



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 7, Issue I

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

August 2017

Organ Convention to Visit Bernadotte and St. George

It's been "in the works" for well over a year—now we have the details to share!

Two local church organs will be featured when members of the Organ Historical Society visit southern Minnesota Tuesday, August 8. Up to six busloads of organ enthusiasts will visit as part of the organization's 2017 national convention. The August 5-11 event, based at the InterContinental Hotel in St. Paul, will include recitals at 36 venues in Minnesota and Wisconsin over the seven days.

The Tuesday recitals will be held from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Bernadotte Lutheran Church and 3:25 p.m. to 3:55 p.m. at St. George Catholic Church. Both churches are home to historic Vögelpohl & Spaeth organs, built in New Ulm. Bernadotte's was put into use in 1898 and St. George's in 1904.

Specially selected organists will present the recitals. Peter Crisafulli—minister of music at All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase, Maryland since 1988—will present the concert at Bernadotte while Isaac Drewes—a senior organ performance and church music major at St. Olaf College in Northfield—will play at St. George.

The southern Minnesota day will also include recitals at First Lutheran Church in St. Peter at 10:30 a.m., and at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend any of the concerts.

Celebrating Milestone Birthdays

An open house **90th Birthday Party will honor Sid Holberg** at the American Legion in Gaylord, Sunday, August 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No gifts, please. Let your presence be your gift. (Sid's birthday is August 2).

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Birthday cake and coffee will be served after the 9:30 a.m. service at Bernadotte Sunday, August 13, in honor of **Sally Webster's 80th birthday** which is August 15. Everyone welcome.

Opportunities for Men

Two identical Equipping Men for Ministry Workshops will be held in August.

The first is Saturday, August 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Grace Lutheran in Westbrook.

The second is the following Saturday, August 19, same hours, at Paynesville Lutheran in Paynesville.

To register, go to the synod website at www.swmnelca.org.

Open House Wedding Shower for David Hayes

David Hayes and Micaela Magsamen will be honored at a "Meet & Greet Open House Wedding Shower on Saturday, July 29, 10:00 a.m. to noon, at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Lafayette. David is the son of Bernadotte member Tom and Patti Hayes.

No gifts are requested but, if people would like, gift cards to Menards, Target, or cash are preferred, due to travel constraints.

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 Lafayette
- Good Samaritan Center in Winthrop, near noon.

Music with a Message at Bernadotte Church Park

Two more Sunday outdoor services with special music will be held at Bernadotte this summer. Everyone from the FOG parishes and all friends and neighbors are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. services.

- 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.

Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wednesday, July 26 at Bernadotte, 7:00 p.m.
- First Lutheran Church Council—Monday, Aug. 7, 5:30 p.m. at First
- Bernadotte Church Council—Monday, Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Bernadotte

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

AUGUST 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 6-Randy S & Randy A; 13-Randy A & Aimee A; 20-Matt H & Randy S; 27-Jon Hartley & Darrell A.

Greeter: Charles Y

Liturgist: Brad D

Reader: Sandy H

Visiting: Howard & Darlene L

Communion Bread: Joyce Reese

Altar: Jorja L & Shauna H

Coffee Servers: 6-Angie H & Sheri P; 13-Diane D & Mindy E; 20-Emily H & Kris H; 27-Jil H & Elmari K

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Sally Webster & Elias Webster

Readers: 6-Lowell Sjostrom, 13-Rosanne Johnson, 20-Ruth Klossner, 27-Sally Webster

Acolyte: Austin Gieseke

Ushers: Lori Fenske, Neil Rasmussen, Stacy Kline, Phil Wingen, Karen Wingen

Communion (Aug. 13): S-Lori Fenske; C-Shaun Anderson; U-Jim Young, Steve Radke

Coffee Servers: 13-Webster Family for Sally's 80th Birthday. Otherwise, no fellowship after summer services, except for special occasions.

