



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 7, Issue 2 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran September 2017

Passing on Faith to the next generation

Generation Z—the bottom half of the Millennials—is the largest generation in history and the first generation in America to grow up in a completely post-Christian culture. During the last few decades, tsunami-sized waves of cultural change crashed on the shores of our nation, unlike anything we’ve experienced. In a few short decades, these waves washed away some of the foundational moorings that existed since the inception of this country. As a result, the church finds itself in a new context.

One of the most foolish and short-sighted things we can do in the church today is to view ministry to children and youth as having secondary importance. Ministry to children and youth—and their parents—is not only important, but essential. Recognizing this opportunity, the FOG council decided to hire a person to help us focus on ministry to, with, and for children and youth.

Mark Haler begins work as FOG’s Youth Director September 1. You might remember Mark as the architect of the Ham Bingo event benefiting the children and youth of FOG. Mark and his wife, Jil, have one son, John, a sixth grader. They live in Lafayette and are members of First Lutheran. Mark used to work in hog production, but a physical injury now prohibits work with animals. Mark and Jil have al-

ways had a heart for children and youth, having welcomed many foster children into their home and their hearts. Mark serves on the Lafayette Charter School board and is a member of the Lafayette Area Lions.

Mark will first focus his attention on a new, Wednesday evening event for FOG youth in grades 5-9 that starts September 20. He also plans to generate fun activities for FOG kids beyond Wednesday nights.

Mark and Minister Heidi have big dreams for the Wednesday night faith-forming experience, and hope that parents and kids will give it a try.

Welcome to the FOG staff, Mark! We look forward to getting to know you better.

Everyone is invited to the inaugural Wednesday night event for kids and youth, September 20 at First Lutheran. Join us for a simple supper at 5:30 p.m, followed by a concert by hiphop artist, David Scherer, aka Agape. David wrote the theme song for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering that Heidi directed before coming to FOG. You can watch the lyric video of David's song here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ILIsCn_q08&list=PLNhrHzE91t7XJjw-C-jUVbxNQthwNVgg&index=4.

Heidi guarantees everyone will enjoy David's music, especially the young people.

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

*Fellowship & Refreshments
follow the service*

First Lutheran Church

Heidi begins formal internship

As part of her formation for ordained ministry in the ELCA, Heidi is required to participate in a formal internship. We will acknowledge the start of this new phase in FOG’s relationship with Heidi during the joint FOG worship service Sunday, September 3 at First Lutheran at 9:30 a.m.

Heidi’s supervising pastor, Andrew Hermodson-Olsen, will join us after worship at his congregation in Brown-ton. We will also install the internship committee that Sunday. Heidi is deeply grateful to the following people who will serve on the internship committee for a full year—Traci Abrahamson and Denny Sjogren of First, JoAnn Gieseke and Darwin Gieseke of Swan Lake, Sally Webster and Tim Schulz of Bernadotte, and Stuart Hartley representing our youth.



Riverblenders at FOG churches

The Riverblenders presented their popular sing-outs at the FOG churches Sunday, July 30. They first visited Swan Lake, then made stops at Bernadotte and First before wrapping up at the Good Samaritan Center in Winthrop.



FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICES

Swan Lake Lutheran—8:00 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month
First Lutheran—9:30 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month
Bernadotte Lutheran—11:00 a.m.—Communion the 2nd Sunday of the month

SEPTEMBER 2017 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 3-Brian M & Mary M; 10-Aimee A & Randy A; 17-Mike H & Connor H; 24-Brian M & Mary M

Greeter: Al Y

Liturgist: 3-Brad D; 10-Jorja L; 17 & 24-Charlie H.

