



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 14, Issue 12

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

July 2025

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, July-August

JULY 2025			
		9:30 AM	5:00 PM
Week 1	July 6	-	SL
Week 2	July 13	BLC PARK	-
Week 3	July 20	FLC*	-
Week 4	July 27	Lafayette Community Service	

AUGUST 2025			
		9:30 AM	5:00 PM
Week 1	August 3	SL*	-
Week 2	August 10	BLC PARK	-
Week 3	August 17	FLC*	-
Week 4	August 24	-	SL
Week 5	August 31	BLC*	-

* communion

The FOG Choir will continue to sing during communion at services this summer. Communion will be held July 20 at FLC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAMPFIRE CHURCH

SUNDAYS, JULY 6 & AUGUST 24,
5:00 P.M., SWAN LAKE

OUTDOOR PARK SERVICES

SUNDAYS, JULY 13 & AUGUST 10,
9:30 A.M., BERNADOTTE

COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE AT LAFAYETTE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 9:30 A.M.
BANDSTAND, MEMORIAL PARK DOWNTOWN

Baptism at FLC Sunday, June 8



Jasper Ryan Sandberg, son of Patrick Sandberg and Tesah Gonzales, was baptized Sunday, June 8 at First Lutheran. Jasper's sponsors are Jessica Drexler and Colton Schaefer. God's blessings to Jasper and his family as he begins his journey of faith!

The July 27 joint service will be an outdoor community service at the bandstand in Lafayette, as part of Lafayette's 125th anniversary. It will be followed by the Lions' waffle breakfast and the 125th anniversary parade. Everyone welcome!

From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Bruce Bringle

I was given this story a few years ago. I thought I would use it as my column for this month because it so worth sharing.

Keep Your Fork

A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness, given three months to live. As she began getting her things “in order” she called her pastor to come to the house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told of the songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she wanted read and what dress she wanted to be buried in.

She also asked to be buried with her Bible in her left hand. Everything was in order; as the pastor was preparing to leave, she suddenly remembered one final request: “Please Pastor, one more thing,” she said excitedly. “Sure, what is it?” was the pastor’s quick reply. “This is very important to me,” the woman continued. “I want to be buried holding a fork in my right hand.”

The pastor gazed at the woman, at a loss for words. “That surprises you, doesn't it?” the woman asked.

The pastor replied, “Well, to be quite honest, I'm puzzled.”

The woman explained, “You see, Pastor, in my years attending church socials and dinners, I remember, as dishes were being cleared after the main course, someone would lean over to me and say, “Keep your fork!” It was my favorite phrase to hear, because I knew something better was coming,

perhaps velvety chocolate cake or an apple pie. Something to end the great meal.”

The pastor listened intently and smiled. She continued, “So, I just want people to see me there in the casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder... ‘What's with the fork?’ ...then I want you to tell them: “Keep your fork...the best is yet to come.”

The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy hugging her good-bye, knowing this would be one of the last times to see her before she died.

The pastor marveled at her grasp of heaven. She KNEW and trusted that the best was yet to come. At the funeral, everyone that walked past the woman’s casket saw her wearing a beautiful dress with her Bible in her left hand and a fork in her right hand.

Over and over the pastor heard people asking the question, “Why the fork?” smiling brilliantly as each asked. During the funeral, the pastor told the people about the conversation with the woman shortly before she died. He explained the fork and what it meant to her.

The pastor, unable to stop thinking of the fork, hoped that they would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

So the next time you reach for a fork, let it remind you—the best is yet to come!

Swan Lake campfire service held indoors



The planned outdoor campfire service at Swan Lake was held indoors Sunday, June 15. The church has two more campfire services scheduled—July 6 and August 24.

Thank you

A huge thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the success of the 2025 BLC WELCA Ice Cream Social. Bernadotte was blessed with beautiful weather, a great turnout, and members that reliably brought pies and baked goodies, worked their shift, or just showed up and pitched in whenever they could.

Please let Deb Sjostrom know of any part of the event that needs tweaking, went well, or not so well for the master “Ice Cream Social” archives.

Swan Lake Note

It's official. After being around and involved for some time, Paula Krook has become a member of Swan Lake Lutheran. She transferred from Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Peter.



Beautiful night at Bernadotte June 4



The weather was near perfect for this year's ice cream social and bake sale at Bernadotte. The turnout was great, as was the music, provided by the Lafayette Band.



