



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 12, Issue 7

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Feb. 2023

Winter worship schedule

Two services are 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, there will only be one service on that Sunday. Holiday, Lenten, and Holy Week Services are rotated between the churches.

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, FEB.-APR.

FEBRUARY 2023

		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Feb. 5	SL C	BLC C
Week 2	Feb. 12	BLC	FLC
Week 3	Feb. 19	SL C	FLC
Ash Wednes.	Feb. 22	7:00 PM	FLC C
Week 4	Feb. 26	FLC	BLC

MARCH 2023

		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Lenten Serv.	March 1	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 1	March 5	SL C	BLC C
Lenten Serv.	March 8	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 2	March 12	BLC	FLC C
Lenten Serv.	March 15	7:00 PM	SL
Week 3	March 19	SL C	FLC
Lenten Serv.	March 22	7:00 PM	FLC
Week 4	March 26	FLC	BLC
Lenten Serv.	March 29	7:00 PM	FLC

APRIL 2023

		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Palm Sunday	April 2	SL C	BLC C
Maundy Thurs	April 6	7:00 PM	SL C
Good Friday	April 7	7:00 PM	BLC C
Easter Sunday	April 9	7:00 - FLC C	9:00 - SL C
Easter Sunday	April 9	9:00 AM —	BLC C
Week 3	April 16 *	Food/Kidz	9:00 AM — BLC
Week 4	April 23	FLC	BLC
Week 5	April 30	SL C	FLC

C indicates communion service

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., March 15, after 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service, at Swan Lake

Annual meetings

Swan Lake Lutheran will hold its annual meeting Sunday, January 29 after the 9:30 a.m. joint service and a free-will soup luncheon. Everyone is welcome to the luncheon.

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First Lutheran's annual meeting will be Sunday, February 12, after a brief 9:30 a.m. worship service. (Bad weather date is Feb. 19)

Fields of Grace notes

- Confirmation classes will be held each Wednesday until Ash Wednesday when Lent begins. Students will be expected to attend the Lenten services each Wednesday during Lent. Youth will serve soup suppers starting March 1.
- The MN Valley Conference annual meeting will be held Sunday afternoon, February 19 at Bernadotte. Registration and refreshments will be from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m., with the meeting and worship to follow. All are welcome to attend.
- Sunday School classes will be held each Sunday in February, from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m., at First Lutheran.

Bernadotte notes

- The Bernadotte ladies will be back at it, quilting on Monday, February 13 and Tuesday, February 14, starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending around 3:00 p.m. BBQs will be served at lunch. Everyone welcome!
- There will be two baptisms at BLC in February. Chet LeRoy Sjostrom, son of Jacob and Lindsay Sjostrom, will be baptized at the 9:30 a.m. service on February 5. Wesley James Kline, son of Jim and Stacy Kline, will be baptized Sunday, February 12 at the 8:00 a.m. service.
- BLC will hold a special congregational meeting Sunday, April 2 following the 9:30 a.m. service to vote on a constitution change in regard to council member numbers and terms.
- Bernadotte will host Food for Kidz food packing on Sunday, April 16, starting at 9:00 a.m. This will be a joint service, as the April 16 and April 30 service schedule has been swapped.
- BLC will host a concert by the Vetterm College Choir from Jonkoping, Sweden on Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. The concert will be early as the group will begin its trek to Chicago yet that night—so will not be staying with host families. The choir was last here in 2018; Covid cancelled its trips since then.
- The date has been set for BLC's ice cream social—Wednesday, June 7.

FEBRUARY 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 12-Darrell Abrahamson, Bob Youngblom; 19-Laura & Kevin Isaacson; 26-Dean Pehrson, Jamie Friedrichs
Reader: Cindy Youngblom Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Trudy Hofstad, Mary Martens
Coffee: 12-Shauna Hoffmann, Cindy Youngblom; 19-Lori Brethorst, Laura Isaacson; 26-Lindsay Benson, Jo Pehrson
Visiting: Mary Martens, Lila Ellies

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: (not available)
Readers: 5-Steve Sjostrom; 12-Tim Schulz; 19-Trish Gieseke
Ushers: Brent Johnson (others not available)
Communion (Feb. 5): S-Brent Johnson; (others not available)
Coffee: 5-Doris Kaduce, Renee Rasmussen; 12-Romi White; 19-volunteer needed

What is my response?

by Pastor Bob Stover

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, joy.”