Reader: Mary M

Visiting: Bette J & Tami S

Communion Bread: Joyce Reese

Altar: Sheri P, Lori B & Angie H

Coffee Servers: 3-Darlene L & Sandy H; 10-Emily H & Kris H; 17-Laurie L & Mary M; 24-Emily H & Kris H

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Brenda Lindmeyer & Pam White

Readers: 3-Joint at FLC; 10-Shaun Anderson; 17-Steve Sjostrom; 24-Tim Schulz

Acolyte: Marissa Anderson

Ushers: Jim Young, Carol Young, Kevin Johnson, Rosanne Johnson, Jeff Young

Communion (Sept. 10): S-Jim Young; C-Brent Johnson; U-Deb Sjostrom, Dwayne Ross

Coffee Servers: (Coffee hour before service, approx. 9:45 a.m. Volunteers needed; sign-up sheet in back of church)

Heidi's Interim Minister Message

For well over 100 years, Christian churches had a highly integrated religious ecosystem in the United States. It was comprised of multigenerational family faith practice and religious transmission at home; strong congregational community relationships and church life, especially participation in Sunday worship; weekly Sunday school for children and youth (and in many cases adults); and church groups (youth, men, women). Many Christian traditions relied heavily on the ethnic faith traditions of their people to transmit faith from generation to generation—at home and at church. And all of this was surrounded by an American culture that explicitly or implicitly supported the Christian value system and Christian practices.

There is no way to go back to this older ecosystem—it has eroded over the past several decades because of all the changes in the culture and society, the family, technology and communication, and more. The environment has changed, and the relationship between congregational faith formation and its environment has changed. We need a new faith formation ecosystem that reflects this changed context. This new ecosystem incorporates five, essential, interconnected components:

1. Intergenerational faith formation in the congregation
2. Age group and generational faith formation
3. Family faith formation

4. Missional faith formation to the spiritual but not religious and the unaffiliated
5. Online and digitally enabled faith formation.

Mark Haler, FOG's newly hired youth director, and I invited a representative group of people from First and Bernadotte to address #2 on this list, asking how we pass on faith to the children in our parish.

Starting Sunday morning September 17, Sunday School will focus on children Pre-K through grade 4. Grades 5 through 9 will meet on Wednesday evenings, starting September 20. Parents will receive letters detailing this plan in early September. We have decided to try this until Christmas, then we'll re-evaluate with all those involved.

A Moment with Martin (Luther)

“I must still read and study the catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and a pupil of the catechism, and I do it gladly.” (in the preface to the Large Catechism) — Martin Luther

Community Bible Study resumes September 11 at Big Dog's

We are a church that believes people meet God in Scripture, where God's relationship to—and intention for—humankind is revealed. Everyone is invited to join the conversation every Monday morning, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Big Dog's in Lafayette.

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

Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wednesday, Sept. 27 at First, 7:45 p.m.
- First Lutheran Church Council—Monday, Sept. 11, 5:30 p.m. at First
- Bernadotte Church Council—Monday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Bernadotte

Men's Breakfast at Swan Lake

Swan Lake Lutheran will hold its annual Men's Harvest Breakfast Saturday, October 7 from 6:00 to 9:30 a.m. The menu includes scrambled eggs, ham, pancakes, and beverages, all for a free will donation.

Proceeds will go to the Kevin and Beth Fluegge family who suffered significant damage from a tornado during the July 9 storm.

Babies, Births and Baptisms

Bernadotte member Philip Nelson and his wife Samantha are the parents of a daughter, Evelyn Jeanette, born Friday, July 28. She weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 21.4 inches long. Evelyn's grandparents are Arlin and the late Barbara Nelson.

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Minister Heidi baptized Francesca Sylvia ("Frankie") and Genevieve Yvonne ("Evie") Bennett in a creek on the Reinhart family farm Sunday, August 11.

The twins were born Friday, June 9 in Minneapolis. Their parents are Bernadotte member Kim (Reinhart) Bennett and husband Reid. Grandparents are Bernie and Nancy Reinhart and Mike and Karen Bennett. Great-grandmother is Sylvia Reinhart. Frankie's godparents are Stacy Reinhart and Leigh Martin; Evie's are Kevin Reinhart and Jill Beauregard.



In a posting on Bernadotte's Facebook page, Kim wrote, "Thank you to Pastor Heidi for performing our twins' baptism on our family farm. I was honored to grow up in the Bernadotte family and am so happy that Francesca and Genevieve have also been welcomed in. It really was a special day."



Celebrating Milestone Birthdays

Bernadotte member Sid Holberg celebrated his 90th Birthday at an open house at the American Legion in Gaylord, Sunday, August 6.

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Sally Webster celebrated her 80th birthday with cake and coffee after services at Bernadotte Sunday, August 13. The celebration included a special 80th birthday "cake" that's been a tradition in her family for many years. Sally needed help from her grandkids to blow out the 80 candles.



