giefer was crowned Snow Week Princess in coronation ceremonies at Nicollet High School Friday, January 27. Clarissa, a senior, is the daughter of Tim and Lorie Giefer. The family belongs to Swan Lake Lutheran Church.

Photo courtesy of the Ledger

Parsonage Repair nearly done

Big thanks to everyone who put in time getting the Bernadotte parsonage bathroom remodeling project completed. Special thanks to Jerry Oscarson and sons for demolition, Steve Sjostrom for painting and organizing, and the parsonage committee for their assistance and input. The project should be totally completed on or before March 1!

April Newsletter will be published early

For the second month in a row, I won't be able to work on the newsletter the last week of the month. So, the next FOG newsletter will come out early (about March 22). All input for that newsletter should be submitted by Friday, March 17. Thanks for your help!

FOGGY Planning Ham Bingo

The FOG youth will put on Ham Bingo Saturday, April 8, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the Lafayette Fire Station. The event will include 40 games, with prizes being bone-in half hams—or full large hams for two blackout games. More details next month.

FLC Confirmation students deliver tied blankets to NUMAS Haus

The FOG confirmation students from First Lutheran delivered eight tied fleece blankets to the NUMAS Haus in New Ulm Wednesday, February 15. They got extra help in making the blankets from FLC members and Sunday School students at their church. Funding for the fleece fabric and equipment came from a \$250 Thrivent Financial grant that Linda Youngblom secured. Delivering the blankets were, from left: Kaylyn Broste, Harley Sjogren, and Tyson Hutton.



Each blanket had several patches indicating that the blankets were made with love by the students.



Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

The Lafayette Area Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake & Waffle Breakfast Sunday, March 12. Serving is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center. Come hungry—the menu includes pancakes, waffles with toppings, scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, juice, milk and coffee. Proceeds go toward community projects.

