



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<http://www.fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 8, Issue 1

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

August 2018

Swan Lake's 150th event Sunday, August 19

Swan Lake Lutheran will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a festive outdoor worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19. Bishop Jon Anderson will be the guest preacher.

The joint communion service will be held in a tent so there will be room for everyone! (No church at First or Bernadotte that day.)

Special music will be provided by Rachel Kurtz, a nationally-known singer and songwriter from Minneapolis. Rachel sings a combination of gospel and soul and has a powerful voice.

Swan Lake members assure that there will be plenty of parking, with shuttle service as needed.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a brunch, catered by Gutes Essen, following the service. A free will offering will be accepted. Stay to visit afterwards.

Good Neighbor Sunday

Mark your calendars for Good Neighbor Sunday...and watch for more details next month.

Sunday, September 9 is "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday across the ELCA. FOG will acknowledge this special day by inviting our neighbors to a party at the Lafayette Mini-Park.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Tentative plans are for 10:30 a.m. worship; noon lunch of burgers, brats and beer; special music; games for kids; and a service project for all. Everyone is invited and there is no charge.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans—that all of life in Jesus Christ, every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life—flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.



'Farming' at the Parsonage

Before Heidi's arrival, it had been quite a few years since the Bernadotte parsonage property hosted livestock. Heidi changed that, with a few chickens last year. Now she has more (including a rooster)—and had a bigger chicken coop built for them. There are about two dozen chickens this year so Heidi will soon have lots of eggs. (Maybe we'll have to start making egg coffee again!)

And look at her raised gardens!!!!

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Aug. 6, 5:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Sept. 26, 7:45 FLC

Outdoor Services at Bernadotte

Bernadotte has two more Sunday outdoor services with special music coming up. Everyone from the FOG parishes and all friends and neighbors are welcome.

- 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.

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.

Sunday, Sept. 9, Good Neighbor Sunday in Lafayette

Watch for all the details in church bulletins, on posters and in next month's newsletter

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

I was moved to tears watching broadcasts online from the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Some of my tears were the result of nostalgia—that was the ministry I led for 18 years after all—but most of my tears were the result of overwhelming joy for the young people attending.

What I saw online was 30,000+ teenagers and their adult sponsors celebrating the Christian witness of our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The church body with which we are affiliated has a deep theology of welcome and inclusion by God. Is our parish reflecting the same kind of welcome?

In Houston, the young people heard from a speaker who used to seek relief from feelings that seemed too difficult to bear by cutting himself. Now he is a congregational youth leader, sharing with his young people that Christ bears his burdens and is the source of his hope.

They also heard from an 11-year-old transgender girl, a pastor's daughter, who has been embraced by her ELCA congregation as they reflect God's unconditional acceptance of her.

Then there was the Lutheran pastor who grew up as a Hindu who told her story of finding Christ through the

welcome of her college's Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Another pastor, whose arms and chest are covered with tattoos, shared her struggle with addiction, and how she experienced God's unqualified welcome in bread and wine.

While I was reveling in the stories of how God's welcome drove these people to our church, I was also aware how foreign the language and experience must have been for many young people in attendance. My guess is that they don't hear people in their congregations speaking so openly about people who are transgender or gay or Hindu or who struggle with addiction or mental illness.

While we who live in the bucolic communities of Lafayette, Bernadotte, and New Ulm may not deal directly with these same realities on a daily basis, we experience other struggles. There are people living among us who desperately need us to notice them, to welcome them, to love them, unconditionally.

Our message is profoundly simple: We believe that God loves you, period. There are no qualifiers. God is actually for you and not against you. How are you sharing that message?

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

Congratulations

Katie Johnson, daughter of Roger & Cathy Johnson, and Chris Harris-Peterson will be married at Bernadotte Saturday, August 18.

Katie and Chris are the parents of a new baby daughter—Isabelle Ruth—born Monday, June 18 at Abbott. Grandparents are Roger and Cathy Johnson and great-grandmother is Anna Johnson.

Swedefest Thank You

Thank you to EVERYONE who supported Bernadotte's Swedefest Celebration! We had a wonderful day of perfect weather (thanks to all who prayed!), working side-by-side, visiting, enjoying or preparing wonderful food, and better friendships. Approximately 375 people were served. We truly appreciate everyone who helped make the day so rewarding and memorable!

~2018 Swedefest Committee

Couples' Shower Planned

An Open House Couple's Shower for Jenna Krzmarzick and Elias Webster of Bernadotte will be held Sunday, August 26, following the 11:00 a.m. outdoor service and fellowship. The shower will be in the church basement. All men, women, and children are welcome.

Parents of the couple are Dennis and Diane Krzmarzick, Kim Locher, Casey Seabright, and the late Eric Webster. The couple is registered at Target and Amazon.

Anyone interested in being a hostess, please contact Wendy Schulz or Pam White. A planning meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, July 29 in the BLC church basement, prior to the 11:00 Service.

