



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 13, Issue 8

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Mar. 2024

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Mar.-Apr.

MARCH 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	March 3	SL*	BLC*
Lenten Week 3	March 6	7:00 PM	SL
Week 2	March 10	BLC	FLC*
Lenten Week 4	March 13	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 3	March 17	SL*	FLC*
Lenten Week 5	March 20	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 4	March 24	FLC	BLC
Maundy Thursday	March 28	7:00 PM	BLC
Good Friday	March 29	7:00 PM	FLC
Easter Sunday	March 31	7:00 AM	FLC*
		8:30 AM	SL*
		10:00 AM	BLC*

APRIL 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	April 7	SL*	BLC*
Week 2	April 14	9:00 FOG Food for Kidz at BLC	
Week 3	April 21	SL*	FLC*
Week 4	April 28	FLC	BLC

* communion

Easter schedule

The services are listed above.

The Sunday School kids will open the 10:00 a.m. service by singing at Bernadotte on Easter Sunday.

Fellowship and coffee will follow the 7:00 a.m. service at First Lutheran. Swan Lake will have coffee hour after the 8:30 a.m. service. Bernadotte will have coffee and rolls before the 10:00 a.m. service, starting at 9:00 a.m.

First communion

After attending a First Communion Class Sunday, February 25, a number of FOG youngsters will take first communion in their home churches in the next few weeks. First communion will be Sunday, March 3 at Bernadotte and Sunday, March 10 at First, both at the 9:30 a.m. services.

Early deadline for April newsletter!

Because the newsletter editor will be out of state March 22-March 29, the newsletter will be sent out Thursday, March 21. All input for it needs to be in by Sunday, March 17.



Youth serve Soup Suppers

Confirmation students Madden Hagberg, Bodey Hagberg, and Brianna Engel served the first Wednesday Evening Soup Supper at First Lutheran February 21. Other confirmation students will serve the suppers February 28 and March 6, 13, and 20. Everyone is welcome to the suppers that start at 5:30 p.m. Turn to page 3 for more photos.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Mar. 11. 6:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Apr. 17, First Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Sun., Apr. 21, 7:00 p.m.

FOG council has new officers

The Fields of Grace council elected new officers at its meeting February 21. Jim Bartels is the new president, Marvin Gieseke the vice president and Wendy Hagberg secretary. Kyle Dalquist has agreed to be treasurer, a position that he held some years ago.

Ham Bingo Saturday, March 16 (see page 4)

Choir practice at FLC

Choir practice will be held at First Lutheran Church on March 10 and 17, following the 9:30 a.m. church services.

The choir will sing Sunday, March 17; Good Friday, March 29; and Easter Sunday, March 31 at the 7:00 a.m. service at FLC.

MARCH 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 10-Eric & Heidi Sjogren; 17-Dennis & Eric Sjogren; 24-Jay & Matt Hagberg; 31-Charlie & Jon Hartley

Reader: Cindy Youngblom

Liturgist: (open)

Altar: Cindy Youngblom & Traci Abrahamson

Coffee: 10-Sue Helget, Katie Decko; 17-Shauna Hoffmann, Shelly Langhoff; 24-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg; 31-Amy S., Ann Gieseke

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Trish Gieseke, Ruth Klossner

Reader: 3-Sarah Johnson; 10-Tim Schulz; 24-Trish Gieseke; 31-Jim Bartels

Ushers: Andrew Rasmussen, Brad & Pam White, Brent Peterson, Brad Peterson

Communion (Mar. 3 & 31): S-Andrew Rasmussen; C-Judy Ross; U-Brent Johnson

Coffee: 3-WELCA/LCM, Pam White, Wendy Schulz; 10-Donna Webster, Adrienne Sjoström; 24-Carol Young, Judy Ross; 31-(before church): Donna Webster, Adrienne Sjoström

A cord of three strands is not easily broken

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up...
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12)*

Whoever wrote the Bible book we call Ecclesiastes knew a great truth about life: We need each other! As he (or she) wrote in the verses above, two workers can help ensure that the boss won't be able to take advantage of either of them for their labor. If one worker tires, the other will be right there to help them back on their feet. A person on their own might get overpowered, but two people together can join forces for their defense.

Plus, notes the author in the final verse above, THREE is even better than two! To prove it, the author points us to the example of a cord...a rope. If the rope is woven from three strands, breaking it will be especially difficult, if not downright impossible. And so it is with people—if you form a group of three, that trio is far more likely to be an unstoppable force together than they could ever be separately or even as a duo!

I chose the verses above for a simple, but profound, reason: This passage from Ecclesiastes reminds me of Fields of Grace. The three 'cords' of our parish—Swan Lake, First, and Bernadotte—makes each of our three churches much stronger, and

affords us the possibility of being an unstoppable force together.

