



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 7, Issue 6

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

January 2018



Christmas Morning at Bernadotte

Minister Heidi had the littlest members of the Bernadotte congregation come forward during the Christmas service as she shared the story of the candy cane and its J shape. The kids were excited when she gave each of them their own candy cane.

**Joint Service
Sunday
December 31
at First Lutheran**

**9:30 a.m.
Fellowship follows service**

Annual Meeting Dates Set

- First Lutheran—Sunday, January 21, during 9:30 a.m. service
- Bernadotte—Sunday, January 21, during 11:00 a.m. service; alternate date Sunday, January 28

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Jan. 8, 5:30 p.m. at First
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., BLC
- FOG Council—Wed., Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., BLC

Wednesday School

Wednesday School restarts after the Christmas break at Bernadotte, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., on January 10. Everyone in grades five through nine is welcome. The church will be open and staffed starting at 5:00 pm.

Sunday School

Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 7 at both First Lutheran and Bernadotte.

First Communion classes

Families with fifth graders—mark your calendars!!

Classes preparing fifth graders to receive their first communion will take place Tuesdays, March 6, 13, and 20, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., location TBD. First Communion will take place on Palm Sunday, March 25.

Community Bible Study at Big Dogs

Community Bible Study will resume Monday morning, January 29—from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.—at Big Dog's in Lafayette. Everyone welcome!

Swan Lake 150th anniversary

Mark it down! Swan Lake Lutheran will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a festival worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Bishop Jon Anderson will be the guest preacher. More details later.

BLC WELCA

First of Year Brunch

Women from all Fields of Grace churches are invited to Bernadotte WELCA's 2018 First of the Year Brunch. It's Saturday, January 6, at 9:00 a.m. at Hahn's Dining in Winthrop. It's a fun time to visit over a good meal. Please feel free to bring a guest(s).

Please RSVP to Deb Sjostrom at 276-0452 or debsjostrom@gmail.com ASAP.

Help Dorothy Martens celebrate her 90th birthday at First Lutheran



In honor of Dorothy (Mrs. Carl) Martens' 90th birthday, coffee and birthday treats will be served at First Lutheran Church following the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, January 7. Everyone welcome.

FLC Scholarship Applications Due

First Lutheran youth are reminded to submit their applications for the Roman Fischer and John S. Johnson scholarship programs immediately. Applications are in the entryway of First Lutheran. Completed applications should be put in the offering plate or dropped off at Citizens Bank. Checks will be issued after applications and grades are received.



First Lutheran Sunday School Christmas Program

First Lutheran's Sunday School Program was held Sunday afternoon, December 10.



The students told the Christmas story, interspersed with congregational singing.

Jorja Langhoff directed older students in the handbell choir and a small ladies choir, accompanied by Laurie Larson, sang.



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

Heidi's Intern Minister Message

The middle of December was a monumental time in my journey toward ordination. On a Friday, I underwent the second of three major interviews with the Synod Candidacy Committee and was given its blessing to continue toward ordination. The following Monday, I learned that I received full credit for my last class, meaning I have met the academic requirements for ordination. No more classes!

In May, I will have the final interview with the Candidacy Committee and—hopefully—will be approved for ordination contingent on the successful completion of internship in August. That means we can plan an ordination in the fall of 2018.

Now that ordination is within reach, I am asking “what next?” It is a fact that the tenure of most pastors in one parish is less than four years. Church growth professionals say that is when trust is just beginning to emerge between a parish and its pastoral leader, trust that is essential for growth.

I have been at Fields of Grace for two years now, and I hope to remain here beyond two more years. That means odds are good that we can do something new together! As Oprah would say, “Don’t be scared!”

I have always heard God’s promise in Revelation 21:5: “See, I am making all things new”—as a call to baptismal living, which is a call to action. As a pastoral leader, I believe it is my responsibility to reclaim the centrality of baptism in the life of the Church, in my life, and the life of every Chris-

tian. I want to support, encourage, enhance, and equip the Fields of Grace Parish, its members and friends, in the ministry and vocation of the baptized. For me, that includes discerning what God is up to in, with, and through FOG. While many rural congregations are closing their doors, our doors are still open. That means God must still be up to something through us.

I have asked the FOG council to enter into a planning process in 2018 during which we will ask, very strategically, what God is up to through FOG. Once we discern our unique place in God’s plan for God’s people in and around Lafayette, we need to faithfully respond by aligning all of our ministries and ways of being church together around God’s plan for our mission. We will begin in February with a leadership retreat, including the three congregational councils and the FOG council. I anticipate the whole planning process taking about a year.

It is important that the process be bathed in prayer. I am looking for people who will commit to regularly praying for this process. In addition to one’s own prayers, I will provide a general prayer that can be used and, when possible, specific prayer requests will be distributed. If you are a person who is willing to commit to praying for this process, please let me know at 507-766-2729 or heidijohagstrom@gmail.com by mid-January. This might be a good way for our snowbirds to be connected to the process from afar.

