



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com/>

Vol. 8, Issue 9

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

April 2019



Lent & Holy Week Schedule

All Lenten services at 7:00 p.m.

FOG youth will serve soup suppers at 6 pm before the Ash Wednesday and Midweek services

March 27	Midweek worship	Bernadotte
April 3	Midweek worship	Swan Lake
April 10	Midweek worship	Swan Lake
April 18	Maundy Thursday	Bernadotte
	with first communion	
April 19	Good Friday	First Luth.
April 21	Easter, 6:30 am	First Luth
	Easter, 8:00 am	Swan Lake
	Easter, 9:30 am	Bernadotte



Membership inquiry

Pastor Heidi is offering two sessions about church membership on Sunday, April 28 and May 5, following worship at First Lutheran. After sharing a simple meal, Pastor Heidi will talk about what it means to be a member of a church community.

Membership in the Christian church is not simply an opportunity to say "I'm a part of a club," but rather it is a biblical expression of connectedness, belonging-ness. In fact, there is no such thing in the New Testament as a church without some recognition of belonging—of membership in community. If you are interested in membership in any of the three FOG congregations, or are just curious, please join us!

FOG Youth Ham Bingo
Saturday, April 13
See poster on back page

New parish phone number

We now have a phone number for the whole FOG parish.

Since both Bernadotte and First Lutheran have had answering machines that were only attended sporadically—and Swan Lake did not have a phone—the FOG Parish has opted for a dedicated FOG phone line.

It's a second line on Pastor Heidi's phone. She will either answer calls immediately, or they will go to voicemail and she'll respond to them as soon as possible. She will then either handle the calls herself, or refer callers to the appropriate person at one of the churches.

The new number is **507-766-3471**

Please write this number down, put it in your phone, or remember it, as it's now the number to call to get the fastest response for any church matter.

First Communion preparation

Thursday, April 4 and 11, 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran

In the Lutheran tradition, all baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Baptism is the only pre-requisite to Holy Communion. Technically, a child can begin to receive Communion at any time after baptism, but Fields of Grace Parish has traditionally reserved this rite for fifth graders.

Ultimately, parents are a better judge of when children might be ready than some arbitrary age limit. You may notice that your child has begun to ask about what is going on during Communion, or asking to be included in the meal. When a child begins to express this sort of natural curiosity and excitement, it is often a good time to start Communion Preparation.

Fifth graders and their parents are expected to participate in the April 4 and April 11 sessions. If you have a child who is younger and who is expressing curiosity about Holy Communion, please come to the sessions. Please let Pastor Heidi know so she can prepare appropriately. Phone 507-766-3471 or email pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com.

Community Bible Study

The Monday morning Bible study is on a break until after Lent. It will start again on April 29, at 9:30 a.m. at First Lutheran, with a study of the parables of Jesus.

Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wed., Mar. 27, 8:00 p.m., BLC
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Apr. 1, 5:30 p.m., FLC
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Apr. 15, 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

Bernadotte Lutheran—9:30 a.m.—Communion the 2nd Sunday of the month

First Lutheran—11:00 a.m.—Communion the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month

Pastor Heidi's Reflections

I have long been fascinated with the phrase “Bible believing” that many fundamentalist and conservative evangelical churches use to describe themselves. Not only do I wonder what they mean by “Bible believing,” I also experience that phrase as an allegation that Christian churches that don't use that language are somehow not Christian enough.

I appreciate the passion that many “Bible believing” churches have. That passion is a good thing, but it's misdirected. Christians shouldn't “believe” in the Bible. We are not Biblians. We are Christians.

Don't get me wrong. I love the Bible. It's an important book. But it's not a member of the Trinity. It deserves to be respected, but it shouldn't be elevated above God.

“Bible believing churches” tend to think that the Bible is the very Word of God, supernaturally inspired in every word and absolutely free from error in the original documents. God's word is the final authority in all that it says. Therefore, it must be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

But the Bible doesn't work that way. It contains within itself many disagreements about the nature of God and how events unfolded.

