



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 7, Issue 7 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran February 2018

Schedule for Lent & Holy Week

Ash Wednesday, February 14, marks the beginning of Lent. The theme for Lent this year is “Approaching Lent through our senses.” Fields of Grace will again participate in a round robin with the following congregations:

- Trinity and St. Paul’s in Gaylord, Pastor Scott Richards
- Our Savior’s Lutheran, Cleveland, Pastor Liz Rossing
- Trinity Lutheran, St. Peter, Pastor Joy Ekstedt
- Union Presbyterian, St. Peter, Pastor Andrew Foster Davis

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Lenten services are all at 7:00 p.m.
(following 6 p.m. soup suppers...see below)

February 14	Ash Wednesday — Heidi	At Bernadotte
February 21	Minister Heidi	At Bernadotte
February 28	Pastor Scott Richards	At First
March 7	Pastor Andrew Foster Davis	At First
March 14	Pastor Nate Loung	At Swan Lake
March 21	Pastor Elizabeth Rossing	At Swan Lake

Holy Week Schedule

March 25	Palm Sunday & First Communion	
March 29	Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.	At Swan Lake
March 30	Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.	At First Lutheran
April 1	Easter Sunday — 6:30 a.m.	at Bernadotte
	8:00 a.m.	at Swan Lake
	9:30 a.m.	at First Lutheran

Wednesday School Schedule

Wednesday School will meet at Bernadotte Wednesday, January 31 and February 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The church will be open and staffed starting at 5:00 pm.

The fifth and sixth graders will NOT meet on Wednesday nights during Lent. However, those preparing for confirmation (grades seven through nine) are expected to attend midweek Lenten services.

The 7th-9th grade students will prepare soup suppers before the Lenten services. Youth director Mark Haler will coordinate the 6:00 p.m. meals. The kids and their parents will bring crock pots of soup and the youth account will provide bread and drinks.

Sunday School

Sunday School continues each Sunday at both Bernadotte and First Lutheran, 10:15 a.m. at Bernadotte and 10:30 at First.

Bible Study moving to FLC

Monday morning Community Bible Study will resume Monday, January 29—from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. However, it is shifting locations and will now be held at **First Lutheran Church** in Lafayette. Everyone welcome!

The new location will allow Minister Heidi to use the Internet and it will be quieter for class discussion.

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.

Swan Lake 150th anniversary

Mark it down! Swan Lake Lutheran will celebrate it’s 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.

Fields of Grace youth plan Ham Bingo

The FOG youth will hold another Ham Bingo Saturday, March 17, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the Lafayette Fire Station. The event will include 40 games, with prizes of bone-in half hams—or full large hams for blackout games. More details next month.

Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council — Wed., Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., BLC
- First Lutheran Council — Mon., Feb. 5, 5:30 p.m. at First
- Bernadotte Council — Mon., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., BLC

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

Epiphany occurred on January 6 this year, the day after the 12-day celebration of Christmas. Chances are the day came and went without our even being aware of it. The day of Epiphany hasn't been observed in any Lutheran churches of which I have been a part.

The English word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means "appearing" or "revealing." Epiphany focuses on God's self-revelation in Christ. On this day, some Christian traditions pay special attention to the visit of the Magi. Lutherans have traditionally focused on the baptism of Jesus on the Sunday closest to the Epiphany. We especially focus on the voice from heaven that identifies Jesus as God's Son. The emphasis is upon God making Godself known to the world through Jesus, the divine Son.

The theological essence of Epiphany is found in 2 Timothy 1:10: "but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." If you were reading this verse in Greek, you'd find the word *epiphaneia* where we have "appearing." God has made "all of this" plain to us through the epiphany of Christ.

But what is "all of this?" We find an answer in the previous verse: "For God saved us and called us to live a holy

life. God did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was God's plan from before the beginning of time—to show us God's grace through Christ Jesus." The original language makes it clear that "all of this" is God's plan (or purpose) and grace. In other words, through Jesus, God not only reveals Godself to us, but also reveals God's plan to save us, a plan that centers in God's grace. The gracious plan of God reflects and confirms God's gracious character.

If we want to know God, we must turn our eyes to Jesus. In Jesus' words and deeds, and most of all in Jesus' sacrificial death, Jesus reveals God to us. Throughout the season of Epiphany, let us thank God for making Godself known to us in such a marvelous way. And let us renew our commitment to sharing this good news with the world.

Something to ponder...

"Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity. True community requires commitment and openness. It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other."

David Spangler

To contact Heidi:

507-766-2729 or heidijohagstrom@gmail.com

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. Please contact Deb Sjostrom if you can help.

Newsletter editor has new email address

Newsletter editor Ruth Klossner is changing her email provider. As a result, she has a new email address—**cowladyruth@gmail.com**. Please use it for any communication.



BLC WELCA Brunch



Nearly 20 ladies and one little guy gathered at Hahn's in Winthrop for Bernadotte's annual WELCA brunch January 6.

It was a nice get-together on a winter morning—and the food was great, as always!

