



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 13, Issue 9

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

April 2024

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Apr.-May

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

MAY 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	May 5	SL*	BLC*
Week 2	May 12	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	May 19	SL*	FLC*
Week 4	May 26	Joint Worship	FLC*

* communion

Holy Week/Easter schedule

- Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. at Bernadotte
- Good Friday: 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran
- Easter Sunday: 7:00 a.m. at FLC; 8:30 a.m. at Swan Lake, 10:00 a.m. at BLC.
- The FLC Choir will sing at the 7:00 a.m. Easter service at First. The Sunday School kids will sing at the 10:00 a.m. service at Bernadotte.
- Fellowship and coffee: after the 7:00 a.m. service at First Lutheran, after the 8:30 a.m. service at Swan Lake; before the 10:00 a.m. service (9:00 a.m.) at Bernadotte.

Food for Kidz Mission Sunday

The annual Mission Sunday event—Food for Kidz food packing—will be Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m. at Bernadotte.

This is a great Fields of Grace event for all ages—and the Sunday School kids have already volunteered to help.

Set-up will begin at 8:00 a.m., with food packaging starting at 9:00 am. Lunch and fellowship will follow at 11:00 a.m.

If you can come early to assist with unloading the truck and setting up, please contact Jim Bartels.

Council Meeting Dates

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



First Communion at FLC

Four girls took communion with their families for the first time at First Lutheran Church Sunday, March 10. Pictured with Pastor Mike, they are, from left: Zanne Kamm, Zayla Reinhart, Karli Hartmann, and Madalyn Hartmann. Bernadotte will have First Communion at a later time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(check below or pages 5-8 for details)

- MOTHER-DAUGHTER BRUNCH, SAT., APR. 13, BLC
- FOOD FOR KIDZ, SUN, APR. 14, BLC
- ALICIA RATHMANN BENEFIT, SUN, APR. 21, SL
- CONFIRMATION, SUN., MAY 5 AT BLC; MAY 12 AT FLC
- BLOOMING IN BERNADOTTE, SAT., MAY 11
(ORDERS DUE APR. 10)
- FLC GRADUATION RECEPTION—SUN., MAY 19
- BERNADOTTE ICE CREAM SOCIAL—WED., JUNE 5

Swan Lake to host benefit

Swan Lake will host a benefit for Alicia Rathmann of Winthrop on Sunday, April 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They will offer a choice of beef commercial or chef salad, both with dessert and beverage. Takeouts available.

Rathmann has struggled with an evasive blood and bone marrow cancer that is not responding to traditional cancer treatments. She and her husband have three school age kids. For more information, check the poster in this newsletter or her CaringBridge page.

Choir practice at FLC April 21 after worship

APRIL 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 21-Brad DeBoer, Dwight DeBoer;
28-Jim Langhoff, Connor Hoffmann
Reader: (open) Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Carmen Broste, Trudy Hofstad
Coffee: 21-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg;
28-Mark & Jill Haler

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Tim & Beth Anderson
Reader: 7-Steve Sjostrom; 28-Rosanne Johnson
Ushers: Jim, Konnie & Adam Bartels, Abby Balduan, Scott Johnson
Communion (Apr. 7): S-Jim Bartels; C-Elias Webster; U-Neil Rasmussen
Coffee: 7-Romi White, Rosanne Johnson; 14-Food For Kidz Pizza; 28-vol-
unteer needed

The ‘Spam Lady’

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

When you attend seminary to become a pastor, you are required to do a one-year internship at a church, learning the ins-and-outs of the job from a supervising pastor who guides you. My internship took place way up in northwest Minnesota in a three-point parish of little, rural churches (sound familiar?) in-and-around the tiny town of Goodridge, under the tutelage of Pastor Bob Dahlen.

About three months before I arrived at Goodridge, Pastor Bob called me to tell me more about the place I would soon be calling home for 12 months. Bob told me of the weather (cold and snowy), and of the individual churches I’d be serving (small and “Norwegian”). He told me of the town (also small and Norwegian), as well as information about himself (big and Norwegian).

And he told me about the “Spam Lady.” Apparently, according to Bob, there was a woman who, upon every visit by the pastor, would serve him a thick-cut piece of Spam in between two rock-hard large chunks of bread, each loaded with a slab of butter. Said Pastor Bob, “Every time I have eaten that Spam sandwich, I have been reminded that I am a wretched sinner.” Just the mere thought of having to eat such a monstrosity was enough to remind me of my wretched sinfulness. Only scalloped potatoes are more revolting to me than the sandwich he described....

