



Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 7, Issue 12

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

July 2018

Joint Worship Service
Sunday, July 1, 9:30 a.m.
Bernadotte Church Park
 Fellowship & refreshments will follow

Outdoor services at Bernadotte

Bernadotte has planned four Sunday outdoor services with special music. Everyone from the FOG parishes and all friends and neighbors are welcome.

- Sun., Jul. 1, 9:30 a.m. with George's Concertina Band; Fields of Grace joint service
- Sun., Jul. 15, 11 a.m. with Carver Creek
- Sun., Aug. 12, 11 a.m. with Gerry & Carol Larson
- Sun., Aug. 26, 11 a.m. with Alan & Matt Carlson

~ Services will be moved indoors if weather is bad.

If any BLC or FOG member would like to help host the August 12 service, please contact Sally Webster at 507-276-3027 or 228-8541. Host duties include assisting usher with set up, greeting musicians, serving light refreshments, and assisting with clean-up/putting chairs away.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., July 2, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., July 16, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., July 25, 7:00 p.m., BLC

Heidi's Ordination Update

Heidi has completed her internship and will be ordained Sunday, September 23, at 3:00 pm at her home congregation, Cokato Evangelical Lutheran. All are welcome to attend the celebratory worship in Cokato.



BLC WELCA packs kits

The Bernadotte ladies packed school kits before church on Sunday, June 10. The kits will be delivered to the WELCA Synodical Convention June 29 & 30 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud.

In addition to this newsletter, there are a number of other ways to stay in touch with everything that's happening at our churches

1) Fields of Grace website—
fieldsofgracemn.com

2) New email contacts

pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com (Heidi)
communications@fieldsofgracemn.com (Ruth K)
president@fieldsofgracemn.com (Brad D)
secretary@fieldsofgracemn.com (Lori F)

3) Bernadotte's Facebook Page

The BLC page includes news and photos for all three churches

Sunday, Sept. 9, Good Neighbor Sunday in Lafayette

Watch future newsletters for all the details

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 Reflections

On Saturday night, June 16, Trenton, NJ, hosted Art All Night (AAN), an annual festival that lasts for 24 hours and features art of all kinds—painting, drawing, sculpture, music, dance, etc. The New Jersey Synod's bishop, Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, wrote this about AAN this year. "My husband, daughter, and I attend AAN annually because we believe public art is essential to a healthy community. We go because we see and hear things we understand and love. We go because we see and hear things we don't understand at all, but from which we learn. We go because the diverse community that gathers for AAN looks like the whole kingdom of God and it gives us hope to see a glimpse of it.

"So, it was with a heavy heart I heard the news on Sunday morning of a shooting at AAN. As I write this, the details as to what happened are still unclear, but guns were drawn, shots were fired, people were killed and critically wounded, and fear reigned. The scene which only hours before had been one of joy and beauty, was now a major crime scene. After hearing this news, I headed to church feeling angry, helpless, and sad.

"Those have been my emotions far too often in recent weeks—anger, helplessness, and sadness. I have felt them watching the news of our government tearing babies and children away from their parents at our Southern border and then listening to our Attorney General misquoting Scripture and using our sacred texts to support this heartless practice. It is antithetical to life as a disciple of Jesus Christ to perpetrate such evil. It only adds to the atrocity

trying to justify it by using the very words of the one who bids us to love the stranger and welcome little children.

"In worship on Sunday, I heard Pastor Daniel Eisenberg say, 'We worship a mustard Messiah.' He went on to illustrate how Jesus shows up in unexpected places, getting into the cracks of life, much as a mustard weed grows in the cracks of a sidewalk or along a road or in places that seem impossible to sustain any kind of life. But our mustard Messiah brings life, even into the graveyard—even, and especially, into the places of violence and fear, of separation and hopelessness, of anger and sadness."

Thank you to Bishop Bartholomew for sharing these words of hope. She went on to write, "Together, blessed by our mustard Messiah, we have been given the joy of new life so that we are not left in our anger or helplessness. We are strengthened for service in Jesus' name and sent into the world to share the extravagant love we have received. We work for peace and risk befriending those who differ from us. We step into places of violence and fear to bear witness to the one who is the prince of peace. We go beyond expectation and love our enemies. We advocate for just immigration policies and challenge policies that betray our core values. We seek to be truth-tellers and learn the facts about seeking asylum so we can assist those trying to find refuge in our country. We live out our calling to be ambassadors for hope so that joy returns, and we do, indeed, get a glimpse of the kingdom of God here on earth."

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

Wedding bells will ring— and ring again!

Wendy Gjerde of First Lutheran and Brad Woller of Stewart will be married July 14 at First.

Alex Briard of Bernadotte Lutheran and Samantha Arndt of Nicollet will be married July 28 at Bernadotte.

Mark and Jil Haler of First Lutheran celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at the Sunday, June 24 service at FLC. They were married June 26, 1993 at Lewisville. They will celebrate with an open house Saturday, June 30, starting at 5:00 p.m., at their home at 631 5th Street in Lafayette.