VINE Faith in Action provides rural transportation service

People living in Nicollet, Blue Earth, and Le Sueur Counties now have access to rural countywide public transportation for the first time. After years in the making, TRUE Transit is now offering scheduled routes and community dial-a-ride service to assist those needing to do their shopping, get to the doctor, or visit family and friends at an affordable rate.

At the request of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Blue Earth, Nicollet, and Le Sueur Counties, VINE Faith in Action created a public transit system to serve people of all ages living in unserved rural areas. Now residents in

Lafayette can get picked up at their door and go anywhere in Blue Earth, Nicollet and Le Sueur County and even New Ulm.

TRUE Transit operates Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Routes, schedules, and more information can be found online at www.truetransit.org. Rides can be booked online or by calling (800) 560-1575.

Passenger fares on scheduled routes are just \$3.00. If a passenger needs a ride outside of the scheduled routes, TRUE Transit will try to accommodate that request for a premium price starting at \$6.00.



Two days of quilting at BLC—with two more coming



The Bernadotte ladies spent January 8 and 9 making some beautiful quilts. They'll be back at it Monday and Tuesday, February 12 and 13—and invite ALL interested ladies to join them, starting at 9:00 a.m.



FEBRUARY 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 4 & 11-Merrill & Lila Ellies; 18-Darrell & Traci Abrahamson; 25-Harley Sjogren & Eric Sjogren

Greeter: Brian Martens **Reader:** Deb Grant

Liturgist: 4-Charlie Hartley; 11 & 18-Charles Youngblom; 25-Brad DeBoer

Visiting: Bette Johnson & Sue Helget

Communion Bread: Joyce Reese

Altar: Mary Martens & Cindy Youngblom

Coffee Servers: 4-Laurie Larson & Aimee Altmann; 11-Ann Gieseke & Beth Gavranovic; 18-Kris Hagberg & Ann Gieseke; 25-Deanne Sjogren & Harley Sjogren

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Jerome & Shaun Anderson

Readers: 4-Lowell Sjostrom; 11-Ruth Klossner; 18-Rosanne Johnson; 25-Sally Webster

Acolyte: Marissa Anderson

Ushers: Tim Anderson, Beth Anderson, Jackie Helget, Bob Helget, Kyle Dalquist

Communion (Feb. 11 & 14): S-Tim Anderson; C-Rosanne Johnson; U-Trish Gieseke & Jim Young

Coffee Servers: 4-Sally Webster; 11-Judy Ross; 18-Wendy Schulz & Pam White; 25-Romi White & Rosanne Johnson

Equipping Congregations Day

The 2018 Equipping Congregations Day will be held Saturday, February 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Vinje Lutheran and Beth Lutheran in Willmar. Minister Heidi reports, "I heard fabulous things about this day from others—not just pastors. It might be especially appealing this year because Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is the keynote speaker."

She is encouraging church council presidents to attend and other members are welcome. Each group attending pays a flat fee for attendance—\$75 per congregation or parish with total average worship attendance of 100 or less. Registration includes all materials, refreshments and lunch. If you are interested, contact Heidi immediately as registration is due February 1.

Upcoming Events at Bernadotte

- Quilting at Bernadotte Monday & Tuesday, February 12 & 13, 9:00 a.m. EVERYONE (member or not) welcome; bring sack lunch.
- Joint LCM/WELCA meeting, Sunday, March 11, 9:45 a.m. to discuss hosting Swedish singers. Servers (coffee & snack): Donna & Bob Webster and Renee & Neil Rasmussen
- Mission Sunday with Food for Kidz food packing, Sunday, April 22, time TBD
- Pie & Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 6
- Swedefest Midsummer Picnic, Saturday, June 23
- Outdoor Services—A number of Sundays in July and August.

Called to his Heavenly home



Arnold Sandquist, 88, of Lafayette died Monday, January 22, 2018 at the Good Samaritan Society in Winthrop.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday,

February 1 at Bernadotte Lutheran Church. Burial will be in First Lutheran Cemetery in Lafayette in the afternoon. Visitation will be from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. prior to the service.

Arnold is survived by niece Gayla (Carl) Mattson; nephew Les Lueck; a great-niece, a great-nephew, six great-great-nieces and nephews, and many good friends.

Good News from the F06 churches

Bernadotte members Bruce White and Jim Bartels attended the American Farm Bureau Federation's 99th Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee January 5-10.

They were there as guests of Minnesota Farm Bureau, receiving expense-paid trips as Post-Secondary Educator of the Year and Ag Communicator of the Year, respectively.



Bernadotte's 150th items still available

Prices have been reduced on select BLC 150th Anniversary items.

- Bernadotte History Books — Now \$25 each or 2/\$40
- Pewter Ornaments — Now \$8 each or 2/\$15
- BLC Lapel Pins — Now \$2 each
- BLC Can Coozies — Now \$1 each

Limited items of Bernadotte clothing, as well as Anniversary DVDs, are also available. Contact Ruth, Lori, Sally or Mary for purchases.