So...every time Bob would send me out to do a visit with a parishioner, I would look carefully at his face for a sign indicating that this person to whom he was sending me might, in fact, be the infamous Spam Lady. And, on the occasions where a person I was visiting offered me a “snack” from the kitchen, I would wait with considerable dread and a pit in my stomach in the living room until they returned—and would smile with great relief when I saw that the plate they brought me had cookies or a piece of cake on it, not a dreaded Spam sandwich!

This constant vigilance continued for nearly four months in Goodridge when, during a funeral service for a lady I had never met, Bob shared in his eulogy that the dear departed woman would always serve him a Spam sandwich every time he visited her. I almost laughed out loud (which would have been quite rude, of course). But I was so thankful that my potential nightmare was over!

Once the funeral and the lunch afterwards were completed, I told Bob of my relief at having avoided eating one of those dreaded Spam sandwiches from the lady we had just laid to rest. Bob began giggling uncontrollably. Why? Because he had forgotten that he had ever even told me about the sandwiches. He found it hilarious that I had spent four months watching his face for a sign that he was sending me to the home of the Spam Lady, and dreading having to do visits because of it. It turned out that this lady had been in nursing care for many years—the Spam sandwiches were from many years prior, and my concerns were totally unfounded.

Here’s the moral of the story: On Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus—an act of God that forever sets us free from ever having to worry again that God is against us. When Jesus rose from the tomb, it was God’s way of telling us, “Have no fear, as I am always with you, and I am always FOR you.” That promise is assured. It is certain.

The resurrection means that we do not have to live our lives afraid of God, in the way I was living in constant trepidation of the Spam Lady for those four months. God is loving and forgiving. Any concerns that God isn’t that way are totally unfounded. Your sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake—so there is no need to keep having dread or a pit in your stomach over mistakes you have made in the past. Trust that, in Christ, you are a new creation. You live within the perfect love of God, and perfect love casts out fear. Even the fear of heavily-buttered Spam sandwiches!

Blooming in Bernadotte notes

• The 2024 Blooming In Bernadotte Fundraiser will be Saturday, May 11. Check the poster and order form in this newsletter.

• Order forms, posters and \$5.00 opportunity tickets have been mailed to BLC members. If anyone needs more, please

contact Shaun Anderson at 507-381-3858 or shaun.anderson10@gmail.com.

• If paying for both flowers and opportunity tickets, please indicate how much is for flowers and how much is for tickets.



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. Swan Lake, top left, Bernadotte above, and First Lutheran servers, below. Thanks, kids!



Thank you

The family of Merrill Ellies would like to thank everyone for their support, prayers, flowers, memorials, and cards. Also, thank you to Pastor Mike Zaske for his visits and lovely service.

Thank you Tami and the WELCA ladies for the good food and hard work. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

Lila Ellies, Karen, Lucas & Samantha Larson

Gene Johnson health update

Gene Johnson of Bernadotte Lutheran recently had a rod inserted into his knee as part of a procedure to heal a bone infection. The rod must remain for six months. Please keep Gene in your prayers. A visit, a phone call, a hot dish, or any random act of kindness would be greatly appreciated.

FLC WELCA notes

FLC is looking for volunteers to attend the 2024 SW MN SWO Convention (see P. 6). WELCA will meet after church April 21 to discuss the graduation and confirmation breakfasts and an upcoming mum fundraiser.

Good News from FOG

Bernadotte teen Tanner Johnson was named to the All-Journal wrestling team after a second place finish in sections and advancing to the state tournament at 114 pounds. A freshman wrestling for Sibley East. Johnson had eight pins, 114 team points, 34 takedowns, and 24 wins this season.



Note to Thrivent members

If you are a Thrivent member and are looking for a cause for your grant dollars, consider the non-profit MN Brain Injury Force (MNBIF). Sharon Gieseke of the Brighton area is involved with MNBIF and is asking for your assistance. She would like to distribute pocket books of the Gospel of John at MNBIF free public events. As a Thrivent member, you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team \$250 grant, which could be used to purchase books for distribution. Please contact Pastor Mike for more information.



Ham Bingo

March 16

Ham Bingo, put on by the Fields of Grace youth, 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. Ricky Franta provided pre-bingo music. Thank you to sponsors Wakefield Pork, CIA, Fill Me Up, Dave's Place, Lafayette Fire Department, and more.