There are disagreements that run throughout the Bible. Those disagreements are one of the things that I love about the Bible! The Bible models for us how to wrestle with God and ask questions about faith.

The Bible contains human testimony about how God works in the world, but it is not God's inerrant Word. The Bible points beyond itself to God, and in the New Testament, to the God revealed in Jesus. Martin Luther said that “the Bible was the manger in which the Christ was laid.” The Bible even claims that Jesus is the Word of God, not the Bible itself.

Even Jesus warned people about elevating the Bible above himself: “You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-47)

Jesus claimed that the scriptures are limited. You cannot have eternal life by believing in the Bible. In fact, when we elevate the Bible above God, it blocks us from our only access to eternal life.

The Bible is important, but we are not Biblians. We are Christians, called to come to Jesus.

To contact Heidi: 507-766-3471 or pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com

Baptism at Swan Lake

Leyna Marie, daughter of Wayne Robert Gieseke and Kortney Kristine Frechette, was baptized at Swan Lake Sunday, March 17. Leyna was born October 19, 2018.

Leyna's sponsors are Mike and Beth Eaves. Grandparents are Mary and Marv Gieseke of Swan Lake.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. at First Lutheran. No Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

FLC ice cream social

First Lutheran Church has set the date for its summer ice cream social—Friday, June 7. More details later.



APRIL 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 7-Erik & Tristan Sjogren; 14-Tom Brethorst & Randy Sandquist; 21-Tarik Gavranovic, Randy Altmann, Dwight DeBoer. 28-Mike & Shauna Hoffmann.
Greeters: Bill & Linda Youngblom
Reader: Linda Youngblom
Liturgist: 7 & 21-Jorja Langhoff; 14 & 28-Brad DeBoer
Altar: Lila Ellies & Jorja Langhoff
Coffee Servers: 7-Deanna Sjogren & Tristan Sjogren; 14-Laurie Larson & Darlene Lokensgard; 21-Easter; 28-Shauna Hoffman & Jil Haler.
Communion Bread (1st & 4th Sundays): Joyce Reese

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Tim & Beth Anderson
Acolyte: Austin Gieseke
Readers: 7-Judy Radke; 14-Lori Fenske; 21-Rosanne Johnson; 28-Ruth Klossner
Ushers: Trish Gieseke, John Gieseke, Dylan Gieseke, Ron Johnson, Scott Johnson
Communion (Apr. 14 & 21): S-Trish Gieseke; C-Elias Webster; U-Ruth Klossner, Tim Schulz
Coffee Servers: 7-Food for Kidz; 14-Shower; 21-Easter Brunch; 28—(need a volunteer)



It was one of those snowy days when Bernadotte hosted the World Day of Prayer program Friday, March 1.



Taking part as readers were (left photo) Mary Langhorst, Wendy Schulz, Sally Webster, Jessica Henderson, and Lois Currier, along with Pastor Heidi (above).

Bernadotte hosted World Day of Prayer March 1



Shaun Anderson and Rosanne Johnson (far left) narrated the program.

Romi White and Adrienne Sjostrom served coffee before the service.

Wednesday School

Students in grades 5-9 are serving the Lenten soup suppers through Wednesday, April 10.

The confirmation students are required to attend worship in lieu of class time on Wednesday nights. There is no class during Holy week, April 17.

The final three Wednesday night sessions will be held according to the usual schedule April 24, May 1 and May 8.

Community events

- Lafayette Fire Department Ham Dinner—Sunday, March 24, 10:30-1:30 pm., fire hall
- Central Lutheran Church Men's Pancake Brunch—Sunday, March 31, Fairfax Community Center, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Raise the Roof Pancake Breakfast—Sunday, March 31, Grace Lutheran Church, Brownton, 10 am-12:30 p.m.



