



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 14, Issue I

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

August 2024

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Aug.-Sept.

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

SEPTEMBER 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Sept 1	Joint Worship	BLC*
Week 2	Sept 8	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	Sept 15	SL*	BLC
Week 4	Sept 22	FLC	BLC
Week 5	Sept 29	Joint Worship	FLC*

* communion



Baptism at Bernadotte Park

Hazel Rose Harris-Peterson, daughter of Katie and Chris Harris-Peterson and the granddaughter of Roger and Cathy Johnson, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during the July 21 outdoor service at the Bernadotte Church Park. Hazel was born April 2, 2024. Her sponsors are Ann Harris-Peterson, Judy Harris, and Wayne Johnson. Big sister Isabelle watched as Pastor Mike Zaske baptized Hazel.

Music with a Message outdoor services

Three summer outdoor “Music with a Message” summer services were planned for the Bernadotte Church Park this summer. The last is coming up Sunday, August 11 at 9:30 a.m., with Larry Mages providing the music.

A light treat or beverage will be served afterwards. The service will move indoors if the weather is bad.

Flower fundraiser at FLC

Do you have a special someone in your life?

Do you want to bring some fall flowers into your home?

Lafayette First Lutheran Ladies are having a flower fundraiser. Sara Kanuch will generously give a portion of her flower sales to the ladies of First Lutheran.

For just \$25 you can make someone—even yourself—happy!



Order by September 11. Call or text Sue Helget at 507-276-5536 or Sara at 507-276-0467—or talk to Laura at Citizens Bank.

Pick up will be Saturday, September 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sara’s home at 35596 575th Lane, Lafayette.

Bring your own vase. Sara will precut the flowers or you can cut them yourself.

UPCOMING FOG EVENTS*

- **OUTDOOR PARK SERVICE—SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 9:30 A.M., BERNADOTTE CHURCH PARK**
- **CAMPFIRE CHURCH—SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 5:00 P.M., SWAN LAKE**

Looking ahead to fall

Like it or not, fall will soon be here. Along with the start of the school year will be the start of confirmation classes and Sunday School.

Confirmation orientation for students and parents will be Wednesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 25. Class time will be 5:30 to 7:15 p.m., with supper first at 5:30. Confirmation is for grades five through nine.

The 2024-2025 Sunday School season will begin on Sunday, September 29.



AUGUST 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 18-Mike Hoffman, Jim Langhoff
Reader: (open) Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Jorja Langhoff, Shauna Hoffmann
Coffee: 18-Shauna Hoffmann, Jorja Langhoff

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Tim & Wendy Schulz
Ushers: Neil & Renee Rasmussen, Jim & Stacy Kline, Andrew Rasmussen
Refreshments in park: 11-Konnie Bartels, Renee Rasmussen

Don't assume the worst

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

I thought for my article this month that I would share with you a humorous happening in my ministry that occurred 23 years ago when I was pastor of a church located in a tiny SW Minnesota community named Kenneth, population maybe 50?



The year was 2001, which happened to be the 100th anniversary of the town of Kenneth. To celebrate its centennial, the good people of my church decided to have a community outdoor worship service in the park, done in the style of the way a service would have happened back in 1901. So they found for me an old black pastor's robe, along with the frilly white shirt that pastors wore back in those days. My parishioners also secured the use of a horse and buggy which would bring me to the park when it was time for worship to begin. The planning was pretty extensive, and I was looking forward to this perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We were all set—except, approximately one month before the service, the organizing committee received a letter from a woman who had grown up in Kenneth who was furious! What was it that had her so angry? Apparently, me! This woman wrote several insulting things about me, referring to me as an “outsider” (because I wasn't originally from Kenneth), taking issue with my age (she thought I was too young to appreciate the importance of the occasion), and a veiled reference that said she wasn't “impressed” with what she had heard about me. She insisted that I be replaced with a former Catholic priest who, decades earlier, had grown up in Kenneth and now lived in Las Vegas. The worship service committee panicked. They approached me about the letter, and nervously informed me that they were going to replace me with the priest if he was available—with my permission, of course. I was actually OK with it, as it made sense to me to have a clergy person originally from the town lead the special service. If it were my hometown of Gaylord's celebration, being from there I would want to do it! So I told them don't worry about it—if the priest

is available, he's welcome to lead worship that day. I would step aside.