Upcoming Community Events

• Lions' Movies in the Park, Lafayette Mini-Park, sundown, Aug. 3 (*Hotel Transylvania 1 and 2*), 17 (*Lion King 1 and 1-1/2*) & 31 (*Sing*).

Bernadotte Note

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

AUGUST 2018 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 5-Jay Hagberg & Myron Isaacson; 12-Dean Pehrson & Tyson Hutton; 26-Brian Martens & Myron Isaacson.

Greeter: Darlene & Howard Lokensgard

Readers: Mary Martens & Jorja Langhoff

Liturgist: 5 & 26-Brad DeBoer; 12-Charles Youngblom

Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays): Joyce Reese

Altar: Shauna Hoffmann & Jorja Langhoff

Coffee Servers: 5-Myra Shingobe & Lila Ellies; 12-Jo Pehrson & Heidi Hutton; 26-Mary Martens & Deb Grant

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Sally Webster & Elias Webster

Acolyte: Marissa Anderson

Readers: 5-Lori Fenske; 12-Lowell Sjostrom; 26-Shaun Anderson

Ushers: Lori Fenske, Neil Rasmussen, Stacy Kline, Phil Wingen, Karen Wingen

Communion (Aug. 12): S-Lori Fenske; C-Shaun Anderson; U-Jim Young & Steve Radke

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

Theresa (Martens) Kampa seeks fourth kidney transplant

Theresa Kampa—the daughter of Bernadotte members Ken and Dorothy Martens and sister of Jackie (Bob) Helget—is looking for her fourth kidney transplant.

Theresa's first transplant—received at age 16 from her mom—lasted 18 years. Subsequent transplants from friends lasted five years and 12 years, respectively.

Theresa and her sisters, Jackie and Sarah, grew up in the Bernadotte neighborhood. Theresa now lives in St Peter and attends Trinity Lutheran there. She has two daughters, Kelsey, who will start college at the U of MN Rochester, and Alyssa, an incoming eighth grader at St Peter Public.

At this point, Theresa is able to continue working her full time job as Hospice Care Transition Coordinator for St Croix Hospice, based in Oakdale with an office in Mankato. That job requires a lot of traveling. Because of her kidney complications and struggles with anemia, she is often more tired than normal. She is ready to begin dialysis, if needed, if her health conditions worsen, and is also nearly ready to again go on the active list for a live donor. Despite all of this Theresa has a very positive attitude and takes it in stride.

Theresa hopes anyone in relatively good health might consider completing the online questionnaire, the first step to being a donor. The Mayo Clinic will call potential donors for more complete health history and will send a kit for additional testing. Potential donors can change their mind at any time and can also choose to keep their decision to donate confidential.

Please consider this important program for Theresa. To start the process, simply go to Mayoclinic.org, then Living Donor Transplant, health history questionnaire, and then



Theresa Kampa, far right, with mom Dorothy, left, and daughters Kelsey and Alyssa. □

choose “kidney.” Enter “Theresa Kampa” as the person you wish to donate to. The questionnaire is similar to a blood donor questionnaire and it takes just 10-15 minutes. Theresa's health insurance covers her expenses, as well as the donor's expenses.

Theresa may also need volunteers to stay with her after surgery and to help with her daughters in various capacities. If Theresa needs dialysis first, she may also need volunteer drivers. Most of all, Theresa would appreciate our prayers. Please keep Theresa on your prayer list and consider completing the questionnaire or encourage others who may be interested. It is often more difficult, the older a recipient gets, to find the best match for Theresa, so the more potential transplant candidates the better.

FOG Worship Schedule Notes—Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, August 19—Joint service at Swan Lake, 150th Anniversary

Sunday, September 2—Joint Service at Swan Lake, 9:30 am

Sunday, September 9—Good Neighbor Sunday, Lafayette Mini-Park, 10:30 service, noon lunch, games, service project

Looking ahead to fall Christian education

Although plans are “still in the works,” some dates have been set for Christian education classes this fall.

- Sun., Aug. 26—Blessing of Backpacks at First & Bernadotte
- Sun., Sept. 16—Sunday School starts (pre-K thru 5th grade) at First Lutheran

- Wed., Sept. 19—Wednesday School starts (grades 5-9); at First Lutheran.

Parents of school-age children will receive a letter later in August with all the details.

Pre-K/Kindergarten Sunday School teacher needed

Can/will you commit to loving six adorable Pre-K and K children by teaching Sunday School at First Lutheran for five Sundays—September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14? If you can take on this important task, please contact Carmen Broste at 507-276-3179. Sunday School time is 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.



First BLC outdoor service moved indoors; second held as planned



Weather moved the July 1 “outdoor” service with George’s Concertina Band indoors, but the July 15 service with Carver Creek Bluegrass took place as planned on a beautiful Sunday morning.

