



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 7, Issue 9

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

April 2018

Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule

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	

Bernadotte and Swan Lake will have Easter breakfasts after their services. First Lutheran will not have a breakfast this year.

Baptism at Bernadotte



Kyle and Laura Dalquist are proud to announce the baptism of their son, Lane Alexander Dalquist, on Sunday, March 25. His sponsors are Tony and Kelly Martens and William and LeAnn Olson. Lane's grandparents are Tim and Wendy Schulz, Keith and Carla Wolff, and Dennis and Beth (Burns) Dalquist.

The very special baptismal gown Lane wore was first worn by his great-grandpa, Carl Martens, in 1927. Lane is the 26th baby in the family to wear the gown. Fourteen of those family members were at the church Sunday and are pictured below.

Lane was born January 30 and weighed nine lbs. He was 22.5 inches long.



Vision Info/Resource Fair

The Fields of Grace Churches are joining with the Lafayette Area Lions to host a Focus on Vision Impairment and Blindness Information & Resource Fair, Wednesday, April 25. The 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. gathering at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette will include a panel discussion, as well as displays of available resources for those experiencing vision issues.

Lafayette native Charlene Guggisberg, a staff member at Minnesota State Services for the Blind, will be the main presenter. Additional Services for the Blind and MN Lions Vision Foundation representatives will be on hand to share resources about daily living skills, assistive equipment, mobility options, and support services.

People who have vision impairment issues—as well as those who work with or employ them—will find information of use at this free event.

For more information, contact Bonnie Dinsmore at 507-276-8120 or Heidi Hagstrom.

Check the poster on page 5 for more info.

Food for Kidz coming to Bernadotte

Bernadotte's annual Food For Kidz Sunday—food packing day—will be held Sunday April 22. Packing, in the church basement will go from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Some stronger folks are needed to assist the set up team from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Bernadotte hopes to raise about \$3,000 to help cover the cost of the food packed, along with shipping costs. BLC organizations, as well as individuals, are asked to consider giving. A collection container is in the back of church—feel free to contribute through April 22.

Pizza will be served at 11:00 a.m. with devotions led by Minister Heidi.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., April 2, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., April 16, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Apr. 4, 7:45 at First

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

I recently learned about a study conducted at the University of Southern California showing that most adult children model the faith of their parents. One very revealing and challenging insight from the study is the importance of what they have identified as “parental warmth” for the transmission of faith. Those children who remained in the faithful fold as adults had parents who were consistent, unconditionally supportive, and active role models of love, respect, and patience with their children and their faith development.

Another revealing insight from the study showed that communities are vitally important to faith being passed on. One imagines then that congregations must be aggressive and intentional about engaging mentoring programs within the congregation and outside of it.

A further significant result of the study is the increasing or returned importance of grandparents and great grandparents in the transmission of faith. Because of their increased life expectancies and demographic changes in American society, Millennials and Generation Xers will have greater involvement with their grandparents and great grandparents than any previous generation of grandchildren in American history.

So how can parents and faith communities like ours have the best chance at fruitfully passing faith on to the next generations based on this study's findings? Here is what the study suggests:

1) Focus on the quality of your own relationships. First, parents need to focus most on the “nature and quality” of their relationship with their children as much or more than what they teach about the faith. This in itself fosters the faith overall.

2) Belong to a faith community. Faith communities “fill the gap” by promoting programs inside and outside of the church that give children and youth a warm engagement with the faith through relationships that are authentic, patient, and loving. Included in this must be an emphasis in engaging retired persons as their faith modeling has a significant impact.

3) Churches should focus on the family unit. Congregations should focus on the family unit, however its makeup, as central to the transmission of faith. Equipping parents to live authentically their faith in a genuine, warm way will transmit Christian faith to the children.

4) Take a long range view. According to the study, religious exploration should be welcomed in a diverse world. The research showed that if a child has been given a firm foundation in the faith of the parents, they more often than not retain or return to that faith. Allowing the child to learn about other faith traditions should not be seen as threatening, as long as the parents have humbly and warmly modeled their own faith.

