

Fields of Grace Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

July 2011

Greetings!

This is my first attempt at putting out a monthly email/print newsletter for members of the three churches that make up Fields of Grace parish. As with anything new, we'll start small and add things as we get new ideas.

It's YOUR newsletter so I'm looking for your input.

Please send me things that you would like to see included—email cowlady@centurylink.net or call 507-240-0048.

I'll try to put the newsletter out toward the end of each month, but may adjust the schedule at we go.

Please bear with us as we grow this newsletter!

Ruth Klossner
Communication Coordinator

Spirit Ride at BLC Sunday

Camping is the theme, so get your campers ready or just join the group at Bernadotte for s'mores and other fun camping things Saturday evening. Dry camping will be available Saturday night to Sunday morning.

Those coming to Sunday's worship service are encouraged to come by whatever vehicle (car, truck, tractor, four-wheeler, motorcycle, combine or ?????). And, the Bernadotte International Airport is ready for all aircraft coming that day, too.

The Crossroads ELCA college group from Minnesota State University, Mankato will help with the music part of the service.

Good News Items from the FOG churches

Sally Webster of Bernadotte was named a Melvin Jones Fellow and honored at the July 12 awards banquet of the Lafayette Area Lions Club. The Melvin Jones Award is the highest presented to Lions members and recognizes humanitarian service.

Sally is well-known throughout the area for her work

as a health insurance counselor for Region Nine. She works with people individually and often speaks about the programs on KNUJ Radio. She's also active at Bernadotte Lutheran and on many area boards.

Congratulations, Sally!

Vern and Neva Paulson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with cake and coffee after the morning service at Bernadotte Sunday, July 24. A week earlier, they received a bouquet of 60 roses from a relative in Denmark! Many more, Vern and Neva!



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

Contact Numbers

Pastor Paul's cell phone—612-756-2603 Lowell's cell phone—507-227-9247

Update from our conference companionship ministry

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Valley Conference companionship with the Vryheid Circuit in Southern Africa was July 14 at Trinity Lutheran in St. Peter. The next meeting starts with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 20 at Bernadotte Lutheran.

- A motion was made to send an additional \$1,000 for the HIV/AIDS coordinator and \$500 to the German sisters who are working with HIV/AIDS in Vryheid. The conference already is committed to send \$1,000 per year for the HIV/AIDS coordinator.

- It was agreed to bring two guests from Vryheid working in the areas of agriculture and education. Plans are being worked out.

- An effort will be made to inform congregations how the funds collected are being utilized in this ministry. For example, a report was sent from the German sisters working with HIV/AIDS, saying 17 caregivers have received training through their program.

- Prayers for our mission partners in South Africa will continue to be sent out to congregations the third Sunday of each month.

News from the sub-groups

- The agriculture group suggested we send small groups to Vryheid spread out over a couple months to have a longer and deeper involvement.

- Education group proposed establishing a fund to serve the need for uniforms, tuition and college application fees. The

goal is to send \$3-4,000 annually.

- The leadership/morale group presented an updated list of parishes and Pastors in Vryheid, showing the need for more Pastors. One proposal is doing lay leadership training in SA, looking for someone to serve in a short-term missionary capacity.

- The communications group talked about donating a computer for the Vryheid circuit, collecting names of people who can present at different local events, developing printed information and starting a conference companionship website.

- The fundraising group said there is the expectation that we will raise about \$500 each year from every congregation in the conference for a goal of \$14,000. There are ongoing fundraising ideas that every congregation can do. One church puts out a big pickle jar once a month to collect donations. Others put the funds in the budget and others have fundraising events such as a breakfast.

For information about the companionship ministry contact Dave Pedersen (320-328-9911). Also send Dave the RSVP for the next meeting/meal on Oct. 20. Email DLpeders@msn.com.

Something to ponder...

BLC organist to present recital

Michael Asmus, a summer organist at Bernadotte, and a junior music major at Gustavus Adolphus, will present an organ recital Tuesday, August 2. The recital will be at 12:10 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Second Street in Mankato. The public is invited. Asmus will perform music by the German composers Bach, Brahms, and Mendelssohn.



***Please share your news for the next newsletter;
email to cowlady@centurylink.net
or call 507-240-0048 (Ruth's cell phone)***