



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 10

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

May 2017

## Heidi Updates her Progress toward Ordination

Thanks for your prayers and companionship as I pursue ordination to Word and Sacrament ministry in the ELCA. Given that we are on this journey together, I thought it was time for an update. It is a long haul, but I feel extremely blessed to be on this journey with Fields of Grace. Every day I give thanks for this assignment.

The spring semester just ended and I successfully completed two online courses. The summer intensives start in early June. I will be on campus at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa June 4-16, returning to Lafayette in time to preside at a wedding on June 17, and lead worship on the 18th. This fall I begin a year-long formal internship and, thanks be to God, I get to do that at Fields of Grace. When internship is completed I should have just two or three more classes and a couple more candidacy interviews. I look forward to the day when you can legitimately call me Pastor Heidi.



## First Communion

Seven young people received First Communion at the Fields of Grace churches Sunday morning, April 9. Pictured with Minister Heidi Hagstrom are Anna Peters at Bernadotte right, and, above from left: Jayden Youngblom, Avary Roiger, Brooklyn Hagberg, Saige Isaacson, Tristan Sjogren, and April Rose at First Lutheran.



**Joint Worship Service**  
**Sunday, May 28, 9:30 a.m.**  
*Swan Lake Lutheran Church*

## Clothing Drive for Vryheid Circuit

A clothing drive to benefit our partnership with the Vryheid Circuit in South Africa will take place in the Minnesota Valley Conference during May. Please plan to bring all conditions of clothes—plus purses, shoes, belts, hats, and cloth bags to the church during the month. Please put everything in kitchen-sized plastic bags with draw strings.

## Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Mon., May 1, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Church Council—Mon., May 15, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wednesday., May 24 at First Lutheran,

## Two FOG High School Graduates

**Kelly Hagberg** of First Lutheran, daughter of Alan and Kris Hagberg of Lafayette, will graduate from New Ulm Public School on May 26. Kelly is accepted at Winona State University and will major in social work.

**Clarissa Giefer** of Swan Lake, daughter of Tim and Lorie Giefer of rural New Ulm, will graduate from Nicollet High School Friday, June 2. She plans to major in health care and minor in equine science but is keeping her options open as to where—U of M Crookston, U of M Rochester, Gustavus, SDSU, or South Central in Mankato.



# 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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## MAY 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

**Ushers:** 7-Al H. & Mike H.; 14-Al P. & Marlin W.; 21-Andrew H. & Stuart H.; 28-Joint Service at Swan Lake

**Greeters:** Steve L.

**Liturgists:** 7-Jorja L.; 14-Charles Y.; 21-Charlie H.

**Readers:** Jorja L. & Bailey L.

**Visiting:** Volunteers needed.

**Communion Bread**—Joyce Reese

**Altar:** Jorja L. & Shauna H.

**Coffee Servers:** 7-Sue H. & Kaylyn B.; 14-Darrell A. & Brian M.; 21-Jil H. & Elmari K.; 28-at Swan Lake

### Bernadotte Lutheran

**Greeters:** Ken & Dorothy Martens

**Readers:** 7-Lowell Sjostrom; 14-Rosanne Johnson; 21-Ruth Klossner; 28-Joint Service SL

**Acolyte:** Jason Ross

**Ushers:** David Nelson, Arlin Nelson, John Nelson & Tim Schulz

**Communion (May 14):** S-David Nelson; C-Trish Gieseke; U-Jerry Oscarson, Dwayne Ross.

**Coffee Servers:** 7-Donna Webster; 14-Doris & Myron Kaduce; 21-Sally Webster; 28-Joint Service at Swan Lake.

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## Heidi's Message ~ The Happy Exchange

I have shared this with several groups before, but it has so profoundly impacted me I want to share it more broadly in writing.

Theologians use a marriage metaphor (the exchange of rings) to describe the exchange that happens through Christ when God gives humans all the things that belong to Christ. What we—humans—give to Christ is our ring that represents all who we are, including our brokenness, sin, our unrighteousness, and our bound will (see “A Moment with Martin” for more on the bound will). They are no longer simply possessions that define us (i.e. Original Sin).