What does this mean for FOG? It means that, if we want to pass on faith to the next generation, all of us need to tend our own faith and invite the young people to share in it with us. No one can say they “did their part” when their own children were in Sunday School. Parents, single adults, grandparents, even great-grandparents have a responsibility—a privilege—to invest in the formation of the young people who are part of our community. In the fall, we will ask everyone to consider being involved in Christian education. Please start to pray now about how you might contribute to the faith formation of the beautiful children in our midst.

To contact Heidi: 507-766-2729 or heidijohagstrom@gmail.com

Swedish Choir performing at Bernadotte April 24

The Vettern College Choir from Jonkoping, Sweden will present a 7:00 p.m. concert at Bernadotte Lutheran Church on Tuesday, April 24. Everyone is welcome to enjoy their wonderful performance. A free will offering will be accepted to help cover the choir's expenses .

The group will arrive about 4:00 p.m. and will rehearse and visit Ruth's collection before supper at the church.

The choir members will stay overnight in the area. A few more host families from our three congregations (or

the community) are needed to host the students from Tuesday evening to Wednesday morning, April 25.

Five or six volunteers will also be needed to serve a catered supper and/or help usher, etc. Please contact Deb Sjostrom or Ruth Klossner if you are interested in being a host home or server.

The Bernadotte performance will be the last venue on the choir's 2018 tour. The group will board their bus Wednesday morning to head to Chicago for a flight back to Sweden.



Second Ham Bingo Held



The Fields of Grace youth held another great community event Saturday evening, March 17—Ham Bingo—just in time for Easter. With Joe Maidl volunteering his time to call the games, 180 cards were sold for either 20 or 40 games of bingo at the Lafayette Fire Hall. A big thank you to all!

Like last year, the event was a great success. Wakefield Pork donated the pork for the prizes and the Lafayette Fire and Ambulance Departments provided space for the big event. Also contributing to the evening's success were Community Insurance, Lafayette Lumber, Lafayette Lions, Lewisville Legion, and Dave's Place.

The youth served sandwiches, pop, popcorn, candy, and more from the kitchen.



APRIL 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 1-Al Pehrson & Jamie Friedrichs; 8-Mike & Connor Hoffmann; 15-Jim Langhoff & Jacob Broste; 22-Harley & Denny Sjogren; 29-Susie & Marlin Wendorff
Greeter: Charles Youngblom **Reader:** Sandy Hartley
Liturgist: 1, 8 & 15-Jorja Langhoff; 22 & 29-Brad DeBoer
Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays): Joyce Reese
Altar: Lila Ellies & Myra Shingobe
Coffee Servers: 8-Shauna Hoffmann & Jil Haler; 15-Linda Youngblom & Di Youngblom; 22-Harley Sjogren & Deanna Sjogren; 29-Lori Brethorst & Sheri Portner

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Tim & Beth Anderson
Readers: 1-Austin Gieseke; 8-Bob Helget; 15-Jim Bartels; 22-Judy Radke; 29-Lori Fenske
Acolyte: Anna Peters
Ushers: Trish Gieseke, John Gieseke, Dylan Gieseke, Ron Johnson, Scott Johnson
Communion (Apr. 1 & 8): S-Trish Gieseke; C-Deb Sjostrom; U-Ruth Klossner, Tim Schulz
Coffee Servers: 1-Easter; 8-Dorothy Martens; 15-Karen Wingen; 22-Food for Kidz; 29-open

Bible Study continues at FLC

We believe that people meet God in Scripture, where God's relationship to—and intention for—humankind is revealed. It is, therefore, important for us to engage with Scripture through regular and meaningful Bible study.

One opportunity for Bible study takes place on Mondays, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at First Lutheran Church.

Right now the group is studying the gospel of John. Come once, or come regularly.