One goal I hope to accomplish during my time with you as your interim pastor is to encourage all of the parishioners in our three congregations to dream big dreams, and to realize that being a part of the trio known as Fields of Grace opens up immense possibilities. Individually, our individual churches are small—but collectively we are actually quite a bit bigger than a number of the congregations in many of the towns around us!

To unleash our full potential requires a different way of thinking, though. When contemplating projects, we need to ask, "Is this something that we could—and perhaps, should—be doing at a parish level?" I wonder how many potentially great undertakings have failed to materialize because we might have thought only in terms of our individual congregation and concluded "We could never do this because we are too small." I am convinced, if we continue to strive to think more at the parish level, our list of ministries would skyrocket and our impact would grow substantially. Not only would we accomplish more as a parish, but I also believe each individual congregation would discover more energy and more joy (and more participation) in the process. It would be the classic 'win-win' situation!

So, dear friends, let us together commit ourselves to take far more advantage of our 'big-ness' (collectively) than ever before. I issue this challenge to you: Can we add one or two ministries at the parish level during my time with you that will make a difference in the lives of God's people, whether locally or far away? Remember, Fields of Grace is a three-strand 'cord'—and a cord of three strands is not easily broken!

Bernadotte Lutheran notes

• BLC WELCA and LCM will meet Sunday, March 3, following the 9:30 worship service. Servers are Pam White and Wendy Schulz.

• The next Blooming in Bernadotte planning meeting will be after church March 3. (A change from the February 25 planned meeting date.)

• BLC members are encouraged to volunteer to be readers at Sunday morning services. Please contact Trish or Ruth

to have your name added to the reader list.

• Bernadotte's annual Mission Sunday—Food for Kidz—will be Sunday, April 14. It's an event for all ages to work together and have fun! It will be a joint service.

• The 2024 Blooming In Bernadotte Fundraiser will be Saturday, May 11. Check the poster on the back page for more information. Order forms are not quite ready, but will be posted soon.

Soup Suppers before Lenten services



The Fields of Grace confirmation students and their families are serving Soup Suppers before the Wednesday evening Lenten services. Three or four students, along with their parents, have been asked to make and serve the soup each week.

During Lent, there are no formal confirmation classes, but students are expected to attend the worship service as part of their learning and class time.



Called to his heavenly home

First Lutheran member Merrill Ellies, 88, of Lafayette, passed away Friday, February 9, 2024 at Oak Hills Living Center—Hospice Care.



Funeral service was held Saturday, February 17 at First Lutheran Church with Pastor Mike Zaske officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery with military honors by the Lafayette Honor Guard.

Merrill is survived by wife Lila; daughter Karen Larson, and grandchildren Lucas and Samantha. Merrill and

Lila shared 61 years of marriage and made their lifelong home in Lafayette.

Merrill was a heavy equipment crane operator through the Local 49ers Union until retiring in 1998. He enjoyed outdoor activities throughout his lifetime including stock car racing, trap shooting, snowmobiling, fishing and hunting.

More details next month. Committee members are Sarah Johnson, Stacy Kline, Beth Anderson and Mary Langhorst. Tickets can be reserved through them.

Daylight Savings Time starts March 10!



Turn your clocks AHEAD one hour or you'll be late for church

FIELDS OF GRACE YOUTH

HAM BINGO!

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 16TH**
LAFAYETTE FIRE HALL

**DOORS OPEN
4:00 PM**

**BINGO
6:00 PM**

**40 GAMES
\$20.00**

38 Regular Games
2 Blackout Games

20 GAMES FOR \$10

Prizes include Half Bone-in
Hams for Regular Games
and Whole Bone-in Hams
for Blackout Games,
PLUS other Door Prizes

**BBQS, HOT DOGS AND
OTHER CONCESSIONS
FOR SALE**

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Proceeds to FOG Youth
Contact Mark Haler with any questions
at 507.766.6327

Blooming in Bernadotte

PLANT SALE

*Bernadotte Lutheran Church
Flower Sale*

**Saturday,
May 11, 2024**

Just in time for Mother's Day and
Memorial Day

*Preorders & payment are required
no later than April 10, 2024.*

Order forms are available via the Field of
Grace Website
(fieldsofgracemn.com),
Fields of Grace MN Facebook page,
at the church, or by contacting
Shaun Anderson at 507-381-3858 or
shaun.anderson10@gmail.com.

Send order forms and payment
to Shaun Anderson, PO Box 426
Nicollet, MN 56074

You may pick up your flower orders at
Bernadotte Lutheran Church on
Saturday, May 11th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
There will be a limited number of extra flowers
to purchase the day of pick-up.



Box lunches & opportunity tickets will be for sale the day of pick-up too! We appreciate your support!