



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 13, Issue I Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran August 2023

Worship schedule

Worship services will rotate between the three churches during the summer months.

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, AUG.-SEPT.

AUGUST 2023

		9:30
Week 1	Aug. 6	SL
Week 2	Aug. 13	FLC
Week 3	Aug. 20	FLC
Week 4	Aug. 27	BLC

SEPTEMBER 2023

		8:00	9:30
Labor Day	Sept. 3	-	SL
Week 2	Sept. 10	BLC	FLC
Week 3	Sept. 17	SL	FLC
Week 4	Sept. 24	FLC	BLC

Early deadline for August newsletter

The newsletter editor will spend most of the last two weeks of August working at the Minnesota State Fair. Virtually all of the writing for the September newsletter will be done Tuesday, August 22. So, she asks that all input for the newsletter be submitted **before** that day.

Final newsletter editing will be done and the newsletter sent Tuesday, August 29 when she's home for a day.

Good News from our churches

The Sjostrom family from Bernadotte has been named the 2023 Nicollet County Farm Family of the Year by the University of Minnesota. The family consists of Steve and Deb, son and daughter-in-law Jacob and Lindsay, as well as Steve's parents Lowell and Adrienne.

The family will be recognized at Farmfest Thursday, August 3 and at the Nicollet County Fair Friday, August 11.

New historic piece added to BLC collection

A small ceramic piece, measuring four-and-a-quarter inches wide by three inches tall, has been added to the historical items displayed in the Bernadotte church office. It was located and purchased from an antique dealer and donated to the church recently.

Although there is no date on the item, it is from 1940 or earlier as the church name imprinted on it is "Swedish Lutheran Evangelical Church, Bernadotte, Minn."

In 1940, the congregation accepted a new constitution, as proposed by the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America. It changed the church name to Bernadotte Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bernadotte Township.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- BEVERAGES AND HYMNS—MONDAY, AUGUST 14 AT DAVE'S PLACE/LAFAYETTE MINI PARK *
- GAMES, BONFIRES & FUN—SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 AT SWAN LAKE, 5:00 P.M. *
- MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE—SUNDAY, JULY 30 AND AUGUST 27 AT BERNADOTTE CHURCH PARK *

* SEE PAGE 4

Support for South Africa

The Fields of Grace council reiterated its support for the South Africa Partnership at its July meeting. Each church will donate to the cause and individual members will have a chance to do so at the October 1 services when a Noisy Offering will be collected to help the South African churches.

First Lutheran note

The sign-up sheets for First Lutheran's Fall Bazaar are on the tables in the church basement. The bazaar will be October 1, so the work spots need to be filled soon.

Looking for volunteers

Carol Young and Romi White will serve the birthday party at the Gaylord Nursing Home Wednesday August 15 at 3:00 p.m. They are looking for volunteers to go along to visit and spend time with residents. Volunteers do not have to serve or bring anything. Contact Carol or Rosanne if you can help.

AUGUST 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 13-Dean Pehrson, Darrell Abrahamson;
20-Todd Nelson, Randy Altmann
Reader: Deb Grant Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Traci Abrahamson, Cindy Youngblom
Coffee: 13-Heidi Hutton, Lindsay Benson; 20-
Kris Hagberg, Laurie Larson
Visiting: (open)

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Sally Webster, Elias Webster
Reader: 27-Sarah Johnson
Ushers: Neil & Renee Rasmussen, Jim & Stacy Kline
Communion (Aug. 27): S-Neil Rasmussen; C-Steve Sjostrom;
U-John Nelson, Andrew Rasmussen
Coffee: 27-refreshments after outdoor service.

Carpe Diem

by Pastor Bob Stover

*Seize the day, seize whatever you can
'Cause life slips away just like hourglass sand
Seize the day, pray for grace from God's hand
Then nothing will stand in your way.*

"Seize the day" song by Carolyn Arends

The Latin phrase "carpe diem," which literally means "pluck the day," was used by the Roman poet Horace to express the idea that we should enjoy life while we can. His full injunction, "carpe diem quam minimum credula postero," can be translated as "pluck the day, trusting as little as possible in the next one," but carpe diem alone has come to be used as shorthand for this entire idea, which is more widely known as "seize the day."