Christ says, “I’ll take them. They now belong to me. You no longer have the right to say that you live in these things alone, and by yourself. They belong to me. I’ll take your bro-

kenness. I’ll take your unrighteousness, I’ll take your bound will.”

Christ gives us a “ring” that represents Christ’s righteousness, and with it says, “I will give you New Life to replace the death that you have given me. I’ll give you freedom that will set you free. I will give you righteousness in place of the unrighteousness that you have given me.” All of the possessions of Christ become the possessions of the believer.

When we receive this gift of Christ, we are better off than if there was never sin in the first place. We are better off than we ever were before. We can be like Christ. We possess all of the gifts that properly belong to Christ. That means we can be like Christ to the world. We can do the things that Christ does,

### A Moment with Martin (Luther)

Martin Luther considered “Bondage of the Will” his most important work. For context, in “Bondage of the Will” Luther responds to some assertions by a theologian named Erasmus who maintained that humans have the natural moral ability to obey the gospel. Erasmus presupposed that all of God's commands to obey proved that we had the “free-will” to do so. Luther, with great wit and irony, exposes why free will is an erroneous, unscriptural doctrine that ultimately undermines the gospel itself. The crux of the issue is whether grace alone saves or whether salvation is a mixture of nature with a little sprinkling of grace.

This is still extremely relevant for us because many of us carry the same unbiblical assumption that Erasmus held, which concludes that any command from God to believe or obey the gospel must somehow imply the moral ability to do so. But, as Dr. Luther said to Erasmus, “When you are finished with all your commands and exhortations ... write Romans 3:20 over the top of it all” — “...through the law comes knowledge of sin.” In other words, the law exists to show what we cannot do rather than what we can do, and our inability to repay our debt to God does not take away our accountability to do so.

To contact Heidi, call 507-766-2729 or email [heidijohagstrom@gmail.com](mailto:heidijohagstrom@gmail.com)

## Called to his Heavenly Home

First Lutheran member Earl "Shorty" Lund, 94, died Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at Oak Hills Living Center in New Ulm. Funeral service was held Monday, April 10, at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette with Minister Heidi Hagstrom officiating. Burial was in First Lutheran Cemetery in Lafayette. Military honors were provided by Lafayette Area Honor Guard. Earl is survived by wife Ardis Lund; daughter Becky (Steve) Briggs of Eagan, son Bill (Annie) Lund of Hutchinson and other relatives.



## Spring Gathering Sends Thanks to Bernadotte WELCA

Thank you from the SWMN Synod Women's Conference Board—

You did it again. You went above and beyond when you hosted the Spring Gathering for the Minnesota Valley Conference Women of the ELCA.

There were many comments about the good food and friendly atmosphere. On behalf of the MN Valley Conference, I say Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

~Sally Webster, MV Conference Rep.~

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*Bernadotte WELCA officers add:*

Big thanks to all who helped including Wendy Schulz, Pam White, Konnie Bartels, Adrienne Sjostrom, Donna Webster, Doris Kaduce, Dorothy Martens, Carol Young, Shaun Anderson, Jackie Helget, Deb Sjostrom, Rosanne Johnson and Denise Johnson. Also photos by Ruth Klossner, plus wonderful music by Minister Heidi and her sister Tracy, along with accompanist, Lorie Grunzke.

## Father-Son Banquet Thank You

The Bernadotte Lutheran Church Men, fathers, sons, and friends say thank you to everyone who helped make the recent Father-Son banquet such a great success. Whether you helped with set up, decorating, ticket sales, serving, program, photos, or clean up, your efforts were greatly appreciated. We all had a great time and truly enjoyed this wonderful event!

## Sunday School wrapping up

First Lutheran will hold it's last day of Sunday School for this school year April 30. Bernadotte will hold classes through Sunday, May 14.

## Community Bible Study

Community Bible Study will continue to meet at Big Dog's in Lafayette Monday mornings, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. through May 22. After that, the group will break for the summer months, beginning again in the fall.



