



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 12, Issue 10

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

May 2023

Worship schedule

Two services will be held each Sunday through May, with the exception of holiday weekends. During the summer months, there will be one service each Sunday, on a rotating basis.

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, MAY-JULY

MAY 2023			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	May 7	SL C	BLC C
Week 2	May 14	BLC	FLC C
Week 3	May 21	SL C	FLC C
Mem. Wkend	May 28	-	SL C

JUNE 2023			
		9:30 AM	
Week 1	June 4	BLC	C
Week 2	June 11	FLC	C
Week 3	June 18	SL	C
Week 4	June 25	BLC	

JULY 2023			
		9:30 AM	
Week 1	July 2	FLC	C
Week 2	July 9	SL	C
Week 3	July 16	BLC	C
Week 4	July 23	FLC	C
Week 5	July 30	BLC	

C indicates communion service

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **BLOOMING IN BERNADOTTE PICK-UP—SAT., MAY 13**
- **CONFIRMATION & GRADUATION RECEPTION—SUN., MAY 21**
- **FOGGY ICE CREAM SOCIAL—FRI., JUNE 2**
- **BERNADOTTE ICE CREAM SOCIAL—WED., JUNE 7**
- **FIRST LUTHERAN WELCA ICE CREAM SOCIAL—JUNE 16**
- **OUTDOOR PARK SERVICES, JUNE 25, JULY 30, AUG. 27**

Fields of Grace notes

- Confirmation and graduation recognition, Sunday, May 21 at First Lutheran; brunch will be served after the service.
- Choir practice for the confirmation service, Sunday, April 30 following the 9:30 a.m. service at FLC.

First Lutheran notes

- First Lutheran's WELCA meeting Sunday, April 30, after the 9:30 a.m. service. Contact Sue Helget or Wendy Hagberg with any questions.
- The sign-up sheets for job duties for the fall church event will be downstairs in the church. It's your chance to volunteer for the job you want.

The goodness of Good Friday

An "angel wing" appeared in the evening sunset over the Bernadotte cemetery just as worshippers departed the church on Good Friday.



MAY 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 14-Traci Abrahamson, Darrell Abrahamson; 21-Jeff Donnay, Brian Martens
Reader: Sandy Donnay Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Traci Abrahamson, Cindy Youngblom
Coffee: 14-Laurie Larson, Linda Youngblom; 21-Mary Martens, Laura Isaacson
Visiting: Sandy Burger, Sandy Hartley

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Romi White, Pam White
Readers: 7-Tim Schulz; 14-Trish Gieseke
Ushers: Lori Fenske, Arlin Nelson, Jerry Oscarson, Brent & Sarah Johnson
Communion (May 7): S-Lori Fenske; C-Jim Bartels; U-Steve Sjostrom, Judy Ross
Coffee: 7-Rosanne Johnson, Doris Kaduce. 14-volunteer needed.

Sowing Seeds of Grace

by Pastor Bob Stover

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil. ELW#512

Several times each week, I sit down in front of my smart phone camera and record a devotional time on our Facebook page (Fields of Grace MN) that I call “Seeds of Grace.” I read a selection from a book, share a scripture or two, sing a song, and close with a prayer.

Of course, its name is derived from “Fields of Grace,” our cooperative parish of First of Lafayette, Swan Lake, and Bernadotte Lutheran churches. It is meant to help our members to get to know their pastor, and for me to touch base with people in other ways beside Sunday worship.

I’ve never asked anyone who created the parish name Fields of Grace, but I assume it was chosen for several reasons. 1) Our churches are meant to be fertile places where

lives of grace are nurtured through the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. 2) An embracing of our agricultural prairie setting. 3) It also brings to mind the many farming analogies that Jesus made in his ministry, such as “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Lk 9:62)

I chose the name Seeds of Grace, for the devotion I share with you, for much of those same reasons. One scripture that particularly comes to mind is Jesus’ Parable of the Sower, “A farmer went out to sow his seed...” (Mt 13:3-23). My prayer for each person who listens to one of these devotions is that it would be a seed that would take root and produce a crop; that it would bring hope to someone on an otherwise bleak day; that it would find good soil in a listener’s heart to grow greater love in their life; and that it might sometimes break the stone away, as the journey of faith is a long one.

I hope and pray that your Fields of Grace parish, and all its individual churches, do become like seeds of grace that nurture you in your faith. May some of those seeds of grace “yield a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of your life as your pastor, seeking to sow some of those seeds of grace in your heart.

Council Meeting Dates

- Bernadotte Council—Mon., May 15, 8:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., May 17, First Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., June 5, 6:00 p.m.

Bernadotte notes

- Blooming in Bernadotte flower pick-up, Saturday, May 13 with lunch & more (check page 7).
- Bernadotte Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, June 7 (see poster on page 8) .
- Outdoor Park Services—Sundays, June 25, July 30, & August 27. More information later.

The FOG Council is looking to plan some special events—possibly Campfire Worship and/or Beer & Hymns—this summer.