Upcoming dates are April 9, 16, 23 & 30. (No Bible study Easter Monday, April 2)

Wednesday School Schedule

The parents/guardians/grandparents of FOG students in grades 5 through 9 are invited to First Lutheran on Wednesday, April 4. Supper will be served at 6:00, with a meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The intention of the meeting is to discuss the change from Sunday morning Christian education classes to Wednesday nights for youth in grades 5-9.

Classes resume for students on Wednesday, April 11, and will continue for the next five Wednesdays (April 18 & 25 and May 2, 9 & 16) at Swan Lake Lutheran Church. Supper will be served at 5:30, class from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and worship from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events at Bernadotte

- Easter Breakfast, Sunday, April 1, after 6:30 a.m. service; simplified menu (rolls & beverages), everyone welcome.
- Spring Grounds Clean-up, Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.; weather permitting! Bring yard and lawn tools—all welcome!
- Installation of new council members, Sunday, April 15 at 11 a.m. service. Welcome and thanks to Tim Schulz, Ruth Klossner, and Rosanne Johnson.
- Mission Sunday with Food for Kidz food packing, Sunday, April 22, 9:00-11:00 a.m.; devotions & pizza at 11:00 a.m.
- Pie & Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 6
- Swedefest Midsummer Picnic, Saturday, June 23

WELCA Synod Convention

The 31st Southwest Minnesota Synod Convention Women of the ELCA will take place June 29-30 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. The in-kind offering will be personal care kits, used shoes for Soles 4 Souls, and personal care items for the VA Hospital in St. Cloud. The most needed items for the VA are new white men's socks and Chapstick.

Baptism at First Lutheran

Delaney Kay Decko was baptized at First Lutheran Church Sunday, March 18. Delaney was born March 20, 2017. Her parents are Tim and Katie Decko. Her baptismal sponsors are her father's niece, Callie Decko, and her father's brother, Randy Decko. Welcome to the family of God, Delaney!

Swan Lake 150th anniversary

Mark it on your calendar! Swan Lake Lutheran will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a festival worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19. Bishop Jon Anderson will be the guest preacher. Everyone is welcome!

There will be an outdoor tent for worship at the church site. A catered brunch will follow the service.

Special music will be provided by Rachel Kurtz, a nationally-known singer and songwriter from Minneapolis. Rachel sings a combination of gospel and soul, has a powerful voice and vision. It's exciting to have Rachel share her message. Check out her website at rachelkurtz.org.

Rice cookers' help wanted

Bernadotte's 2018 Swedefest Committee is considering bringing "Swedish Smorgasbord Rice" back to the event menu. Committee members would like to know if any BLC members—or friends of members—would like to make this dish. The committee would be very grateful for anyone who has the talent and would be able to bring one or more dishes of the tasty rice to Swedefest on June 23, 2018. The recipe will be provided for those who don't have it. Please contact Deb Sjostrom at 276-0452 if you're willing to help.



*Having Vision
Problems?
Know Someone
who is??*

Come to Lafayette's

Focus on Vision Impairment Information and Resource Fair

Wed., Apr. 25, 1-4 pm — First Lutheran Church

1020 Lafayette Ave, Lafayette

Charlene Guggisberg, other staffers from MN State Services for the Blind, and MN Lions Vision Foundation will share the latest research & info about vision loss—along with resources for daily living, assistive equipment, mobility options, and support services

Learn about...

- Vision diseases, low vision causes & options
- Vision changes that come with aging
- Protecting eyes at work & home
- Modifications employers can make for employees
- Magnification & other devices
- Night driving tips
- And More

Coffee & refreshments served

*Need more info?
Call 507-276-8120*

*Co-sponsored by Fields of Grace
Lutheran Churches and
Lafayette Area Lions Club*





The Vettern College Choir from Jonkoping, Sweden, is returning to Bernadotte Lutheran Church

4.5 miles east & 1 mile north of Lafayette, on County Road 10

Tuesday, April 24 • 7:00 p.m.

**The public is invited to hear this outstanding group
A free will offering will be accepted to help defray choir's expenses**