



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 6, Issue 12

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

July 2017

Joint Worship Service Sunday, July 2, 9:30 a.m.

Music by George's Concertina Band
Fellowship & Refreshments after the service
Bernadotte Lutheran Church

Music with a Message at Bernadotte Church Park

Bernadotte has planned four Sunday outdoor services with special music this summer. Everyone from the FOG parishes and all friends and neighbors are welcome to take part in the 9:30 a.m. services. (The first is a joint service)

- Sunday, July 2 with George's Concertina Band
- Sunday, July 23 with Jerry & Carol Larson
- Sunday, August 6 with Larry Mages
- Sunday, August 20 with "The Basics"

Refreshments will follow each service. Services will be moved indoors if weather is bad.

If any BLC or FOG member would like to help host one of the services, please contact Sally Webster at 507-276-3027 or 228-8541. Host duties include assisting usher with set up, greeting musicians, serving light refreshments, and assisting with clean up/putting chairs away.

Collecting Items for School Kits

WELCA members and others are encouraged to purchase, gather, and/or donate items needed for school kits for the needy. Through the kits, we can help less fortunate children have better days at school.

Items for the kits may be dropped off in a box in the Bernadotte church entry. The kits will be assembled Sunday, July 9 at 9:00 a.m. at BLC. Sally Webster will deliver the kits to Triennial Friday, July 14.

Items needed for the kits are:

- 70-sheet notebooks (wide or college-ruled)
- one 30-centimeter ruler (or inches one side/cm on other)
- one pencil sharpener
- one blunt scissors
- five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- five black or blue ballpoint ink pens
- one box 16 or 24 crayons
- one 2.5 inch eraser
- one sturdy draw-string style cloth backpack about 14x17

Heidi at Seminary July 9-14

Heidi will be at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa July 14, taking two classes required for her journey toward ordination.

Passing Faith to Next Generation

Heidi is looking for a few people concerned about passing on faith to the next generation. The FOG Council authorized her to create a task force to reimagine faith formation for our 21st century church. None of the FOG congregations has enough children to replicate traditional, grade-based, classroom-style Sunday School. It is time to think differently about faith formation that is faithful to our continuing mission of making disciples and promoting lifelong faith growth, and that is designed for 21st century learners.

Heidi would like at least one person from each congregation, but this group will not be limited to just one per congregation. The goal will be to meet together weekly starting the third week of June and make a recommendation to the FOG Council in late July.

If you are interested, please email Heidi at heidijohagstrom@gmail.com or call 507-766-2729.

Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Church Council—Monday, July 3 (?), 5:30 p.m. at First
- Bernadotte Church Council—Monday, July 17, 7:30 p.m. at Bernadotte
- FOG Council—Wednesday, July 26 at Bernadotte, 7:00 p.m.

Riverblender Sing-Outs

The Riverblenders will be at a church near you on Sunday, July 30. The group will bring their popular sing-outs to Lafayette area churches during the morning worship services. Their schedule is:

- Swan Lake 8:00 a.m.
- Bernadotte 9:30 a.m.
- St Gregory the Great in Lafayette
- First Lutheran in Winthrop
- Good Samaritan Center in Winthrop, near noon

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

JULY 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 9-Doug D & Al H; 16-Dean P & Tyson H; 23-Doug D & Randy A; 30-Dean P & Tyson H.

Greeters: Amy D & Susie W

Liturgists: 9 & 16-Charles Y; 23 & 30-Charlie H

Reader: Sandy B

Visiting: Bette J & Dorothy M

Communion Bread: Joyce Reese

Altar: Traci A & Dawn S

Coffee Servers: 9-Diane D & Mindy E; 16-Sandy H & Wendy G; 23-Diane D & Mindy E; 30-Heidi H & Jo P

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Marissa Anderson & Meghan Houdek

Readers: 2-Trish Gieseke (joint service at BLC); 9-Bob Helget; 16-Jim Bartels; 23-Judy Radke; 30-Lori Fenske

Acolyte: Mia Ross

Ushers: Jerry Oscarson, Julia Oscarson, Kelly Peters, Lori Peters, Andrew Rasmussen

Communion (July 9): S-Jerry Oscarson; C-Jim Young; U-Bruce White, Deb Sjostrom

Coffee Servers: No fellowship after services in summer, except for special occasions.

Heidi's Interim Minister Message

In July we think about freedom. For Martin Luther, freedom is at the heart of the gospel. He opens a tract entitled "On the Freedom of a Christian" with this declaration:

A Christian is an utterly free [hu]man, lord of all, subject to none.

A Christian is an utterly dutiful [hu]man, servant of all, subject to all.