Well, it turns out the priest wasn't available, so they were stuck with me (the “outsider” who was too young and wasn't very “impressive”)...

Almost a year later, I received a call from the funeral home in Luverne, MN. An older man, originally from Luverne, had died in Texas and, given that he had no church affiliation, his family members (who lived in and near Luverne) were desperate to find a pastor willing to do a funeral service for him. Apparently they had been turned down multiple times. When such situations arise, I always agree to help out if I'm available. And I was available, so I agreed to do the funeral.

We held the funeral at the funeral home. Maybe 15-20 people attended. Afterwards, the family invited everyone to have lunch at a local restaurant. At the restaurant, the elderly sister of the man who died sat directly across from me. The sister couldn't stop thanking me enough, telling me over and over again how well I had done and how kind it was for me to help them in their time of need. I assured her it was my pleasure—and my calling—to be there in such times.

Then she said, “Now, Pastor, remind me again of your name.” To which I replied, “Mike Zaske.” Instantly, her face went a ghastly white. I briefly thought she might be choking or something. Her eyes welled up with tears. What's going on, I wondered? She spoke: “I owe you the world's hugest apology. Last year, I wrote a letter to the committee organizing the Kenneth 100th Anniversary worship service complaining about you. I didn't even go because they didn't have Father Bob lead the service. I feel like the worst person ever right now.”

I assured her that it was all water under the bridge. She came around the table and hugged me.

The moral of the story? Perhaps it's best never to assume the worst about someone—especially someone you barely (or don't even) know. Quite often, they'll surprise you!



Tuesday, August 6 Lund Park, Lafayette

- Vehicles • Displays • Games
- Lions food stand with free will offering for kiddie park
- Ice cream treats
- Much more!

Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wed., Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m., Bernadotte
- Bernadotte Council—August, date TBD
- First Lutheran—Mon., Sept. 9, 6:00 p.m.

Indoor 'Campfire' Service at Swan Lake



Sunday, July 14
 When it's hot as blazes outside and you have an air-conditioned fellowship hall, it only makes sense to move indoors! The short worship service and lunch was inside, but the grillers still roasted the weiners outside.



Indoor Outdoor Service at Bernadotte



Cool weather and bugs drove the BLC outdoor service indoors Sunday, June 30. Pastor Mike led the service with music by Mary Kavan.



Son of former pastor passes

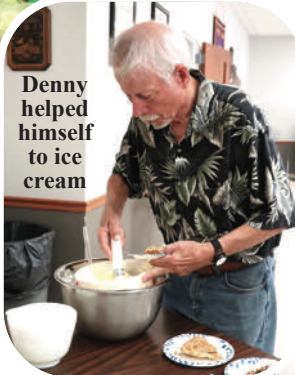
Ralph Swenson, son of former Bernadotte pastor Maurice Swenson and wife Ruth, died Sunday, July 7 at his home in Hudson, Wisconsin. Funeral service was July 13 in Hudson.

Ralph is survived by wife Marlys, son Paul, daughter Jodell, two grandsons, sister Christine Wilmut of Winona, and other relatives.

When the family ate together, Ralph's traditional toast was, "To family near and far; and near is better."



The final Friday night social, July 26



Denny helped himself to ice cream



The women of First Lutheran served wraps, sandwiches and desserts.



First Lutheran Ice Cream social



Frankie and Evie loved the dessert!



Music with a Message at Bernadotte Church Park



The weather cooperated for a beautiful outdoor service at the Bernadotte Church Park Sunday, July 21. The Norells from Norseland provided the music and the service also included the baptism of Hazel Rose Harris-Peterson, daughter of Katie (Johnson) and Chris Harris-Peterson.



Bikers rest stop

The Swan Lake church yard doubled as a rest stop for the St. Peter loop of the Bike MS: Ride Across Minnesota 2024 Thursday, July 25. Everything was ready for the hundreds of bikers that would stop for a break on the 45-mile loop.

Bernadotte/Brighton Neighborhood Night Out & Classic Tractor Roll-in

Tues., Aug. 13, 6-8 pm

Starz Family Farm

42060 515th Lane

New, Ulm MN 56073

1/2 mi. S of Swan Lake Lutheran

Anyone with Bernadotte/Brighton area "ties" is welcome!

Potluck Meal

Please bring a dish or dessert to share
Smoked pork sandwiches, beverages
and tableware provided