## First FOGGY Bingo Held

The Fields of Grace youth held a great community event Saturday evening, April 8, with their first Ham Bingo...just in time for Easter. With Joe Maidl volunteering his time to call the games, more than 125 people enjoyed 20 or 40 games of bingo at the Lafayette Fire Hall. The first-time event was a great success and likely will be repeated next year. Wakefield Pork made a sizeable donation of pork for the prizes and the Lafayette Fire and Ambulance Departments provided space for the big event. Also contributing to the event's success were Thrivent, Community Insurance, and Dave's Place.

# 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.

## First Lutheran Note

Mark it on your calendar. First Lutheran's Women of the ELCA will host the community ice cream social at the Lafayette Community Center on Friday, June 9. The social will precede the Friday night band concert. It's also a "car night" at Dave's Place.

## Confirmation Classes

2016-17 confirmation classes wrapped up with a celebration at Bernadotte Wednesday, April 26. Confirmation services for the ninth graders will be held Reformation Sunday, October 29.

## Youngblom in Paraguay

Michelle Youngblom, daughter of Bill and Linda of First Lutheran, is an Ag Extensionist with the Peace Corps in Paraguay. She will complete her 27 months of service in December. With recent political unrest, we pray for her safety to continue her service.

# Bernadotte News & Notes

- Bernadotte WELCA will NOT meet May 7 as originally planned to assemble kits. Instead members and others are encouraged to purchase, gather, and/or donate items needed for school kits. Sally Webster will deliver them to Triennial Friday, July 13. A drop box will be in the church entry; please drop off before June 30. (Check BLC newsletter for items to include in kit)
- WELCA will lead devotions at Good Samaritan, Winthrop at 1:30 p.m. May 5 (Mary Langhorst), May 12 (Birthday party—Dorothy Martens, Sandy Martin, Carol Monson, Vickie Pierre), May 19 (Carol Anderson) and May 26 (Adrienne Sjostrom)
- Winthrop Lodge Sunday Servers are: May 21 (Jessica Henderson, Laura Dalquist) and May 28 (Betty Johnson, Ruth Klossner)
- BLC Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 7. Committee: Nancy Reinhart, Konnie Bartels, Deb Sjostrom, Doris Kaduce & Barb Pettis.
- Swedefest, Saturday, June 24, 4-8 p.m. Mid-summer picnic with new menu, entertainment, more.
- Outdoor Services—Sundays, July 2 (joint) & 23 and August 6 & 20.



## Food for Kidz food packing



About 45 Bernadotte members packed nearly 15,000 meals when the Food for Kidz truck came to Bernadotte for Mission Sunday April 23.



# Bernadotte WELCA hosted Spring Gathering

Bernadotte's WELCA hosted the Minnesota Valley Conference Spring Gathering with a theme of "HOPE" Tuesday, April 18. Over 100 ladies attended. After enjoying a delicious meal downstairs, the women moved upstairs for the program. BLC's Sally Webster presided at the meeting and Deb Sjostrom gave a greeting. Mankato YWCA director Barb Dorn introduced speaker Ayan Musse who told "A Refugee's Story." Minister Heidi Hagstrom and her sister Tracy provided special music.



*Additional photos of all events in this newsletter are available on Bernadotte Lutheran's Facebook page.*

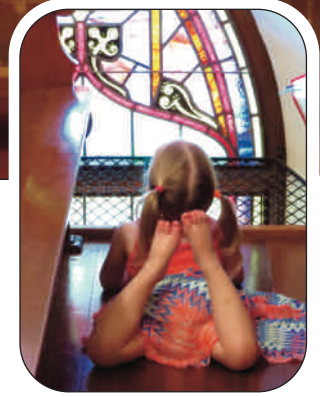


# Easter Sunday at BLC

Although these photos are from Bernadotte, Minister Heidi led Easter services at all three Fields of Grace churches. Each also had an Easter breakfast. Youth & adults served at BLC.



With Lorie Grunzke and Kylie Rieke providing the music, Kylie's daughter Maya studied the stained glass windows.



## Bernadotte holds Father Son Brunch



Military veteran John Krisel was the guest speaker when BLC held it's every-four-years Father-Son Banquet the day before Easter. All ages took part!