Join us
April 13, 2024
Mother Daughter Banquet

9-9:30 AM Pictures

9:30 AM Brunch

10:00 AM Program

By our very own Patti Strukel

Be inspired in our day to day lives walking with God

Adults \$10, Kids 6-12 \$5 and
under 6 FREE

For tickets please contact:

Stacy Kline 507-381-5934,

Beth Anderson 507-766-1150,

Sarah Johnson 507-327-8852 or

Mary Langhorst 507-327-8333

(Also sign up available after Church Service)

Alicia Rathmann

BENEFIT

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
11:00 am-1:30 pm

Swan Lake Lutheran Church
51420 Fort Rd. New Ulm

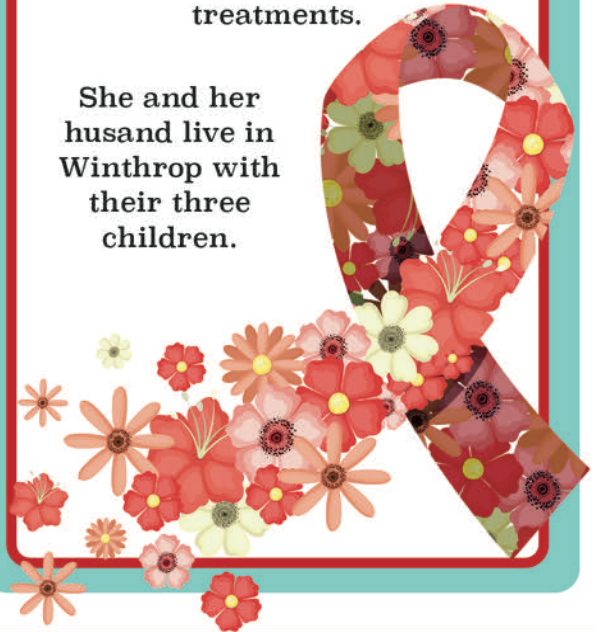
Your choice of
Beef Commercial or Chef Salad,
plus Dessert and Beverage

Free Will Donation

Take Out Meals Available

Alicia is currently fighting a rare blood and bone marrow cancer. This is an evasive cancer that is not responding to traditional cancer treatments.

She and her husband live in Winthrop with their three children.



Helping Hands Touching Lives

Minnesota Valley
Conference
Women of the ELCA
Spring Gathering
Saturday,
April 13, 2024
Grace Lutheran Church
8638 Plum Avenue
Brownton, Minnesota



Featuring Speaker Kim Dickey from Global Health Ministries

Registration at 11:30 Lunch at 12:00
Registration cost \$12

Please call Paula Katzenmeyer at 320-779-0549 with the number of attendees by April 1, 2024.

"Let the favor of the Lord, our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands. O prosper the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

2024 SW MN SWO Convention



Saturday, May 4, 2024

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
301 North Lincoln Street, Redwood Falls, MN 56283



Theme: "Be the Light"
Theme Verse: Psalm 82:4
Theme Hymn: "Christ, Be Our Light"

Opening Worship with Holy Communion
Rev. Heather Culuris officiating

Guest Speaker: Aliyah Ewing, Terebith Refuge

Registration Fee: \$40.00

Note: There will be a truck for In-Kind Offerings this year.

- Convention Offerings: 50% to Churchwide Women, 50% to Terebith Refuge
- In-Kind Donations of gifts cards to Target, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS will be collected for Terebith Refuge.
- Katie's Cans available – Bring your loose change for Katie's Fund.

Convention Schedule

7:30 – Truck opens
8:00 – Registration begins
9:00 – Opening Worship
4 p.m. – Convention Closes

Women of the **ELCA**

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!

BLOOMING IN BERNADOTTE - 2024

Quantity	Hanging Baskets	Size	Cost	Total
	Mixed Petunia Basket	10"	\$39.25	
	Trailing Wave Petunia	10"	\$39.25	
	Impatiens Baskets	10"	\$36.00	
	Ivy Geranium Baskets	10"	\$39.25	
	Zonal Geranium Baskets	10"	\$39.25	
	Mixed Baskets of Annuals	10"	\$39.25	
	Mixed Baskets of Annuals	12"	\$48.00	

Quantity	Colorful Containers	Size	Cost	Total
	Combo Patio Planter	10"	\$39.25	
	Combo Patio Planter	12"	\$48.00	
	Geranium Tub	12"	\$48.00	
	Suncoleus Planter	12"	\$48.00	
	Succulent Mixed Planter	12"	\$48.00	
	Color Bowl of Mixed Annuals	12"	\$40.00	
	Color Bowl of Mixed Annuals	14"	\$44.00	

Quantity				Total
	\$25 Hacker's Gift Certificate (Redeemed at Hacker's Tree Farm Nursery/Greenhouse 45372 190th Street Sleepy Eye MN OR Hackers Garden Center 15th S Broadway New Ulm MN (Not for use at A2Zinnia)			\$25.00

Customer Name and Address:

Customer Telephone Number and e-mail address:

TOTALS (cash or checks payable to BLC Fundraiser due at time of order)	
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Completed order forms and checks can be sent to Shaun Anderson P.O. Box 426 Nicollet, MN 56074
If questions, call 507-381-3858 or e-mail shaun.anderson10@gmail.com