By the meteorological calendar, summer was half over at July 15. By the astronomical calendar, we will reach the middle of summer around August 6. However you look at it, the hot and sunny days of the year are ticking away quickly. It won't be long before you look back and wonder where it went. So, if you want to do some camping, bicycling, boating, or any other warm weather activity, those days are limited. You better make your plans now and do those things that you've been putting off.

I think it's the same with our Christian life. It's easy to

fool ourselves into thinking that there will always be tomorrow to do whatever is important or worthwhile. But, the truth is, we don't know what tomorrow will bring. We don't know if later we will have the strength, the resources, the time, or even the will to do acts of kindness, offer a helping hand, or provide for someone's needs. Thus, we need to "seize the day."

I believe the Christ-filled journey is a joyful life. God wants it to be abundant and full. A favorite quote of my mother-in-law, Claire Anderson, was something said by Jonathon Edwards:

God is not glorified most by being known, nor dutifully obeyed. God is most glorified in being enjoyed.

We seize the day as we enjoy the journey of living out the Christ-filled life—as we seek to love one another as Christ has loved us. As we use our resources to try to out-give God and be a blessing to others. As we share the grace and peace of God wherever we encounter chaos and despair. I hope you enjoy every last day of summer, drinking in the long warm days and refreshing cool evenings. And I pray that you also enjoy your relationship with God, who wants your life to be richly abundant and satisfying, full of peace, joy, and love. Carpe diem!

Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wed., August 16, Swan Lake, 7:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Sept. 18, 8:00 p.m. (bi-monthly meetings)
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Oct. 2, 6:00 p.m. (meetings will now be held every other month)

The Lafayette Lions will accept a free will offering for the meal. It will go toward the Lafayette Kid-die Play-ground Fund as the Lions are undertaking a \$100,000 update project.

NIGHT TO UNITE
LUND PARK, LAFAYETTE

ICE CREAM TRUCK
SNOWMOBILES
TRACTOR
SEMI TRUCK
TOW TRUCK
GROOMER
FIRETRUCKS
ACTIVITIES
AMBULANCE
SCHOOL BUS
SQUAD CAR

MEAL SERVED BY
LAFAYETTE AREA LIONS

5:30-7:30P
AUGUST 1
BOUNCE HOUSE

AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION
True REAL ESTATE
CARA BISHOP
Lafayette Area Lions Club
Citizens
Haber Plumbing & Heating LLC



Swan Lake Campfire...take 2

Nearly 30 people took part in the second of three campfire gatherings at Swan Lake July 16. It was a great evening to visit, roast wieners, play games, and throw beanbags. The final event will be Sunday, August 20 at 5:00 p.m.



Fields of Grace
**Summer
Worship**

OPPORTUNITIES

**Campfire
Church**

5:00 pm - Swan Lake
July 16
August 20

*We'll roast hot dogs, play games,
have devotions and enjoy time together
outdoors at Swan Lake Church**

**Hot dogs and lemoade provided.
Please bring a snack to share.*

**FIELDS OF GRACE
PARISH**

Bernadotte Lutheran
34122 515th Ave, Lafayette

First Lutheran
1020 Lafayette Ave, Lafayette

Swan Lake Lutheran
51420 Fort Rd, New Ulm

**Beverages
& Hymns**

7:00 pm - Dave's Place
July 24
August 14

*Grab a beverage of your choice and
food*, from Dave's Place and join us
on the patio for Music,
Beverages and Fellowship*

**You are responsible for the cost of
your food and beverages.*

**Music with
a Message**

9:30 am - Bernadotte
July 30 - Larry Mages
August 27 - Mary Kavan

*Enjoy Sunday morning worship with
music from local musicians
in Bernadotte's beautiful park.*

Fellowship to follow.