



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 9

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

April 2017

## Lent & Holy Week Schedule

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 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.

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The remaining Wednesday Lenten services (all at 7:00 p.m.) are:

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 (regular schedule)	
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	

## Easter Breakfasts at all three churches

**First Lutheran's** Men's Breakfast will be served after the 6:30 a.m. service, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. The menu includes scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, pancakes, muffins, fruit, coffee, milk, and juice. A free will offering will be taken, with proceeds to Wycliffe for their bible translation ministry

**Bernadotte's** breakfast will be served before the 9:30 a.m. service, from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m. and will feature egg bake. Members are needed to bring muffins and possibly to help in the kitchen.

**Swan Lake's** breakfast will be after the 8:00 a.m. service.

## Green Lake Bible Camp speaker

Dave Eliason of Green Lake Bible Camp will be at First and Bernadotte on Sunday, March 26 to talk with the Sunday School children and the congregations about Green Lake Bible camp opportunities.

## Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., April 3, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., April 17, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Thurs., March 30 at Swan Lake, 7:00 p.m.



## Very Special Music at Bernadotte

With Lorie Grunzke returning to play organ at Bernadotte, the congregation was treated to some very special music when she was accompanied by daughter Kylie Rieke and granddaughters Avery, 5, and Maya, 2, on violin for the offering March 19.

## First Communion Classes

The final First Communion preparation class for fifth graders will be Tuesday March 28, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church.

Fifth graders and their parents are participating in the classes before the students' first communion on Palm Sunday, April 9.

Scheduled to take first communion are Anna Peters at Bernadotte and Brooklyn Hagberg, Jayden Youngblom, April Rose, Saige Isaacson, Tristan Sjogren, and Avary Hagberg at First Lutheran.

# 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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## APRIL 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 2-Mark H & Jay H; 9-Tom B & Matt H; 16-Andrew H & Stuart H; 23-Dean P & Tyson H; 30-Cindy & Bob Y

**Greeters:** Mark Haler & John Haler

**Liturgists:** 2 & 9-Charles Hartley; 16-Brad DeBoer; 23 & 30-Jorja Langhoff

**Reader:** Sandy Hartley

**Visiting:** Arden & Marilyn DeBoer

**Communion Bread**—Joyce Reese

**Altar:** Lila Ellies

**Coffee Servers:** 2-Wendy H & Lori B; 9-Wendy H & Angie H; 16-Easter Breakfast; 23-Jo P & Lindsay P; 30-Carrie N & Sue H.

### Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Tim & Beth Anderson

**Readers:** 2-Trish Gieseke; 9-Bob Helget; 16-Jim Bartels; 23-Judy Radke; 30-Lori Fenske

**Acolyte:** Marissa Anderson

**Ushers:** Trish, John & Dylan Gieseke, Ron & Scott Johnson.

**Communion (Apr. 9 & 16):** S-Trish Gieseke; C-Deb Sjostrom; U-Dave Nelson & Brent Johnson.

**Coffee Servers:** 2-Dorothy Martens; 9-volunteer needed; 16-Easter Breakfast; 23-Food For Kidz food packing; 30-Wendy Schulz & Pam White.

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## Heidi's Message ~ Communion is Center of Spiritual Life

Holy Communion is a huge deal for Lutherans, the very center of our spiritual lives, the tangible manifestation of the gospel, of Christ giving his broken body and his shed blood “for you.” On Palm Sunday, seven FOG fifth graders will join us at the Lord’s Table, but not only us.

When we gather in worship, we praise God with believers we cannot see. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we feast with past, present, and future disciples of Christ. We experience the communion of saints, the community of God’s people—living and dead. This faith community stretches beyond space and time. We commune with Christians around the world, believers who came before us, and believers who

will come after us. We believe that the church is the communion of saints, and as a follower of Christ you belong to the communion of saints.

The apostle Paul uses the Greek word *koinonia* for communion. *Koinonia* describes a community bound together in faith and common experience. *Koinonia* richly depicts people of God coming together in hopes of harmony and worship of God. This is the deep and rich unity we celebrate as the communion of saints.

Join me in welcoming to the table these precious children of God. If you can, take time to welcome them and their families in the name of Christ.

### A Moment with Martin (Luther)

The significance of the sacrament of Holy Communion should be understood against the background of Martin Luther’s ideas of sin, falleness, and human despair. As he put it: “Though I am a sinner and I have fallen,

though this or that misfortune has befallen me, nevertheless I will go to the sacrament to receive a sign from God that I have on my side Christ’s righteousness, life, and sufferings.”

### Community Bible Study

Community Bible Study at Big Dog’s in Lafayette will meet Mondays March 27, April 3, 10, 17, and 24, at Big Dog’s in Lafayette from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### First Lutheran Note

Mark it on your calendar, First Lutheran WELCA will host the community ice cream social at the Lafayette Community Center on Friday, June 9.