First Lutheran cemetery

The FLC cemetery board wants to put a bench or benches in the cemetery for everyone to enjoy. Those interested in donating or giving memorial money--- are asked to put it in the offering plate and label it for the cemetery bench. Thrivent dollars can be used if volunteers do the work.

Upcoming Community Events

- Friday Night Ice Cream Socials & Lafayette Band Concerts; June 29 and July 6, 13 & 20. Community Center & Mini Park. Socials served by community groups 5:30 pm, concerts 7:30 pm.
- Lions' Movies in the Park, Lafayette Mini-Park, sundown, Jun. 29; Jul. 13 & 27; and Aug. 3, 17 & 31.

Clothing drive wrap-up

A big thank you to Mark Haler and Jim Langhoff for picking up the clothing bags from Lafayette and Bernadotte and taking them to Arlington. Thank you to all who helped load the truck.

Bernadotte Notes

The BLC WELCA/LCM joint meeting and hamburger fry has been rescheduled to Sunday, September 23 (from the listed date of September 9)

JULY 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 8-Jim & Nancie Carlson; 15-Tarik & Jasenko Gavranovic; 22-Doug Durheim & Dwight DeBoer; 29-Myron Isaacson & Bob Youngblom

Greeter: Nikyta Youngblom **Reader:** Nikyta & Jayden Youngblom

Liturgist: 8 & 15-Charles Youngblom; 22 & 29-Charlie Hartley

Communion Bread (4th Sunday): Joyce Reese

Altar: Amy Davis, April Rose & Nikyta Youngblom

Coffee Servers: 8-Tami Stadtherr & Bette Johnson; 15-Ann Gieseke & Beth Gavranovic; 22-Diane Durheim & Mindy Engel; 29-Di, Tom, Jayden & Nikyta Youngblom

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Marissa Anderson & Meghan Houdek

Readers: 1 (Joint Service)-Trish Gieseke; 8-Austin Gieseke; 15-Tim Schulz; 22-Jim Bartels; 29-Judy Radke

Acolyte: Mia Ross

Ushers: Jerry Oscarson, Julia Oscarson, Kelly Peters, Lori Peters, Andrew Rasmussen

Communion (July 8): S-Jerry Oscarson; C-Jim Young; U-Rosanne Johnson & Deb Sjostrom

Coffee Servers: (fellowship only on special occasions during the summer)



First Lutheran's WELCA served tacos in a bag for the Lafayette ice cream social before the Friday, June 8 band concert.

First Lutheran's ice cream social



**Joint Service at Bernadotte—
Sunday, July 1—9:30 am
Fellowship & refreshments to follow**

Swan Lake 150th anniversary

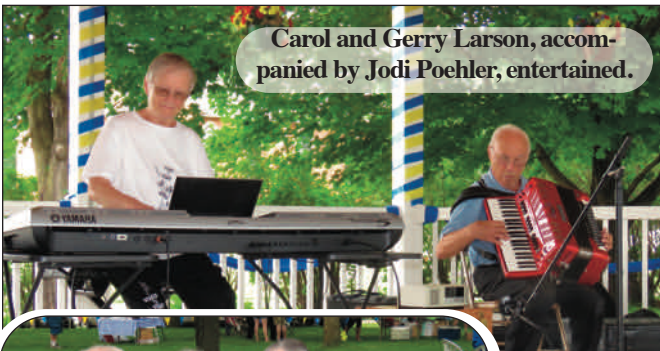
Swan Lake Lutheran will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a festival worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19. Bishop Jon Anderson will be the guest preacher. Everyone is welcome! More details next month!



The set-up crew got things ready in short order.



Swedefest sandwiched in between the rains



Carol and Gerry Larson, accompanied by Jodi Poehler, entertained.

Bernadotte couldn't have been luckier, getting great weather for its 24th annual Swedefest.



It was great to see Brian Petterson, Dave Martin, and Verone Langhorst (bottom).



The kids had fun in the bounce house, on horse-drawn wagon rides, and with the bean bag game.



Church members manned the serving line, ice cream stand, pop stand, and silent auction—which attracted a lot of bidders.





Bernadotte ice cream social

It was one of the best evenings of June when Bernadotte held its ice cream social, June 6. As always, the BLC ladies worked together to prepare and serve hot turkey sandwiches and BBQs, pie, ice cream, and more. The Lafayette Band entertained the audience.



Good News Items from the FOG churches

Clarissa Giefer of Swan Lake graduated with highest honors from South Central College in Mankato May 10. She completed an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences. Clarissa will transfer to South Dakota State University this fall. She is the daughter of Lori and Tim Giefer.



Austin Gieseke shot a 95 (of 100) in the state high school trap meeting, competing in the varsity division among the 8A schools Monday, June 18. He had a perfect round of 25 in his last shoot. Austin tied for 22nd of 275 shooters in the male varsity division and was high male for the Nicollet varsity team. He's the son of John and Trish Gieseke of Bernadotte Lutheran.

