



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 12, Issue 2

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Sept. 2022

Fall worship schedule

The FOG Council has approved a new worship schedule going forward. Two services will be held each Sunday, at 8:00 a.m. and at 9:30 a.m., with the exception of holiday weekends and the fifth Sunday of the month in months that have five Sundays, when there will only be one service. The schedule will be followed through the end of 2022, then evaluated to see if any tweaks are needed.

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE SEPT-DEC 2022

SEPTEMBER			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
LABOR DAY	Sept. 4	-	SL
WEEK 2	Sept. 11	BLC	FLC
WEEK 3	Sept. 18	SL	FLC
WEEK 4	Sept. 25	FLC	BLC

OCTOBER			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
WEEK 1	Oct. 2	SL	BLC
WEEK 2	Oct. 9	BLC	FLC
WEEK 3	Oct. 16	SL	FLC
WEEK 4	Oct. 23	FLC	BLC
WEEK 5	Oct. 30	-	FLC

NOVEMBER			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
WEEK 1	Nov. 6	SL	BLC
WEEK 2	Nov. 13	BLC	FLC
WEEK 3	Nov. 20	SL	FLC
THANKSGIVING EVE (TUES)	Nov. 22	7:00 PM	SL
WEEK 4	Nov. 27	FLC	BLC

DECEMBER			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
WEEK 1	Dec. 4	SL	BLC
WEEK 2	Dec. 11	BLC	FLC
WEEK 3	Dec. 18	SL	FLC
CHRISTMAS EVE	Dec. 24	7:00 PM	SL
CHRISTMAS EVE	Dec. 24	9:00 PM	FLC
CHRISTMAS DAY	Dec. 25	8:00 AM	BLC

Bernadotte Announcements

• Bernadotte's WELCA and LCM groups will meet Sunday, September 11, after coffee after the 8:00 a.m. morning worship service. There will be no hamburger fry this year.

• BLC will have communion at the 8:00 a.m. September 11 service; after that, it will only serve communion at the first Sunday, 9:30 a.m. services.

News and Notes for upcoming Fields of Grace events

• First Communion training will be on Saturday, September 24. First Communion will be Sunday, October 9.

• Confirmation classes will begin Wednesday, October 5 at First Lutheran. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., with education hour from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and a short worship service at 7:15 p.m., required for confirmation students, encouraged for parents and other members welcome to attend.

• Sunday School will begin October 11. Classes will be at First Lutheran Church, at 10:45 a.m. (See back page.)

• This year's confirmation will take place on Reformation Sunday, October 30 at First Lutheran.

• First Lutheran's Fall Festival drive-through dinner will be Sunday, October 2. This year's event will include an outdoor farmers' market and bake sale. FLC members should watch their mail for raffle tickets and job responsibilities. If anyone wants to change duties from last year, please contact Sandy Burger, Sandy Hartley, Wendy Hagberg, or Sue Nelson.

• The Minnesota Valley Conference WELCA Fall Gathering will be Saturday, September 10 at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Peter. Guest speaker will be Kris Langworthy. Registration is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with lunch at noon. Registration cost is \$12. If you plan to attend, please contact Romi White at 507-276-2651 or Rosanne Johnson at 507-276-8251 immediately—as the lunch count is to be turned in before September 1.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m., Swan Lake
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Thank you from First Lutheran

The members of First Lutheran want to thank Bernadotte for the Peace Lily plant and Swan Lake for the monetary gift celebrating our 125th anniversary. Thanks to Ruth for documenting the day for us. We are thankful to have such good faith partners.

SEPTEMBER 2022 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 11-Mark Hagberg, Brooklyn Hagberg; 18-Jim Langhoff, Jacob Broste
Readers: Linda Youngblom, Sandy Burger
Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Lori Brethorst, Sheri Portner, Angie Hartmann
Coffee: 11-Lori Brethorst, Angie Hartmann;
18-Ann Gieseke, Sandy Burger

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Lori Fenske, Pam White
Readers: 11-Jim Bartels, 25-Lori Fenske
Ushers: John Nelson, Ruth Klossner, Brad & Pam White, Dave Nelson,
Communion: 11-S John Nelson, C Tim Schulz, U Elias Webster, Dwayne Ross
Coffee: (volunteers needed)

Jesus Gives Us a Robe of Righteousness

by Pastor Bob Stover

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

Isaiah 61:10

There's a song I used to teach my Bible camp kids that goes, “I am covered over with the robe of righteousness that Jesus gives to me.