For Luther, there are two forms of freedom—freedom from and freedom for. Because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we are freed from slavery to sin and the law. Most importantly for Luther, this liberation is the result of faith. As a result of faith in Christ, God forgives sin and gives us Christ's righteousness. There is nothing whatsoever we can do to earn Christ's righteousness. It is an act of pure grace.

Since we have such freedom through faith, and because our own worth is secure in Christ, we don't have to worry about our future anymore. As recipients of Christ's righteousness, we act out of our freedom to do what Christ did, caring for the neighbor. In that way, we are freed for service to the neighbor.

Love binds the free person as an utterly dutiful servant to one's neighbor. The paradox of Christian freedom then plays out in faith and love. The Christian is at once utterly free in faith and a servant to all in works of love. Christian life is lived between these twin poles of faith and love.

Martin Luther Focus

"I have asked myself if we present-day Lutherans have not tamed him too much and cut off his wings. How is it possible that this challenger, prophet, and revolutionary who dared to stand up so boldly against both the secular and religious authorities of his time and cried from the bottom of his heart till he was absolutely sure of his salvation, how is it possible that many churches which are proudly carrying his name have become only mirrors of societies, looked upon as lukewarm, middle-of-the-way Christians, even conservative, afraid of taking a courageous and challenging stand in both spiritual and political questions? Is this an exaggeration? I certainly feel that the stirring life story of Martin Luther could inspire a new generation of Lutherans to wake up to a much deeper involvement, both in the existential question of what personal salvation really means and in the socio-political questions of peace and justice which are the burning issues of this generation."

Bishop Kibira, LWF President in 1983

Heidi says Thank You

The ELCA is responding to the needs of the changing church by creating new pathways to ordained ministry. I am on one of those new pathways, and spent two intense weeks at Wartburg Seminary in June. I took three classes. I go back for a week in July for two more classes. I can

only do this with your support and partnership. Thank you to the Sjostrom family for tending to my chickens, and thank you to the whole parish for your prayers, and for the gift of time to tend to all of the different requirements of this process.

Called to her Heavenly Home

Wanda Gieseke, 89, passed away Tuesday, June 27 at Sleepy Eye Care Center. Funeral service will be 11 am Friday, June 30 at Swan Lake Lutheran. Burial will follow in Swan Lake Cemetery. Visitation is 4-7 pm Thursday at Minnesota Valley Funeral Home-NORTH, and will continue 10-11 am Friday at Swan Lake.

Benefit to be held

A Belgian Waffle/Silent Auction Fundraiser will be held for Debbie Trebesch Sunday, July 23, 10 am-1 pm, at the UFC's Berdan Center in Winthrop. Debbie is in need of both a kidney and liver transplant.

Bernadotte WELCA Notes

- Sun., July 9—school kits will be assembled at 9:00 a.m.
- Fri., July 14—Sally Webster will deliver the kits to Triennial
- Tues., Aug 8—Gaylord Oak Terrace Birthday Party; hostesses Karen Wingen, Wanda Anthony, Lori Peters, Mary Langhorst

Get Well Wishes

Get well wishes to John Nelson of Bernadotte as he recovers from a bad fall. He's at Hennepin County Medical Center. John was injured while trimming branches at the Bernadotte church cemetery Wednesday, June 21.

To contact Heidi, call 507-766-2729 or email heidijohagstrom@gmail.com



Bernadotte ice cream social



Just like last year, the weather was threatening, but a good crowd turned out for Bernadotte's ice cream social June 7. A bit of rain fell around 7:00 p.m. but the band played on and many stayed. As always, the BLC ladies worked together to prepare and serve hot turkey and cold ham sandwiches, pie and ice cream and more. The bake sale had a wide variety of goodies for people to take home.



As always, the BLC ladies worked together to prepare and serve hot turkey and cold ham sandwiches, pie and ice cream and more. The bake sale had a wide variety of goodies for people to take home.

(My apologies for not getting any photos of First Lutheran's ice cream social as I was out of town)





Swedefest at Bernadotte Sat., June 24

The set-up crew got things ready in short order.



It didn't rain but the wind whipped thru the park, making Bernadotte's 23rd annual Swedefest the coldest one ever. Even so, a good crowd turned out to enjoy the music and the new Mid-summer picnic menu.



The Rickheims, Carver Creek Bluegrass, and the Larsons provided the music and the Nicollet County Pork Producers did the grilling.



It was a first—to have people bundled up under blankets and wearing earmuffs—but people stayed around.



There were some good buys in the silent auction, just ask Neil!

Minister Heidi did a great job singing the Swedish hymn, 'Halsa Dem Darhemma' during the closing devotions. Mason Langhorst picked the best bar.

