



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 13, Issue 10

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

May 2024

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, May-June

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*

JUNE 2024			
		9:30 AM	5:00 PM
Week 1	June 2	SL*	-
Week 2	June 9	BLC*	-
Week 3	June 16	FLC*	-
Week 4	June 23	-	SL Campfire
Week 5	June 30	BLC Park	-

* communion



FOG kids enjoy bowling

The Fields of Grace religion students enjoyed an evening of bowling at Code3 in Gibbon Wednesday, April 24. A total of 21 kids attended and enjoyed pizza, pop, cupcakes, and prizes. Thanks to Pastor Mike and Mark Halter for organizing the event.

FLC confirmation/graduation

Confirmation will be held at First Lutheran during the 9:30 a.m. service on May 12. All are invited to join the confirmands and their families for breakfast before the service, 8:30-9:30 a.m. There will be no coffee hour after the service.

The confirmands are Jaden Broste, Bradyn Hagevold, and Hudson Kanuch.

Graduation recognition will be during the 9:30 a.m. service at FLC on May 19. All are welcome to a reception lunch and cake to honor the graduates after the service. The seven graduates are Kaitlyn Donnay, Brooklyn Hagberg, John Halter, Saige Isaacson, April Rose, Tristan Sjogren, and Jaydan Youngblom.

The FLC choir will sing at both services.

BLC WELCA ice cream social

The Annual Bernadotte WELCA Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale will be Wednesday, June 5 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. A poster and the worker list/donation requests are in this newsletter. They have also been put in the church mail boxes or mailed to BLC women members.

The Lafayette band will perform from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The area pork producers will cook McRib sandwiches and hotdogs. Any questions or concerns, contact Deb Sjostrom or Konnie Bartels.

Council Meeting Dates

- Bernadotte Council—Tues., Apr. 30, 8:00 p.m.
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., May 6, 6:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Jun. 19, 7:30 p.m., Swan Lake

Confirmation at Bernadotte

Tanner Johnson will be confirmed by Pastor Mike Zaske during the 9:30 a.m. worship service at Bernadotte on May 5. Congratulations to Tanner.

Summer worship change

Instead of holding morning worship services the three times it is hosting FOG services in June, July, and August, Swan Lake will hold 5:00 p.m. “campfire church” with a brief service with offering, beanbags, campfire, and lunch. (See full summer schedule on back page.)

Dennis Swenson funeral May 4

The funeral of Bernadotte member Dennis Swenson will be held Saturday, May 4 at BLC. Visitation is at 10:00 a.m., the funeral at 11:00 a.m., burial, and lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Please note these email addresses

- Newsletter and weekly announcement items should be sent to Ruth at cowladyruth@gmail.com. (The old communications email no longer exists.)
- Bulletin items and prayer requests should be sent to Trish at trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com.

Blooming in Bernadotte note

The 2024 Blooming In Bernadotte flower pick-up will be Saturday, May 11. The BIB committee would appreciate help unloading the flowers on Friday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m..

MAY 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 12-Bill Youngblom, Myron Isaacson; 19-Jeff Donnay, Addison Donnay; 26-Jamie Friedrichs, Todd Nelson
Reader: Linda Youngblom Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Jo Pehrson, Heidi H, Lindsay
Coffee: 12-(Confirmation Breakfast) Linda Youngblom, Laurie Larson; 19-(Graduation Breakfast) Mary Martens, Sandy Burger; Mindy E, Jean Ahl, Tami S. 26-Renae Fischer, Amy Sjogren

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Romi White, Pam White
Reader: 5-Ruth Klossner; 12-Shaun Anderson
Ushers: Steve Radke, Arlin Nelson, Jerry Oscarson, Brent & Sarah Johnson
Communion: (May 5): S-Steve Radke; C-Jim Bartels; U-Judy Ross
Coffee: 5 & 12-volunteers needed

Nothing surpasses the beauty of love

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

I recently had the opportunity one afternoon to visit a special place in our Fields of Grace area that I had never been to before—the cathedral located in the heart of the city of New Ulm.

I was not prepared for the breathtaking beauty of something especially magnificent that I beheld with my own two eyes while entering the holy space of the awe-inspiring church sanctuary.

Was it the stunning artwork on the walls and ceiling—vivid, artistic renditions of God the Father and our Lord Jesus, plus the 12 disciples—which are located above perhaps the most exquisite altar I had ever seen? No, but these were certainly a visual delight.