This became the prayer of St Francis, because in the Middle Ages he saw a lot of hatred, injury, doubt, despair, and sadness. The crusades, pestilence, and famines were happening, so he had to have wondered what could possibly combat these strong evil forces of the world. To sow love, pardon, faith, hope, and joy seemed naive to many. But yet Francis believed, in spite of the darkness, the light of Christ could prevail.

We live in an interesting age right today. There is plenty of conflict, hatred, fear, and confusion. It is easy to find ourselves giving in to those strong evil forces, resigning to just “hanging in there” or “going with the flow.” But yet, in the midst of it, the world hungers for words of encouragement, forgiveness, understanding, and compassion. St Francis’s prayer culminates by asking God to help him rise above a self-centered existence, to be more

Christ-like, and to be a sign of Jesus’ light to the world—

“O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, and it's in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.”

My prayer for myself and the people of the Fields of Grace Parish is the same as St Francis, that as we encounter the forces of darkness in our days, we would call upon the light of Christ to shine instead. And when we are tempted to make our lives all about ourselves, that we would reach out to others in their needs. The world right now desperately needs consolation, understanding, and love. God has blessed us with so much, in order that we may be a blessing to the world.

So, in the weeks and months ahead, no matter what this life continues to throw at us, let’s make certain that the people of Fields of Grace be about the business of forgiving and sacrificing ourselves for others. For in doing so, we offer Christ crucified and risen to the world. In doing so, “we are born to eternal life.”

Thank You

Thank yous received by BLC

A sincere thank you to the Bernadotte Church congregation for the plate of delicious Christmas treats, for the nice cards, and for including us on the Santa sharing list. Thank you all very much!

Gerald & Brian Petterson

Thank you to all for the prayers, cards, calls, and get-

well wishes during my recent illness and hospitalization. They are very much appreciated. A special thank you to the Bernadotte church council for its extra help with my responsibilities.

Dwayne Ross

Thank you to Bernadotte Lutheran Church for the gift I received. It is appreciated.

Laurie Larson

Two weddings in one weekend at First

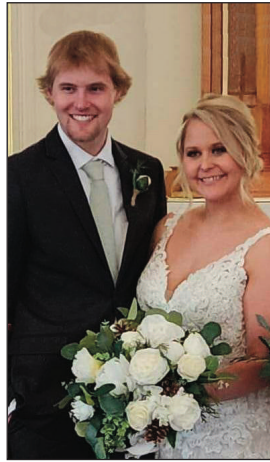
There aren't usually a lot of weddings in winter but Pastor Bob performed two on the same weekend in early January, with both at First Lutheran.



Heidi & Eric

Eric Sjogren and Heidi Bendix were married Friday, January 6, 2023.

Jacob Broste and Bergen Forst were married Saturday, January 7, 2023. Congratulations to both couples!



Jeremy & Bergen

Good News Item

Bernadotte native and BLC confirmand Britta (Monson) Fisher has been named the new CEO of Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. Britta has led Denver's Department of Housing Stability, the city's housing agency, since it was created in 2019. She will end her mayoral appointment as the city's chief housing officer on February 1 and will start with the Coalition toward the end of March.



Britta is the daughter of Denise Monson Alms and the late Mark Monson.

In a Facebook post, Britta's sister, Bri (Monson) Miller commented, "My sister has always had great organization, public speaking, and leadership skills. She has put them to work in her career. It was just announced that she'll be having her dream job in the organization she started her career in almost two decades ago. She is returning to Colorado Coalition for the Homeless with great experience and skills to lead the nonprofit into its fourth decade of providing housing, healthcare, and supporting services to Coloradoans in need."

Upcoming community events

- The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Lafayette Community Center Monday, March 6 from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. To make an appointment, contact Lori Dick or Traci Abrahamson.
- The Lafayette Ambulance will hold a Steak Fry Fundraiser at Dave's Place in Lafayette Saturday,

February 11, serving from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. All proceeds go toward ongoing support and needs of the Lafayette Ambulance.

- The Nicollet American Legion Fish Fry will be held Saturday, February 4 at the Legion Hall. Serving time is 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or until the fish is gone.



BLC WELCA Brunch

Jan. 14, 2023

