



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 13, Issue 3

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Oct. 2023

Worship schedule

Two services will be held each Sunday, with the exception of holiday weekends and the fifth Sunday of the month.

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, OCT.-NOV.

OCTOBER 2023			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Oct. 1	SL	FLC
Week 2	Oct. 8	FLC	BLC
Week 3	Oct. 15	BLC	FLC
Week 4	Oct. 22	SL	BLC
Week 5	Oct. 29	-	SL

NOVEMBER 2023			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Nov. 5	SL	BLC
Week 2	Nov. 12	BLC	FLC
Week 3	Nov. 19	SL	FLC
Thanksgiving	Nov. 21 (Tues.)	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 4	Nov. 26	FLC	BLC

Support for South Africa

Each church will hold a “Noisy Offering” for our South Africa partnership in October. The October 1 service at Swan Lake will help the South African churches, as will the October 8 services at First and Bernadotte. Please collect your change (and folding money) and bring it to contribute to our friends in South Africa.

Sunday School classes will begin October 1

Even though Sunday, October 1 is First Lutheran’s Fall Dinner, it WILL also be the first Sunday of FOG Sunday School.

Coordinator Kayla Campbell is holding class that day so the kids have something to do while their parents are working at the dinner or picking up meals.

Classes will begin at 10:45 a.m. at First Lutheran.

MN Valley WELCA Fall Gathering

The annual Minnesota Valley Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, October 14 at Augustana Lutheran in Gibbon. Registration is at 11:30 a.m., with lunch at noon. Registration cost is \$12.00.

The guest speakers will be from Terebinth Refuge in Waite Park.

Terebinth Refuge is a Christ-centered shelter and safe home that brings hope, healing services, and freedom to sexually exploited and trafficked women. It’s a topic that must be taken seriously, but most don’t know how.

Rosanne Johnson and Romi White from Bernadotte plan to attend. Others wishing to attend may sign up with Rosanne (507-276-8251) or can call Sue Bentz (507-381-3685). Augustana needs a registration count by Wednesday, October 4.

Confirmation classes set to start October 25

After an orientation session October 11, confirmation classes will begin Wednesday, October 25. Area pastors are being lined up to cover class until a new pastor arrives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST LUTHERAN FALL FESTIVAL, SUN., OCT. 1

Drive-thru meal, bake sale, more. See page 4

SWAN LAKE BREAKFAST, SAT., OCT. 7, 6:00-9:30 A.M.

Free will breakfast to benefit Kurt Karstens. See page 5

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION, WED., OCT. 11, 6:30 P.M.

For 5th-9th grade students & parents, at FLC

QUILTING AT BLC, MON.-TUES., OCT. 16-17, 9:00 A.M.

Everyone welcome! Bring sack lunch and enthusiasm!

Interim pastor update

The FOG council has extended an offer to an interim candidate and the candidate has verbally accepted our offer. There are still some matters to be taken care of before this individual can start at FOG, or a name can be shared. Paperwork needs to be filed and completed through the Synod Council. The individual is currently serving as an interim in another church, but we are hopeful he can start by January 1, 2024 or possibly sooner.

Please understand that the name of the individual cannot be shared until paperwork is complete or near completion as to protect the individual and the current congregation. In the meantime, pulpit supply is being arranged, as well as finding someone who can help Mark Haler with confirmation. At this time, we will be contracting with this interim for six months or more to provide the confirmation class with consistent pastoral leadership.

The call committee has moved into active mode in the quest to find a called pastor.

OCTOBER 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 1-Tom Sandberg, Jon Hartley; 8-Mike Hoffmann, Connor Hoffmann; 15-Stacy Reinhart, Kevin Reinhart
Reader: Mary Martens
Altar: Mary Martens, Laura Isaacson
Coffee: 1-Fall Dinner; 8-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg; 15-Myra Kienlen, Diane Youngblom
Visiting: (open)

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Daniel Fenske, Deb Sjostrom
Reader: 8-Sarah Johnson; 15-Tim Schulz; 22-Trish Gieseke
Ushers: Elias Webster, Steve & Deb Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Jim Henderson
Communion (Oct. 8): S-Elias Webster; C-Andrew Rasmussen; U-Shaun Anderson, Steve Sjostrom
Coffee: 8-Donna Webster, Adrienne Sjostrom; 15-Pam White, Wendy Schulz; 22-open.

How Can I Keep from Singing!?

by Pastor Bob Stover

*“My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that
hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while
to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?” (ELW#763 v1)*

It has been a delightful past 14 months of interim ministry for me at Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish. Each week has been rich with singing, worship, smiles, laughter, joy, love, and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have been richly blessed, and I hope my ministry among you has been a blessing to you in return.

As I leave your churches of First of Lafayette, Bernadotte, and Swan Lake, I know that God’s work will continue through the people here. Hungry hearts and mouths will be fed. Joyous praise will ring out each Sunday. Times of fellowship will deepen friendships and bonds of support. Children and youth, old and young, all will be welcome and nurtured in God’s word and sacraments and the good news of acceptance, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus Christ.

The breakfasts and coffee hours, singing with the Sunday School kids, finding out where Bulwinkle traveled with the

confirmation students (ask them about that one), pot-luck dinners, outdoor worship services, Lenten dramas, children’s sermons, singing in the choir—there have been so many rich times of ministry and memories created.