Was it the almost life-like statues of Joseph and Mary, the earthly father and mother of Jesus whose courage and faith made it possible for a savior to be born for us? Again, no, but they were definitely sensational.

Was it the gorgeous woodwork located throughout the inner sanctum of the church? No—but anyone who loves the splendor of a meticulously-crafted, elaborate pulpit would surely find themselves speechless at the sight of the place reserved for the preaching of God's Word.

Was it the majestic columns that almost seem to stretch to the heavens above? Once again, no, but you can't help but be utterly amazed at their size and elegance. I don't know if I have ever felt so "short" standing next to these prodigious pillars.

So...you may be wondering, if it wasn't any of the things I just mentioned, then what exactly was I referring to when I said above that I beheld something so breathtakingly beautiful that I was not prepared for it?

Well, the single-most extraordinary sight I saw in the cathedral was an older woman sitting quietly in the pews who was praying. I inadvertently startled her when I walked



in (my squeaky sneakers disrupted her train of thought, I'm afraid). This woman graciously welcomed me, asking if I needed something. "No," I said, "I'm just here to bask in the loveliness of this place."

Then I added, "I'm terribly sorry for interrupting you." She replied, "That's perfectly fine. I am here as part of a group of ladies who pray every week for one hour for our priests and for our parish-

ioners."

I realized, in that moment, that this—the prayers of a woman of great faith—was easily the most breathtaking aspect of my visit to the cathedral. Jesus calls us to "love one another," and that is what this woman was doing through her simple prayers, asking God to watch over and bless the people and leaders of her congregation.

If you've never been inside the cathedral in New Ulm, make a point to do so. It is truly exhilarating! And yet, as spellbinding as the facility is, the love displayed by the woman I encountered far exceeds any of the "stuff" I saw. Nothing surpasses the beauty of love.

South African partnership

When the Minnesota Valley Conference mission partnership with the Vryheid Circuit in South Africa group met April 18, it approved a donation of \$5,000 that will be matched and used for nutritional food packs in Vryheid. This donation has been made annually for 12 years. Vryheid partnership chair Sabelo reported that the majority of the eight parishes of the circuit are located in deep rural areas. The majority of congregants are mostly unemployed and can be defined as places of poor socio-economic levels. As in most South African households, a typical family household is comprised of not less than six people under one roof. During Covid, food packs were a huge lifeline for those families. Although Covid is no longer a concern, the Minnesota Valley Conference partnership group voted to continue to provide food support.

Fields of Grace members are encouraged to be involved in the partnership. Contact Pastor Mike for more information.

Caregiver Stress seminar April 30

St. Croix Hospice will hold a free seminar "Caregiver Stress" on Tuesday, April 30 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at The Lodge in Winthrop. For questions, please call 507-647-3980.



Quilting at Bernadotte April 22-23

Six Bernadotte ladies—along with a few recruits—spent part of Monday and Tuesday quilting at the church. The ladies always have a good time, and enjoy lunch and coffee breaks. On Tuesday

morning, Timothy Klaustermeier of Glencoe stopped by to drop off fabric samples from his days of working at a clothing store. The small pieces can be sewed together to make quilt blocks.



Music with a Message outdoor services at Bernadotte this summer

Three summer outdoor “Music with a Message” summer services will be held in the Bernadotte Church Park this summer.

Music for the 9:30 a.m. Sunday services will be provided by these people from our area:

- Gerry & Carol Larson, with Jody Poehler, Sunday,

June 30.

- The Norells from Norseland, Sunday, July 21.
- Larry Mages, Sunday, August 11.

Refreshments in the form of a light treat or beverage will be provided at each music-based service.

The services will move indoors if the weather is bad.



Sunday School kids sang at Easter service at BLC



Food for Kidz meal packing mission project



All ages—except for the two littlest ones—worked together to pack meals for Food for Kidz Sunday, April 14 at Bernadotte. After two hours of work, Pastor Mike led a short devotion.



Then it was time for everyone to enjoy pizza—a fitting reward for a job well done!



- 55 volunteers
- 62 cases packed
- Almost 20,000 meals
- \$3,300 raised for Food for Kidz





Rathmann Benefit at Swan Lake



Have you ever seen that many people in the Swan Lake kitchen? Church members, friends, and family members all pitched in to make the Alicia Rathmann Benefit Sunday, April 21 a big success. As close as the organizers can figure, 200+ people were served on-site or as takeouts.



Meet the family, above. From left: son Joshua's girlfriend Madison Murray, Alicia, daughter Abby, husband Jon, and daughter Grace.