More information will be available later

Two Bernadotte members called to their heavenly home

Anna Johnson, 96, passed away Monday, April 3, 2023 at her home in Bernadotte. She had been diagnosed with cancer on January 6.



Anna's funeral was held Saturday, April 8, with burial in the Bernadotte church cemetery.

Anna and her late husband Roger farmed in Bernadotte Township. Anna enjoyed making pies, bread, and cookies; loved the outdoors, spending time in her garden, going fishing, and the time she spent with family.

She is survived by children Roger (Cathy) Johnson, Betty Ann Johnson, and Gene Johnson; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Duane Anderson, 89, passed away Thursday, April 20. Funeral service will be Saturday, April 29 at 11:00 a.m. at Bernadotte Lutheran Church. Visitation will be 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow with military honors by the Lafayette American Legion Honor Guard.



Duane is survived by Carol, his wife of 62 years; children Terry Anderson, Tim (Beth) Anderson, Jill (Steve) Hebeisen, and Todd Anderson; four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Duane was a dedicated farmer all his life. He served on the Bernadotte Church Council and the Sibley County DHIA board. He enjoyed playing cards, participating in church activities, fishing and, in traveling to their home in Arizona.



Busy days for Sunday School kids

The Sunday School kids were at Bernadotte on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. They sang at the Easter service (above) and carried palms on Palm Sunday. Pastor Bob joined them to solve a puzzle, below, on Palm Sunday.



Good News from F06

Bernadotte member and Fields of Grace Communications Coordinator Ruth Klossner was inducted into the ISD 88 (New Ulm) Hall of Fame during the Eagles Extravaganza celebration Friday, April 21.

A 1966 NUHS graduate, Klossner's life path has taken her from 4-H to athletic events to cow collecting to decades of service. Ruth covered area news stories for the *Lafayette Nicollet Ledger* for 30 years and has been a staff writer for *River Valley Woman* since "retiring" 11 years ago.

She is involved in many area groups including the Lafayette Lions, New Ulm Farm City Hub Club, Nicollet County Holstein Association, and Nicollet Legion Auxiliary.





Hamming it up at Ham Bingo

Ham Bingo, put on by the Fields of Grace youth, Saturday, April 1, was a big success.

The fire hall was filled and everybody had a good time as they tried to win half hams for 38 regular games and full hams for two coverall games.



A lot of door prizes—including ham slices, gift cards, and more—were awarded, too. The youth also had a concession stand that drew a lot of hungry diners. It was a fun evening for all.





Food for Kidz, Sunday, April 16

From the youngest Sunday School kids to 80-plus-year-olds, Fields of Grace members worked together to pack Food For

Kidz meals at Bernadotte Lutheran Church Sunday morning, April 16.

The 45 volunteers packed 79 boxes that contained 2,844 bags of food—or 17,064 meals. And, they donated more than \$3,500 to the program—with about \$500 of that coming from individual donations and the rest from church organizations.



Volunteers from Food For Kidz in Stewart brought all the supplies and took the filled boxes back with them.

After a brief devotion with concertina music by Jim Bartels, everyone was treated to pizza. Later, the Sunday School kids went across the road to check out the Mooseum.





Vettern College Choir returns to BLC

After an absence of five years, the Vettern choir from Jonkoping, Sweden returned to Bernadotte.



The choir presented a concert to 135 appreciative listeners Tuesday, April 18. The group presented a total of six concerts during their 10-day visit to the USA, with four in Minnesota.



The choir visited Martin Luther College the morning of the Bernadotte concert, singing a few numbers in the chapel. Between rehearsal and the evening concert, the group toured the Mooseum and had supper, sponsored by the Churchmen and served by the ladies. Helping that day were Trish, Renee, Jim, Konnie, Pam, Deb, and Neal and Ruth (not pictured).



Blooming in Bernadotte

PLANT SALE

PICK UP

SATURDAY MAY 13, 2023 10:30– 1:30
Bernadotte's Park Gazebo

*TO-GO box lunches
available for purchase
\$10 Each*



**Turn in your Opportunity
Tickets and Money to
Steve Langhorst or any
committee member**

Blooming in Bernadotte Fundraiser

Cash prizes of \$500!

Hole in One! Ho!

20 lbs Ground Beef

20 lbs Ground Beef

Chanhassen Dinner Theatre Tickets

Opportunity Ticket \$1

Drawing: May 13, 2023

*FUN
Kids Activities
\$5 Each*



**Thank you to all that have ordered plants.
We appreciate all you have done to support
the Blooming in Bernadotte event!**

Join us for Bernadotte Lutheran's Annual WELCA



PIE AND ICE CREAM Social!

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH

5PM - 7:30PM

**Bernadotte
Lutheran Church**



Pie Social Menu:
McRib Sandwiches
Hot Dogs
Pie, Cake & Ice Cream
Coffee, Lemonade, & Milk

**Featuring Music
from the
Lafayette City Band
Music from 6:00-7:00PM**

**"Bake Sale"
Specialties of the
Bernadotte Ladies**