I am covered over with the precious blood of Jesus and He lives in me.... When He looks at me He sees not what I used to be, but He sees Jesus.” It's based on Isaiah's words printed above.

While that crimson image is a bit gory, it is a beautiful picture of how God no longer condemns us for our sins and failures. When we dwell in Christ, believing and trusting in His sacrificial death and resurrection for the atonement of our sins, God sees only righteousness when he looks at us. As long as we claim his forgiveness, we have full acceptance as children of God, and we can claim eternal salvation.

One could easily get confused and think that we fall in and out of God's grace. When we begin a worship service by confessing our sins, it is followed by an absolution of our sins. A person could reach the conclusion that, if we perished



in an automobile accident en route to worship, that we would perish in condemnation and sin. But that is certainly not the case. God has clothed us with the garment of salvation, so we walk each moment of each day in the certainty of that forgiveness, acceptance, and salvation. The confession is just a reminder that we can never earn God's love on our own, and the absolution is a strong declaration that we are free from our sins, completely righteous in God's sight.

As I serve you as your interim pastor throughout this year, I will walk among you wearing a robe of righteousness. And as I look out on the congregation each week, I will see you all wearing garments of salvation. That environment of grace, unconditional forgiveness, will help me be bold in sharing the gospel and being your shepherd, knowing that if I make mistakes, you will forgive me. And I hope that same grace of God will allow you as members of FOG to be honest, open, and daring in living out your faith, participating in the church, and being the body of Christ in the world.

So, let's “greatly rejoice in the Lord” as we journey together in our faith. We have a great God who lavishes us with “robes of righteousness.”

Thanks be to God!

Called to their heavenly home

Bernadotte members Vern and Neva Paulson passed away within a month of each other, Vern on June 28 and Neva on July 25, both at the age of 93.

Vern's funeral was July 2 and Neva's August 1, at Bernadotte Lutheran Church with Pastor Bob Miner officiating.

They are survived by daughter Nancy Rubischko of Lafayette, son and daughter-in-law David and Terese Paulson of Bloomington, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and other family.



Member news, notes and accomplishments

First Lutheran member Matthew Hartley had ten matches and won four golds at a Jujitsu tournament Saturday, August 20 in Des Moines, Iowa. His club, Start BJJ of St. Cloud, took second in team wins. Mom Sandy posted on Facebook, “I taught him everything he knows—about economics.”



Pastor Heidi's legacy lives on

In the few short years that she lived in the Bernadotte parsonage, Pastor Heidi Hagstrom's love of all things living blossomed and grew. She not only planted a plethora of trees, bushes, and garden plants, but raised chickens in a coop she had built and moved to the property.

During six years at Bernadotte, Pastor Heidi planted so many things—apple and cherry trees, raspberry bushes, asparagus plants, rhubarb, flowers of every sort, and garden vegetables in raised garden boxes.

It's in those raised boxes that Heidi's legacy continues to flourish. BLC members Laura and Kyle Dalquist—with help from kids Will and Lane and Laura's parents Wendy and Tim Schulz—are responsible to keep it going.

With the parsonage empty, the family approached the church council to ask permission to use what Heidi had started.

"We looked at those garden boxes and felt that someone needed to use them," Laura said. "Our plan from the start was to raise something and to donate it in Heidi's name. She'd be smiling down if she saw this."

Laura and Wendy planted beets, onions, pumpkin, and

squash early this summer. Though they didn't plant them, a few cherry tomato plants are growing—volunteers that continue to remind of Heidi's green thumb.