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

## Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation students are to attend Wednesday evening Lenten services, as well as Maundy Thursday at Swan Lake and Good Friday at First.

Confirmation classes will resume Wednesday, April 19 and 26 at Bernadotte.

## FOGGY to hold Ham Bingo

The FOG youth will host 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 the blackout games. Cost is \$10 for 20 games or \$20 for all 40 games.

All ages are welcome. Beverages and lunch—BBQ or hot dog plate—will be available. All proceeds go to the Fields of Grace Youth Group. (See poster on page 4)

## Bridal Shower at Lafayette

An open house come and go bridal shower for Lindsay Pehrson and Eric Benson will be held Saturday, April 1 at the Lafayette Community Center, 540 7th Street, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Please bring a favorite recipe for the bride.

The couple is registered at Kohl's and Mills Fleet Farm. Parents of the couple are Dean and Jo Pehrson and Merlin and Linda Benson.

## SW MN Synodical Convention

The SW MN Synodical Convention of the ELCA will take place Saturday, May 6 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls. A speaker and four workshops will address the theme of "Gathered in Grace." Registration is due April 20. Donations of Baby Care Kits are encouraged.

## Good News from FOG

Matthew Hartley of First Lutheran and girlfriend Sarah Ashton have both graduated from Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Matthew finished training in November and Sarah in March. Both are 68W-Healthcare Specialists for the Army National Guard and attached to the 125th Field Artillery in New Ulm. Both plan to attend Winona State University this fall, Matthew to major in exercise science/nutrition, and Sarah to major in nursing.



## Country Western Service at Trinity/Sibley Township

Our neighbors to the east, Trinity Lutheran Church on County Road 8, will hold Country Western/Blue Grass Worship Services and a potato pancake dinner Sunday, April 2. Services are at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., with the dinner served from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 pm. A free will offering will be accepted.

Pastor Scott Richards will give the western sermon and music will be by the Green Lake Bluegrass Band.

## Upcoming Bernadotte Events

- Church grounds cleanup, Saturday, April 8, 9:00 a.m.
- Father-Son Brunch, Saturday, April 15 (the day before Easter). 9:00 a.m. roll call, 9:30 am. meal, and 10:00 a.m. program with speaker John Kriesel. RSVP to Bruce White, Steve Sjostrom or Jim Bartels. Tell the kids & other relatives!
- WELCA Spring Gathering at BLC, Tuesday evening, April 18.; registration at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers needed—contact Jackie Helget or Pam White or sign up at the back of church by April 5. Cost is \$7.
- Mission Sunday with Food for Kidz food packing, Sunday, April 23, 9:00 a.m. (No worship service at BLC)
- Pie & Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 7
- Outdoor Services—Sundays, July 2 (joint) & 23 and August 6 & 20.

## Changes at this year's Swedefest!

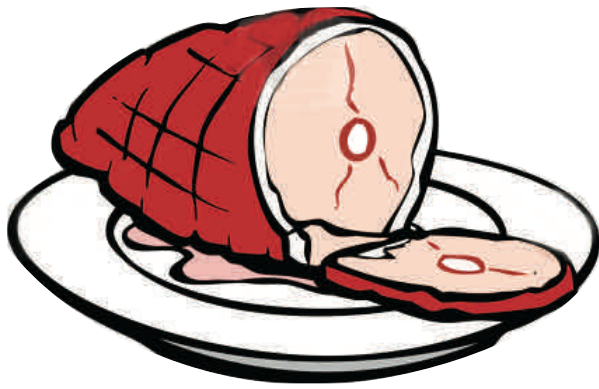
Swedefest will be a bit different this year! The 2017 committee is planning a Swedefest Midsummer Picnic for Saturday, June 24. The menu will have a picnic theme, based around riblets. Dessert will be homemade bars. Swedish rice will not be on the menu.

The silent auction will continue and donations of baskets, gift packs, etc. are welcome.

Committee members are Kevin & Rosanne Johnson, Lincoln & Jaclyn Langhorst, Lowell & Adrienne Sjostrom, Sally Webster, Lori Fenske, Ruth Klossner, Betty Johnson, Dave Nelson, and Tom Hayes.

## Transit System Survey

The Tri-County Transit System will soon begin operation in rural Blue Earth, Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties. You can help shape the new transit system to best fit the community's needs by taking a short online survey at [www.vinevolunteers.com](http://www.vinevolunteers.com). If you have questions or need a paper copy of the survey, contact Paige Schuette at 507-386-5573 or [paiges@vinevolunteers.com](mailto:paiges@vinevolunteers.com).



**FOG  
Youth**

# **HAM BINGO**

**Saturday, April 8**

**6:00 p.m. start**

**Lafayette Fire Station**

**40 Games including 2 blackouts**

20 Games — \$10.00    40 Games — \$20.00

**All Ages Welcome**

*Beverages & Lunch Available—  
BBQ or Hot Dog Plate*

*All proceeds to  
Fields of Grace Youth Group*