Thank you for warmly welcoming and including me in your midst!

Now it is time for this church to transition once again with a new pastor. I hope that you will go out of your way to make your new pastor feel welcome here as your shepherd. His days will center around caring for you and sharing the gospel. As he does so, be open to his gifts, his ideas, and his leading.

As I depart, I resonate with Paul’s words to the church of Philippi: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”(Phil.1:3-6)

All of our lives flow on in endless song, sharing the love of God through Christ Jesus, who first loved us. So, as I go on my way into retirement, after 44½ years of ordained ministry, my heart overflows with thankfulness for the opportunity you provided for me to serve in your midst.

How then can I keep from singing?

This church pew is looking for a new home

A long time ago, Pastor Maurice Swenson gave a church pew to Bud & Betty Peterson—it was the year the carpet was put into the church sanctuary at Bernadotte. It stood in the Petersons’ family room at the farm until Bud & Betty retired and moved to Winthrop. Since then it has been with daughter Lori Peterson in her condo. Lori is looking to make some changes and doesn’t have room for the pew. She’s checked with all family members, and no one is interested in rehoming this piece of Bernadotte history.

Lori is offering it to anyone interested. The only stipulation is that they’ll have to pick it up in Minneapolis as she has no means to transport it.

It’s six feet long, three feet high, and two feet deep. Sorry, the bears and pillows don’t go with it.

Contact Lori at ljtatter2@yahoo.com if you’re interested.



Fun times at Sunday School kickoff



Crafts, getting to know each other, snacks, music, and learning about Jesus were all part of the kickoff.



Sunday, Sept. 24

And the weather cooperated so the bounce house could be set up—after a long wait since it was weathered out at last spring's Sunday School celebration.



Good News from FOG

Swan Lake member **Karlen Nelson** was recognized for his four terms of dedicated service to Nicollet County Farm Bureau upon his retirement from the board. County president Mary Peichel made the presentation.



Bernadotte WELCA notes

The BLC WELCA will serve at the Lodge in Winthrop on the first two Sundays of October. Denise Johnson and Sarah Johnson will serve October 1 and Beth Anderson and Betty Johnson on October 8.

Baptism at FLC October 15

Maren Mable Montgomery, the daughter of Corben and Aimee Montgomery and granddaughter of Darrell and Traci Abrahamson will be baptized at the 9:30 a.m. service at First Lutheran on Sunday, October 15.



The First Lutheran Choir will sing at the baptism service.

FOG web page updated regularly

Volunteer Steve Briggs continues to update the Fields of Grace web page on a regular basis. Check it for calendar items, newsletters, photos, scripture readings, and more. Go to fieldsofgracemn.com.

We appreciate Steve's work on our web page!

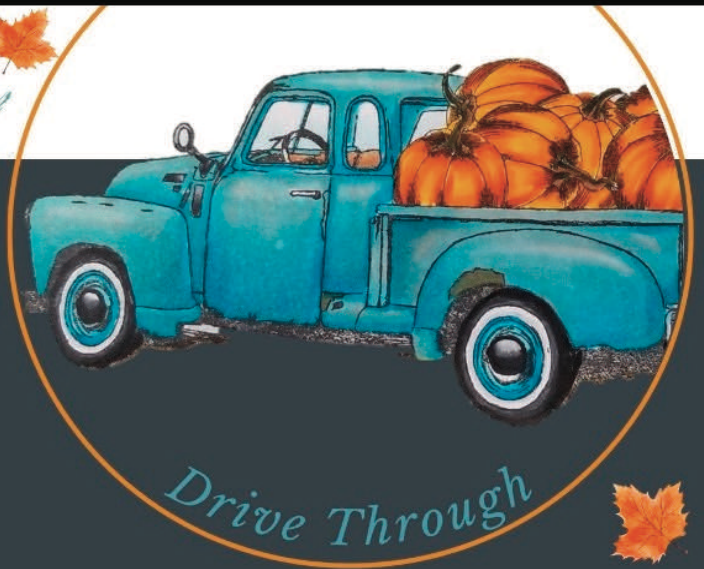
Fall Festival

First Lutheran Church

October 1st

Farmer's Market & Bake Sale

OUTSIDE 10:30 A.M.-1 P.M.



Quilt Raffle

DRAWING AT 1 P.M.

Lafayette, MN

Meal
10:30a-1p \$15

HAM, MEATBALL, MASHED
POTATO, GRAVY, CORN,
COLESLAW, BUN, PUMPKIN BAR



Fall Harvest

Breakfast Benefit

KURT KARSTENS

On June 7th, Kurt was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He has undergone several procedures, radiation and chemotherapy. Proceeds will help the Karstens family with ongoing medical bills, travel and hotel expenses that Kurt continues to need throughout his long road to recovery.

October 7th

6 AM - 9:30 AM

Swan Lake Lutheran Church

51420 Fort Road - New Ulm, MN 56073

SERVING: COMPART HAM PANCAKES SCRAMBLED EGGS JUICE/COFFEE

If you would like to mail a donation, checks can be made payable to:

Kurt Karstens Benefit

c/o Darwin Gieseke 329 Hazelwood Ave, New Ulm, MN 56073

Take Out Available

Free Will Donation