Minnesota Valley



Conference Assembly held— after two postponements

First scheduled for February 24 and then for March 10, the Conference Assembly finally took place—in nice weather—at BLC Sunday, March 17. Pastor Heidi and Pastor Scott opened with devotions, based on the prayer of St. Patrick. Back in the kitchen, Shaun and Trish relaxed after getting refreshments ready for those attending from all over the conference.



WELCA Spring Gathering of Minnesota Valley Conference April 9

The Spring Gathering of the Minnesota Valley Conference of the Women of the ELCA will be held Tuesday, April 9 at Christ Lutheran Church, 1830 Knight Ave. N., Glencoe.

The theme is “We are Called to Serve.” Registration and meal are at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6:30. Check posters in your church for sign-up info.

New baby for the Nelsons

Congratulations to Philip and Samantha Nelson of Union, Iowa on the birth of their daughter Elloise Clare on February 27. Philip and his dad, Arlin, are members at Bernadotte.

Couples wedding shower planned for Lindsay and Jacob

A Couples Wedding Shower honoring Lindsay Thomes and Jacob Sjostrom will be held Sunday, April 14 at Bernadotte Lutheran. The shower will follow the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All men, women, and children are invited.

Parents of the couple are Lorie Thomes and the late Daniel Thomes of Arlington and Steve and Deb Sjostrom of Lafayette. Lindsay and Jacob are registered at Target.

Anyone wishing to be a shower hostess is asked to contact Wendy Schulz or Pam White.

Upcoming Events at Bernadotte

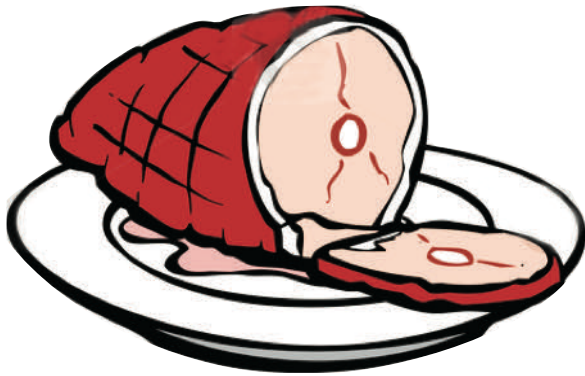
- Cake and coffee for Duane Anderson’s 85th birthday, Sunday, March 31, after morning worship (about 10:30 a.m.)
- Mission Sunday with Food for Kidz food packing, Sunday, April 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m; devotions, pizza at 11:00 a.m.
- Easter flower garden at BLC. Order Easter lilies (\$14) or tulips (\$16) from Carol Young.
- Church grounds clean-up, Saturday, April 13, 9:00 a.m., weather permitting
- Mother-Daughter Banquet, Saturday, April 20. Pictures 9:00 a.m., tea party 9:30 a.m., program to follow. RSVP to Sarah Johnson at Sarah_johnson@wakefieldpork.com.
- Easter Sunday Brunch **at 8:30 a.m.**; scrambled eggs, muffins, juice & milk, served by church council
- WELCA Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 5
- Swedefest Midsummer Picnic, Saturday, June 22

Married in Florida

Jill Bartels of Bernadotte and Ryan Petersen opted to get out of the cold, snow, and wind of Minnesota and went to sunny, warm Florida to be married on Saturday, March 9.

Jill is the daughter of Jim and Konnie Bartels and Ryan is the son of Mike and Doris Peterson of Lakeville.

**BLC is looking for a used refrigerator for the pie shack.
If you have one to donate, contact Carol Young**



**FOG
Youth**

HAM BINGO

Saturday, April 13

6:00 p.m. start

Lafayette Fire Station

40 Games including 2 blackouts

20 Games — \$10.00 40 Games — \$20.00

All Ages Welcome

Ham Door Prizes, too!

Come Early—Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Beverages & Lunch Available—

Plate specials or a la carte

*All proceeds to
Fields of Grace Youth Group*

Need more
info?
Call Mark
at
507-766-6327