Heidi's Interim Minister Message

Ruth approached me after worship today (Sunday, July 23), asking when I'd be sending my contribution to the August FOG Newsletter. I had started it a few days ago when she first sent a reminder of the due date, but I'm not feeling particularly generative right now, so didn't get very far. I think my brain has been taken up with anxiety about a major paper that is due July 31.

So I went back to the computer this afternoon, hoping for Divine inspiration, but I have to be honest and say, "I got nothin'!"

But wait, I have pages of notes from summer classes that I can share. Below is a random sample, nuggets of theology and practice from my professors at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

God alone is the source of life, healing, and forgiveness.

What do we mean when we reference the "Word of God?"

1) First and foremost, the Word of God is the Eternal Word who became incarnate in Jesus Christ.

2) Secondly, the Word of God is the oral proclamation of the Word

3) Thirdly, the Word of God is Scripture in its writtenness.

Christians fundamentally address God as Father on account of how Jesus addresses God as Abba. It is appropriate to speak of the motherly heart of God, but we don't address God as mother. The language of father is the language of profound intimacy. Father is not about a male being.

For Christians, all language about God is language about God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Young people see no value in joining an organization that is not connected to what is going on in the world.

The road to congregational vitality is turning outward. Our instinct is to close ranks and hold on to what we have. But, God in Christ through the Holy Spirit is calling us outside the walls of the church and into the world.

A Moment with Martin (Luther)

"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."
— Martin Luther

Bernadotte WELCA Notes

Tues., Aug 8—Gaylord Oak Terrace Health Care Center Birthday Party (approx. 40 residents); hostesses Karen Wingen, Wanda Anthony, Lori Peters, and Mary Langhorst.

St. Gregory's Harvest Festival

The annual St. Gregory the Great Harvest Festival will be held Sunday, August 13. Mass is at 10:30 a.m., with a buffet style ham and meatball dinner from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Games and other activities will follow.

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

Looking Ahead—

**Joint Worship Service
Sunday, Sept. 3, 9:30 a.m.**

Fellowship & Refreshments after the service
First Lutheran Church

Neighborhood Night Out

The 21st annual South Bernadotte-Brighton Neighborhood Night Out will be held Monday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jon & Gail Thoreson farm, 35532 545th Ave., Lafayette. Everyone is welcome! Hot dogs, beverages, plates, and utensils will be provided; please bring a dish to share. The event will be held in the shop, so will be held rain or shine. A few postcards have been mailed out, but the mailing list of area residents is incomplete...so spread the word!

We have an ‘Emmy Winner’ in our Midst!

Bernadotte member and Winthrop Postmaster Deb Sjostrom recently received a high award—an “Emmy”—from the postal service. She was nominated for the award by coworker Ann Atzenhoefer.

Since nobody can tell a story quite like Deb can, I’ve “borrowed” Deb’s Facebook post to explain what happened

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“Two months ago my clerk/friend Ann told me she'd nominated me for an award and I'd won. Frankly I was a little annoyed. I vaguely remembered seeing this "nominate a co-worker for civil servant of the year" email annually and always ignored it. I'd never been familiar with even one winner over my 29 years with USPS. But with Ann's prodding we took off to Mpls. for a ceremony we were almost late for—as we both figured it wasn't any big deal, just a nice break from mail and a fancy reception—but upon entering a banquet room with

possibly 300-400 in attendance, I realized it WAS sort of a big deal when the coordinators rushed me to a front reserved chair and I was seated next to my boss and my bosses' boss—and they were all congratulating me. I still wasn't sure of the significance but much like a (long, boring commencement ceremony), I waited for my turn to receive a lovely plaque among hundreds of



Continued Get Well Wishes

John Nelson of Bernadotte continues to recover at the V.A. Hospital in the Twin Cities from injuries he received from a bad fall. John was hurt while trimming branches at the Bernadotte church cemetery Wednesday, June 21.