Alicia posted this on Facebook after the event:

“Words cannot even express how grateful we are for all those who came and supported us at the meal and those who have supported us already in so many ways. Over 200 meals served! Many hugs given. And a heart that is so full of gratefulness and thankfulness!

“Thank you again from the bottom of the Rathmann family’s hearts, to God be the glory.

“Note: Our son was not able to make it because he had to work Sunday. But pictured in our family picture is his wonderful girlfriend!

“We’re so thankful to the Swan Lake Church and all of the family that helped serve.”



**Sat,
April
13**



Mother-Daughter Brunch at Bernadotte

Seventy-two mothers, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, and friends enjoyed Bernadotte's Mother-Daughter Brunch and program. The guys served the meal and cleaned up.



Bernadotte's own, Patti (Sjostrom) Strukel, was the guest speaker.



BERNADOTTE

Lutheran's Annual WELCA

**PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL
BAKE SALE AND BAND!**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024
5 PM TO 7:30 PM**

Bernadotte Lutheran Church/Park

34122 515 Ave Lafayette

(rain or shine, moved indoors in case of inclement weather)

MENU:

McRib Sandwiches, Hotdogs
Pie, Cake, Ice Cream
Coffee, Lemonade, Milk

Featuring the
LAFAYETTE CITY BAND
PERFORMING 6:00-7:00 PM

Bake Sale- as supplies last!



BLC WELCA's Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Below is the work and donation list for the Pie and Ice Cream Social. If unable to work/donate food or cash as suggested, please contact Deb Sjostrom (507.276.0452) OR Konnie Bartels (507.240.0311) ASAP and adjustments will be made. Also, if you are unable to make pie/bake sale items, we can switch you to the cash donation list or vice versa. Please just let us know! Thank you.

ICS Committee: Deb Sjostrom, Konnie Bartels, Abby Bolduan, Jessica Henderson, and Denise Johnson.

Serving Hot Sandwiches: 5:00 Judy Ross, Pam White, Beth Anderson
Make Coffee: 4:30 Carol Young, Romi White
Cut and Serve Pies: 4:30 Rosanne Johnson, Wendy Schulz
Scoop Ice Cream: 5:00 Nancy Reinhart
Cashiers: 4:30 Ruth Klossner, Mary Langhorst
Bake Sale Workers: 4:30 Shaun Anderson, Trish Gieseke, Renee Rasmussen, Stacy Kline
Waitress 5:00 Laura Dalquist, Sarah Johnson,
Mia Ross, Addie Prah, Marissa Anderson

BAKE SALE: EACH member please bring 2 bake sale items to the event by 4:30 pm

2 Pies per member listed below:

Beth Anderson	Laura Dalquist	Stacy Kline	Shaun Anderson
Carol Young	Wendy Schulz	Betty Johnson	Jessica Henderson
Denise Johnson	Rosanne Johnson	Mary Langhorst	Judy Ross
Addie Prah	Nancy Reinhart	Renee Rasmussen	Konnie Bartels
Romi White	Sarah Johnson	Abby Bolduan	Pam White
Deb Sjostrom	Trish Gieseke		

\$10 Donation & Waitress:

Lori Fenske Mia Ross Marissa Anderson

\$10 Donation & Cashier: Ruth Klossner

\$25 Donation Only:

Gretchen Petterson	Amy Martin	Sherryl Petterson	Meghan Houdek
Beth Erdal	Sandy Martin	Connie Rasmussen	Karen Marren
Carey Mclaughlin	Linda Sjogren	Lori Peterson	Michelle Walter
Paula Thaemert	LaRita Young	Deb Prodoehl	Amy Wagner

Please Mail Cash Donations by June 1 (make checks out to WELCA) to: Deb Sjostrom, 50527 350 St Lafayette MN 56054 *Any others not on the list who want to contribute, please contact the committee.

Thank you to everyone who is contributing to this event in any way!

Summer Schedule—please save!

MAY 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	May 5	SL*	BLC*
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Week 3	June 16	FLC*	-
Week 4	June 23	-	SL Campfire
Week 5	June 30	BLC Park	-

JULY 2024			
		9:30 AM	5:00 PM
Week 1	July 7	FLC*	-
Week 2	July 14	-	SL Campfire
Week 3	July 21	BLC Park	-
Week 4	July 28	FLC*	-

AUGUST 2024			
		9:30 AM	5:00 PM
Week 1	August 4	SL*	-
Week 2	August 11	BLC Park	-
Week 3	August 18	FLC*	-
Week 4	August 25	-	SL Campfire