Back to School backpack blessing

Going back to school in the fall is a milestone for students and teachers. Our FOG churches will mark this time as a faith milestone during worship on Sunday, September 10, when backpacks will be blessed.

This simple act of blessing will help us recognize God's presence in everyday life. Students and teachers should place their backpacks, bags, or briefcases at the front of the sanctuary as they come in that morning. Teachers in our parish's ministry with children and youth this year will also be installed that day.

FLC Fall Festival date set

First Lutheran's annual Fall Festival will be held Saturday, November 18. Mark the date on your calendar and watch for more information in future newsletters.

Bridal Shower

An open house come-and-go bridal shower honoring Tori Jo Zanke and Bradly Hagberg of First Lutheran will be held Saturday, September 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Parents of the couple are Alan and Kris Hagberg, Carrie Thomas, and Darin and Jessica Zanke. The couple is registered at Herberger's and Amazon.com.

Organ Historical Society visits Bernadotte on southern Minnesota loop

Six busloads of organ enthusiasts filled the pews—and any other seating area—when the national convention of the Organ Historical Society stopped at Bernadotte Tuesday, August 8. The group came to hear, see, and sing along with Bernadotte’s historical Vogelpohl organ.



Peter Crisafulli—minister of music at All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, Maryland since 1988—was the guest organist for the recital at Bernadotte. The church was filled with sound when the entire group stood and faced the organ to accompany Crisafulli on “Prepare the Way, O Zion.”

The group also made stops at St. George, St. Peter, and Mankato on the visit to this part of the state.

Flu Shot Clinics set

Nicollet County Public Health will hold flu shot clinics Tuesday, September 26. Times and locations are:

- 9:00-9:45 a.m., Lafayette Community Center
- 10:45-11:45 a.m., Courtland Community Center
- 12:30-1:30 p.m., St. Paul’s Catholic Church, Nicollet.

Bernadotte WELCA Note

WELCA/LCM joint meeting, Sunday, September 10 at noon at BLC. Devotions: Rosanne Johnson. Program: TBA. Hosts: Bruce & Romi White, Brad & Pam White, Ron & Denise Johnson, and Tim & Wendy Schulz.

Supporting Hurricane Harvey victims

Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast of the U.S. Friday, August 25, affecting millions of people in coastal Texas and Louisiana with multiple days of heavy rain, winds, and rising tides. While many were evacuated, significant damage took place and thousands of people may be housed in shelters for extended periods of time.

Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials to initiate proper responses, especially longterm recovery efforts.

Many disaster response organizations use some of the donations received for administration. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) uses 100 percent of donations for the disaster until the response is complete. LDR is also unique in that it is committed to longterm recovery efforts. Financial support to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey may be directed through www.elca.org/disaster. Checks may be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Write "Hurricane Response, U.S." in the check's memo line.

Called to his Heavenly Home

Swan Lake Lutheran member Roger Currier, 85, of Nicollet, passed away Monday, August 28 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

A memorial service will be held in the fall; details will be in the October newsletter. Arrangements are with Minnesota Valley Funeral Home in Nicollet.

Upcoming Area Events

- Salad Luncheon & Bake Sale—First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Winthrop, Friday, September 8; bake sale 10:30 a.m., luncheon 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Fall Festival—Grace Lutheran Church, Brownton, Sunday, September 10; worship 8:45 a.m., pork chop meal, bake sale & theme basket raffle, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- St. George Harvest Festival—St. George Parish Center, Sunday, September 10; heritage mass 8:30 a.m., bratwurst & roast beef dinner 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; bake sale, raffle, live entertainment, more.
- Annual Pork Chop Dinner—St. Francis Catholic Church, Winthrop, Saturday, September 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Pork chop and McRib sandwich meals.



Outdoor Services at Bernadotte Church Park



The last two—of four—outdoor summer worship services were held in the Bernadotte Church Park Sundays, August 6 and 20. The Basics from Stewart ("Brothers and Sisters in Christ Singers")



presented the music August 20, while the Larry Mages family played and sang August 6. Larry was accompanied by his daughter Amanda and granddaughters Gabby, Bella, and Hallie.