Heidi will have time off

Heidi will be gone December 28 through January 12. Her supervisor, Pastor Andrew Hermodson-Olsen, will be available to provide pastoral care should there be a need. Contact him at 320-328-5533 (church) or 320-296-1337 (cell) or by email at grace-brownnton@embarq mail.com.

Heidi's contact info:

507-766-2729

or

heidijohagstrom@gmail.com

Lafayette Lions Club Waffle Breakfast & Benefit

The Lafayette Lions will host a silent auction benefit for Delsin Zamzow in conjunction with its Dad’s Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday, January 14. Serving is 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at a new location—the **Lafayette Charter School**.

Proceeds from the silent auction, as well as cash donations, will go directly to Zamzow to make his home handicapped accessible. Delsin is paralyzed as the result of a

dirt bike accident. The Lions club is also providing a major donation to Zamzow.

Silent auction items may be dropped off at Dave’s Place or Community Insurance in Lafayette through Friday, January 12, or can be brought to the Charter School Sunday, January 14 by 8:30 am.

Advance sale tickets for the breakfast are available from any Lion member or at Citizens Bank.

JANUARY 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 7 & 14-Kevin & Laura Isaacson; 21 & 28-Merrill & Lila Ellies

Greeter: Marie Carlson **Reader:** Cindy Youngblom

Liturgist: 7, 14 & 21-Jorja Langhoff; 28-Charlie Hartley

Visiting: Susie & Marlin Wendorff

Communion Bread: Joyce Reese

Altar: Laura Isaacson & Linda Isaacson

Coffee Servers: 7-Laura Isaacson & Linda Isaacson; 14-Jo Pehrson & Lindsay Benson; 21-Wendy Hagberg & Angie Hartmann; 28-Laurie Larson & Marie Carlson

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ben Radke & Andrew Radke

Readers: 7-Bob Helget; 14-Jim Bartels; 21-Judy Radke; 28-Lori Fenske

Acolyte: Mia Ross

Ushers: Dwayne & Judy Ross, Jason Ross, Joel & Wanda Anthony

Communion (Jan. 14): S-Dwayne Ross; C-Jerry Oscarson; U-Bruce White & Tim Anderson

Coffee Servers: 7-Adrienne Sjoström; 14-Dorothy Martens; 21 & 28-volunteers needed



Decorated for the holidays

The FOG churches were attractively decorated for the holidays. This was taken the day of the Sunday School Christmas program at First Lutheran.

Bernadotte Quilting Days

• Quilting Days, Monday & Tuesday, Jan. 8 & 9, 9:00 a.m. Bring sack lunch, beverage provided. Leaders: Konnie Bartels, Dorothy Martens, Doris Kaduce & Sally Webster. Everyone welcome!

BLC Council recognizes Lori Fenske

The Bernadotte Church Council would like to recognize Lori Fenske for serving as BLC's church secretary for more than 10 years, as of summer, 2017. Lori works tireless hours, putting all the details together for the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter, and numerous other organizational tasks for Bernadotte. Thank you, Lori, and congratulations for surpassing ten years with us. We appreciate all you do!

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Lori has also added secretarial duties for First Lutheran and does the bulletins for Swan Lake—juggling everything around her full time job at Kraft. Thanks for all you do at all three churches, Lori!



Sibley County Choral Society at BLC

The 24-member Sibley County Choral Society presented one of its three Christmas concerts at Bernadotte Lutheran Church Saturday evening, December 9. Additional concerts were held at Gaylord and Le Sueur.



Community Hymn Sing held at First Lutheran Church

The 45th annual Lafayette Area Community Hymn Sing was held at First Lutheran Sunday evening, December 10. Musicians from area churches took part, singing solos or in a choir, playing instruments, or giving a reading. As always, there was group singing and the evening ended with goodies and fellowship.

Taking part were: First Lutheran choir, top left; Heidi Hagstrom and her sister Tracy Durant, center; Pegeen Rozeske, middle right; Traci Abrahamson, far right; St. Gregory the Great Choir, below. Greg Bieraugel, from St. Gregory's, also sang a solo.



Planning ahead for the Swedish Choir Concert in April

The Swedish college choir from Jonkoping, Sweden is returning to Bernadotte Lutheran on Tuesday, April 24 to perform an evening concert. The group will arrive about 4:00 p.m. and will rehearse before supper. As they've done previously, the group will stay overnight with host families. The Bernadotte

performance will be the last venue on the 2018 tour. The group will head to Chicago for a flight back to Sweden the next day.

Host families from all three congregations (and the community) will be sought as the date gets closer. Five to eight volunteers will also be needed to serve food and/or help usher, etc.



Youth make Advent Logs

About 20 FOG fifth through ninth graders learned about the counter-cultural quiet of Advent by decorating Advent "logs" December 6. Laura and Kyle Dalquist provided and prepared the logs.

Tarik Gavranovic and Tyson Hutton vacuumed shavings from the logs before the others arrived. Landon Uhde, Harley Sjogren,

and Eli Drummer worked on their logs and Jaydan Youngblom showed off his creation.

The students were given simple devotions they could use with their families throughout Advent to help prepare for the birth of Jesus.