"Those are 'Heidi's tomatoes.' She knew you were looking for cherry tomatoes," Laura said as she looked at Will, who had a special bond with Heidi and loved her tomatoes.

With the New Ulm Food Shelf accepting donations of fresh produce Monday and Wednesday mornings, Laura and Kyle started harvesting and delivering the produce in August.

Heidi so loved the chickens she raised in her special chicken coop—and that building also continues to be used. The Dalquists purchased the coop and had it moved to their place. Because the coop was nestled between Heidi's many plantings, they had Paul Martens pick it up with a telehandler and lift it over the plantings.

The coop is home to a small flock of chickens that Will and Lane help care for. Jerry Oscarson purchased the chicken run that Heidi had for her chickens, so that is also being used.

Now, with the coop and run removed, there's room for more gardens and Laura hopes that other families will join hers in making use of the space to continue Heidi's legacy at the parsonage.



Cherries, raspberries, apples and a lot more are part of Heidi's legacy at the parsonage.



Lane and Will showed off the first harvest given to the New Ulm food shelf on August 2.



First Lutheran's 125th



First Lutheran Church celebrated its 125th anniversary with a service of music Sunday July 31. The FLC choir—with reinforcements from the former St. Gregory the Great choir and Tracy and Tom (Pastor Heidi's sister)—sang a prelude, then the Sunday School kids opened the service.

Afternoon musicians Pat and Donna Surface also took part in the service. Dennis Sjogren presented the church history and introduced former pastors Ron Freimark and Roger Hanggi who were in attendance. A pork sandwich meal followed the service.



FLC 125th

There were kids' activities outdoors after the meal, then a concert by Pat and Donna Surface. Donna brought the kids up to sign for some of the songs.

It was a great day at First Lutheran!





Carl Martens of First Lutheran and fellow 95-year-old Narve Nelson were the oldest people at Bernadotte's Night Out.

Bernadotte Church Park hosts Neighborhood Night Out



Deputy Paul Biederman and his K9 dog Dillon were on hand. Biederman let the kids try to lift his SWAT gear, above right.

A great potluck meal and hot dogs were enjoyed by all.

Afterwards the kids checked out the sheriff's car, the Lafayette ambulance, the Lafayette fire truck, and watched Dillon retrieve articles.



New addition at Swan Lake

Tim Giefer recently made this cross for the Swan Lake parish hall in memory of his daughter Heather who passed away November 18, 2017 after a courageous battle with a brain tumor.



**BLC
outdoor
service
moved
indoors**

Wet ground after a light rain overnight Saturday—along with a threat of more rain—moved the scheduled outdoor service into the church Sunday, August 28 at Bernadotte. Pastor Bob joined featured musician-Mary Kavan on the songs. It was the final Music with Message “outdoor” service at Berndotte this summer.

Sunday School

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME, PLEASE REACH OUT! 507-276-6150

AGES 3-11 YEARS OLD!

SEPTMEBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
4	2 NO CLASS! FALL FESTIVAL	6 10:45 TO 11:30A	4 10:45 TO 11:30A	1 NO CLASS!	5 10:45 TO 11:30A	5 10:45 TO 11:30A	2 10:45 TO 11:30A
11 FIRST DAY!	9 10:45 TO 11:30A	13 10:45 TO 11:30A	11 10:45 TO 11:30A	8 10:45 TO 11:30A	12 10:45 TO 11:30A	12 10:45 TO 11:30A	9 NO CLASS! EASTER!
18 10:45 TO 11:30A	16 10:45 TO 11:30A	20 10:45 TO 11:30A	18 10:45 TO 11:30A	15 10:45 TO 11:30A	19 10:45 TO 11:30A	19 10:45 TO 11:30A	16 10:45 TO 11:30A
25 10:45 TO 11:30A	23 10:45 TO 11:30A	27 NO CLASS!	25 NO CLASS!	22 10:45 TO 11:30A	26 10:45 TO 11:30A	26 10:45 TO 11:30A	23 10:45 TO 11:30A
	30 10:45 TO 11:30A			29 10:45 TO 11:30A			30 10:45 TO 11:30A