Forgotten History Lectures

The Nicollet County Historical Society will present a series of Forgotten History Lectures, one per month, from July through November. Dates and topics (all on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.) are:

July 27—The Grasshopper Plagues

August 31—Who Really Founded St. Peter?

September 28—Lost Post Offices

October 26—Ghost Towns: History & Mysteries

November 30—Benjamin Franklin in Nicollet County

Location is the Treaty Site History Center on the north edge of St. Peter. Admission is \$3.00, or free for Nicollet County Historical members



other nominees. I thought, ‘hmm kinda cool’ and sat down. Then they announced there was five categories and would announce the finalists in each one. I about split when my name was called! So I'm thinking ‘OK little bigger deal than I realized. Nice.’ (I had NO idea about the categories and finalists. Virtually clueless!) And low and behold, one champion in each category—Ann apparently nominated me in the ‘unsung hero’ group—would receive what they called an ‘Emmy.’ I seriously was mind blown when my name was called, again! Well I'm proud & humbled. So, so many do so, so much—to be considered was truly an honor. Thank you, Ann, for likely the biggest surprise in my career. It was so very kind of you!”



Outdoor Services at Bernadotte

Bernadotte hosted the July 2 joint service in the church park, then held another outdoor service Sunday, July 23. Two more outdoor services are on the calendar—August 6 & 20.



George's Concertina Band provided music for the joint service (above & right) while Carol & Gerry Larson, along with Jodi Poehler, were the July 23 musicians, below.



Refreshments were served in the park shelter after each service.



A Report from the Southwest Minnesota Synod Assembly

by Bernadotte member Sally Webster

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the 2017 Southwest Minnesota Synod Assembly held at Gustavus Adolphus in June. As in past years, it was two days filled with information and inspiration.

At last year's assembly, it was announced that the SWMN Synod had been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Lilly Foundation. This funding initiative is known as "EMBRACE God's Mission, EQUIP God's People" and includes three focus areas—Developing Servant Leaders; Deepening Congregational Vitality; and Enhancing Local and Global Mission. The grant requires that the SWMN Synod provide a \$250,000 match. \$52,485 is required to meet that \$250,000 goal. God's Mission is moving forward in our Synod and lives of individuals and congregations are being changed because of this initiative.

Business enacted at the assembly included the passage of Resolution 17.01 which addressed a minimal change in language concerning rostered leaders and their voting status. Other business items were a review of the 2016 financial statement and the presentation of the 2017 proposed budget. Three new members were elected to serve on the Synod Council, one member to the Consultation Committee, and one new member to the Discipline Committee.

There has been a lot of discussion lately as to the future—or the lack thereof—of "church life" as we know it today. A lack of participation seems to be the norm for many congregations of all faiths these days.

How do we "do church" in the future? How do people worship, serve, connect, grow in faith, reach out? What will our congregation or parish look like in the future?

As Bishop Jon Anderson presented his annual report, we were asked to share at our tables something in our lives that we were proud of. My first reaction to this request was surprise, as I had been taught "pride was not a virtue." I have spent some time thinking about this since. Now I can say that I am very proud in this year—the 500th year of the Reformation—of my Lutheran heritage and that I am a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. I am extremely proud that I am a member of the SWMN Synod of the ELCA. A Synod that has an enthusiastic, inspirational, forward-thinking Bishop that is not afraid to look at the future and address the hard realities. A synod that has excellent synod ministers, committed leaders and staff, and a dedicated membership that knows we are "saved by grace" and good works follow. A synod that gave \$ 665,072 to World Hunger in 2016 and sent 84 Young Adults in Global Mission to spend one year in service in various parts of the world. A synod that preaches a Gospel of love and inclusiveness.

I would encourage you to say "yes" the next time your nominating committee person asks you to represent your congregation at the SWMN Synod Convention. You will be informed, inspired, and glad you said yes.

WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE !