



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com/>

Vol. 8, Issue 11

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

June 2019

## Wear red on Pentecost Sunday, June 9

According to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, on the 50th day of Easter, known in the ancient Greek world as Pentecost, God sent God's Spirit upon the disciples. They had gathered in prayer and thanksgiving after Christ's ascension into heaven, wondering when God would send them a clear vision for the church.

On that first Pentecost Day, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, appearing upon their heads like tongues of fire. Wearing red on Pentecost recalls the tongues of fire. This is the day we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church and its mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus the Savior to the whole world.

## Good Neighbor Sunday

The second annual Good Neighbor Sunday will be July 28, at the Lafayette Mini Park, downtown Lafayette. The service will feature the Cedar Creek Gospel Band. This outdoor worship experience will be the culmination of the newly revived Lafayette Days, happening July 25-28.

## Upcoming FOG Events

- First Lutheran breakfast honoring high school graduates, Sunday, June 2 9:30 a.m., FLC.
- Bernadotte's WELCA Ice Cream Social, church park, Wed., Jun. 5, 5:30 p.m. Lafayette Band concert, 6:30 pm.
- First Lutheran's WELCA Ice Cream Social, Lafayette Community Center Fri., Jun. 7, 5:30 pm; Friday night band concert follows.
- Swedefest at Bernadotte, Sat., Jun. 22, 4-8 pm. Food, entertainment, more. (See poster on back page)

## Outdoor services at Bernadotte

Bernadotte has planned three Sunday outdoor services with special music. Everyone from the FOG parishes and all friends and neighbors are welcome to take part in the 9:30 a.m. services. (The first is a joint service)

- Sunday, July 7 with the Larsons and Jodi Poehler
  - Sunday, August 4 with the Mages Family Band
  - Sunday, August 18 with music by Lorie Grunzke and Pastor Heidi
- Services will be moved indoors if weather is bad.

## Something new to do...

Join Pastor Heidi for Beer & Hymns, Monday, June 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Third Street Tavern in St. Peter.

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., June 3, 5:30 p.m., FLC
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., June 17, 7:30 p.m., BLC

## Fourth Sunday joint services planned

At its May 29 meeting, the Fields of Grace council approved a plan to hold more joint services—usually on the fourth Sunday of the month—in addition to joint services already scheduled.

All joint services will be at 9:30 a.m., according to this schedule.

- |          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Jul. 7   | 4th of July, at Bernadotte    |
| Jul. 28  | Good Neighbor, Laf. Mini-Park |
| Sept. 1  | Labor Day, at First           |
| Sept. 22 | at Bernadotte                 |
| Oct. 27  | Confirmation, at First        |
| Nov. 24  | at Swan Lake                  |
| Nov. 27  | Community Thanksgiving Eve    |
| Dec. 15  | Childrens' Program, FLC       |
| Dec. 29  | New Year's joint service      |



*Pastor Heidi sprinkled the congregation with the water of baptism during the processional at her installation May 19. Turn to page 4 for more photos.*

# 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

Joint Services—9:30 a.m., 4th Sunday of each month, rotating locations

## Pastor Heidi's Reflections

The Ascension of Jesus is a peculiar day on the Christian calendar. Years ago, most Lutheran congregations celebrated the Ascension of our Lord on Ascension Day, which is always ten days before Pentecost Sunday. This year that would be Thursday, May 30. In lieu of gathering for worship on a Thursday, most congregations today observe the Ascension of our Lord on the Sunday before Pentecost. That will be Sunday, June 2, this year.

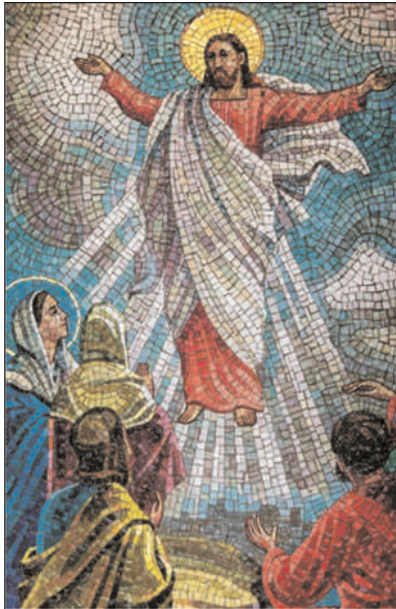
What's the big deal about Christ's ascension? Jesus went to heaven. He's gone. We know that. We can't see him. He's left us the Bible, we can talk about him, we can pray to him, and the Holy Spirit is here with us, but Jesus is gone. Isn't he?

That's not what the Bible says. Just before Jesus ascended into heaven he said to his disciples, "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." In the book of Ephesians, St. Paul describes Christ's ascension into heaven by saying that he "fills the entire universe with himself." (Ephesians 4:10, New Living Translation)

Jesus did not ascend into heaven to be absent from us. He ascended into heaven to be present with us.

Jesus is true man and true God. God is present everywhere. Since Jesus is God, he is present everywhere. But is his humanity also present everywhere? By all means!

You cannot strip Christ's humanity away from his deity as



if there are two Christs, one who is God and the other who is a man. There is but one Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man. Since God is present everywhere, and since Jesus is God, Jesus—true God and true man—is present everywhere. Wherever God is, there is the man Jesus.

Heaven isn't a place up in the sky above the stars where Jesus is stuck, far away from us. Heaven is where God is. Heaven is as close to us as Christ is. Whenever he speaks and we listen; whenever he feeds us with his body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion; whenever the church is gathered together by the Holy Spirit to be fed by Christ the Good Shepherd, there heaven and earth meet.

Christ's ascension guarantees his presence with us. His ascension foreshadows our own. On Ascension Day, we are called to "go up"—to find higher ground—not to escape Earth's crises, but to gain a vision and mission that is larger than us or our communities. We don't need to look to the heavens to find inspiration. The ever-present God is right here, giving us all the guidance and inspiration we need, if we but look beyond ourselves. Our mission is here—to heal, to embrace, to welcome, and to love. We don't need to wait for a far off day of perfection and rapture. If God is always with us, then right here and now can be the day of transformation and fulfillment.

**To contact Heidi: 507-766-3471 or [pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com)**

## Upcoming Community Events

- St. Gregory the Great Pie & Ice Cream Social, Lafayette Community Center, Fri., Jun. 14, 5:30-7:30 pm,
- Friday Night Ice Cream Socials & Lafayette Band Concerts continue June 21 & 28 and July 12, 19 & 26. Community Center & Main Street. Socials served by community groups 5:30 pm, concerts 7:30 pm.
- Lions' Movies in the Park, Lafayette Mini-Park, sundown, June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26, and August 9 & 23.
- Open House at the Cow Collector's Mooseum, Sat., June 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m., just prior to Swedefest

## Birth announcement

Nathan and Brenda (Fenske) are excited to announce the birth of their second son, Ryker John Lindmeyer, on April 18. He was welcomed by his big brother Hunter, grandparents Lori and the late Darwin Fenske of Bernadotte and Mavis and Tom Lindmeyer of Gibbon; and great-grandparents Mary Hoffmann of Morgan and Dean Fenske of Lafayette.





# JUNE 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 2-Jamie Friedrichs & boys; 12-Bucky & Susie Wendorff; 19-Tom Brethorst & Darrell Abrahamson; 23-Tom Brethorst & Al Pehrson; 30-Doug Durheim & Al Youngblom  
Greeters: Howard & Darlene Lokensgard  
Reader: Traci Abrahamson  
Liturgist: 2 & 9-Brad DeBoer; 16 & 23-Charles Youngblom  
Altar: Lori Brethorst, Sheri Portner & Angie Hartmann  
Coffee Servers: 2-Tami Stadtherr & Nancie Carlson; 9-Mary Martens & Nancie Carlson; 16-Doug & Diane Durheim; 23-Sheri Portner & Lori Brethorst; 30-Mindy Engel & Diane Durheim.

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Renee Rasmussen & Andrew Rasmussen  
Acolyte: Douglas Henderson  
Readers: 2- Steve Sjostrom; 9-Tim Schulz, 16-Trish Gieseke; 30-Jim Bartels  
Ushers: Rosanne Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Bruce White, Romi White, Konnie Bartels  
Communion (June 9): S-Rosanne Johnson; C-Ruth Klossner; U-Tim Schulz & Neil Rasmussen.  
Coffee Servers: (fellowship only on special occasions during the summer)



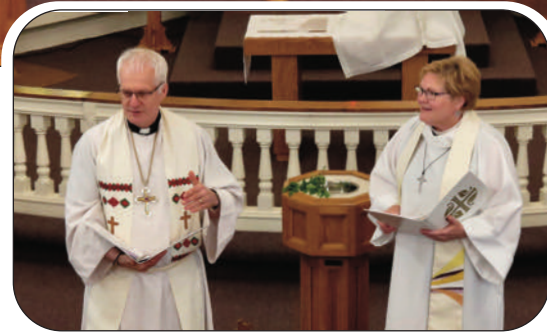
Wednesday  
School  
students  
visit the  
Lodge in  
Winthrop



The Wednesday School students "skipped class" May 1 to do community service. They went to the Lodge at Winthrop to lead bingo, serve lunch, and deliver May baskets.







## It's Official!

Although she's been our "pastor" for more than three years, Heidi is now officially our "Pastor." Because she was ordained at her home church—rather than here—she had not been officially installed. That happened Sunday, May 19 when Bishop Jon Anderson was here.



### Thank you from Pastor Heidi

Thank you to everyone who participated in my installation service and lunch. It was a beautiful day. While it was rainy and dreary outside, inside it was raining baptismal water, reminding us of God's choice of us. Thanks especially to the First Lutheran choir, the people who served the meal, and those who participated in the worship service. It was a celebration of praise and thanksgiving.

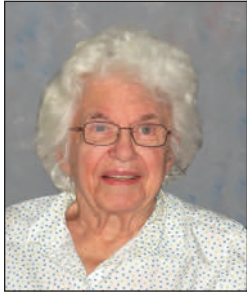




## Called to their Heavenly home

Vivian Altmann, 95, of Lafayette passed away at Laurel's Edge in Mankato Wednesday, May 22.

Funeral service was held Monday, May 27, at First Lutheran Church with Pastors Heidi Hagstrom and Sandy Anenson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. She was a lifelong member of First Lutheran Church in Lafayette.



Vivian is survived by daughters Luann (Bruce) Flygare and Chris Harris, eight grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Marie Carlson, 78, of Lafayette passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Funeral service was Monday, May 13, at First Lutheran, with burial in First Lutheran Cemetery in Lafayette.

Marie began her lifelong teaching career at the Lafayette School in 1970; she retired in 1998.

Marie is survived by daughters Tascha (Peter) Helland of Oronoco and Holly (Rich) Kitzberger of New Ulm; son Danny (Theresa) Carlson of Cannon Falls, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



## A request for field rock

Pastor Heidi is looking for field rock to create a border around her gardens. Let her know if you have some that she can come and collect.

## Vacation Bible School opportunity

The Winthrop Evangelical Covenant Church will host Vacation Bible School Monday through Friday, July 15-19, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., for children who completed grades kindergarten through sixth. Cost is \$5.00 per child or \$15.00 per family.

To register, contact the church office at 507-647-5777 (leave a message), or email [wincov@gmail.com](mailto:wincov@gmail.com).

## New fundraising effort for Vryheid Synod

We celebrate that 50,000 meals were recently delivered to our partners in South Africa as a result of the proceeds from clothing drives here. Unfortunately, the clothing vendor is overwhelmed and can't accept any more contributions.

The Minnesota Valley Partnership Committee decided to switch to collecting aluminum cans.

Cans should be placed in tall plastic kitchen bags with draw strings. Collection dates and sites will be announced shortly for June, August and October.

*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](http://fieldsofgracemn.com)

2) Email contacts

[pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com) (Heidi)  
[communications@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:communications@fieldsofgracemn.com) (Ruth K)  
[president@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:president@fieldsofgracemn.com)  
[secretary@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:secretary@fieldsofgracemn.com) (Lori F)

3) Bernadotte's Facebook Page

The BLC page includes news and photos for all three churches

## Good News Item



Jim Bartels of Bernadotte was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Minnesota Chapter, as an inductee for lifetime service. The induction took place Saturday, April 27 in Austin.

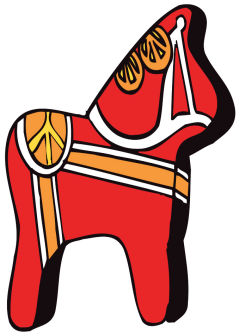
Jim was also honored at the 2019 State High School Wrestling Tournament in March for his many years of service as a radio broadcaster for that event.

**Joint Worship Service  
Sunday, July 7, 9:30 a.m.**

***Bernadotte Church Park***

**Music by The Larsons and Jodi Poehler  
Fellowship & refreshments will follow**

*Please join us for the 25th annual*



# Swedefest

*family fun festival*

*Bernadotte Lutheran Church Park*

*6 miles east of Lafayette, Mn.  
at 34122 515th Ave. (Co. Rd. 10)*

*Saturday, June 22, 2019  
4:00-8:00 p.m.*

## Great Entertainment

*In the park, weather permitting*

**DD & Rosco**

*Danielle & Ross Deopere  
Musicians/band from Cambria*

## Silent Auction

*Closing at 7:30 p.m.*

**Horse-Drawn  
Wagon Rides**

**Kids' Activities**



## Menu

*Serving 4:00-7:00 p.m.*

**Windsor Chops  
Cheesy Potatoes  
Creamy Rice,  
Beans, Herring,  
Pickles, Buns, Bars Cof-  
fee, Milk**

**Adults \$12:00;  
6-12 years, \$6.00;  
5 & under free**

## Refreshments

**Ice Cream Cones, Sundaes &  
Floats, Beverages**

**Brief Closing Devotions** *conclude the evening*

*In case of inclement weather, all events will be held in the church*

**For more information, go to <http://fieldsofgracemn.com> or Facebook  
or email [communications@fieldsofgrace.com](mailto:communications@fieldsofgrace.com)**