BLC and FLC Ice Cream Socials

Sixteen days after Bernadotte's event, First Lutheran WELCA served its ice cream social, just before the band concert.



First Lutheran WELCA served ham and turkey wraps with various toppings, chips, and cookies.



The Lafayette band played in Bernadotte's gazebo on June 4, above, and in the Memorial Park Bandstand June 20.



Thank you to Laura Isaacson for taking pics at the FLC social



JULY 2025 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 20-open; 27-Community Service.
Altar: Laura Isaacson
Reader: open
Coffee: 20-open

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ron & Denise Johnson
Ushers: Steve, Deb & Jacob Sjostrom; Ron & Denise Johnson
Reader: 13-Steve Sjostrom
Communion (none).
Coffee: No fellowship time during summer



Music with a Message at Bernadotte Church Park

The first of three outdoor Music with a Message services at the Bernadotte Church Park was held Sunday, June 22. While the afternoon got hot, the temperature was still pleasant for the morning service. Root beer floats were served to all.



Chances are still available for the raffle for a beautiful quilt donated to Bernadotte WELCA's ice cream social.



Mary Kavan of Lafayette provided the music for the first outdoor service.



The Fields of Grace Youth—with help from their parents—served pork chops, fixings, and ice cream at the Friday evening social June 6.



FOG youth serve Friday social



Bernadotte Lutheran Church

Summer Outdoor Service 'Music with a Message' Schedule-2025

- Join us at our beautiful park, and band shell. Light beverage/treat provided after each 'music based' service.

Sunday, July 13th: The Larsons, with Pastor Bruce Bringle leading the Vocals --9:30 am

Sun., Aug. 10th: Larry Mages--9:30 am

Services will move indoors if inclement weather.
Bernadotte Lutheran Church—5 miles east of Lafayette.
BLC is a member of Fields of Grace Parish.

Lafayette's 125th

It's getting close! Lafayette's big 125th anniversary celebration is coming up July 23-27. Check the poster on the back page for a full schedule.

Among the events will be a community prayer service, followed by a Dad's Belgian waffle breakfast and the 125th Anniversary Celebration Parade on Sunday.

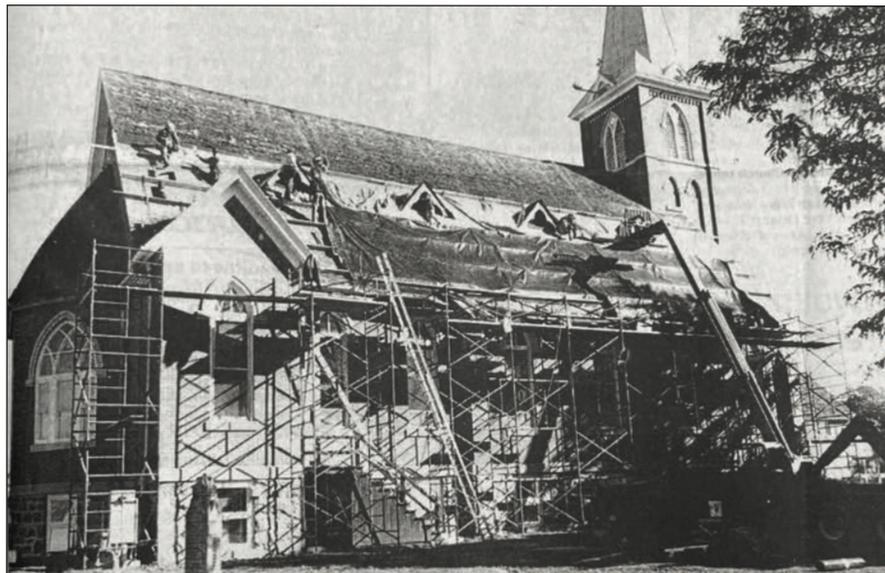
All Lafayette area seniors—80 years and older—are invited to ride on a Senior Float in the parade Sunday at 2:00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Kayla Altmann at kayla.altmann@gmail.com with your name and age. This is open to ALL seniors.

And, volunteers are still needed to help with many events—please volunteer if you can lend a hand.

Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wednesday, July 16, BLC, 7:30 p.m.
- FLC Council—Tuesday, August 5, 7:00 p.m.
- BLC Council—Sunday, September 21

Shingling Bernadotte Lutheran for the last time

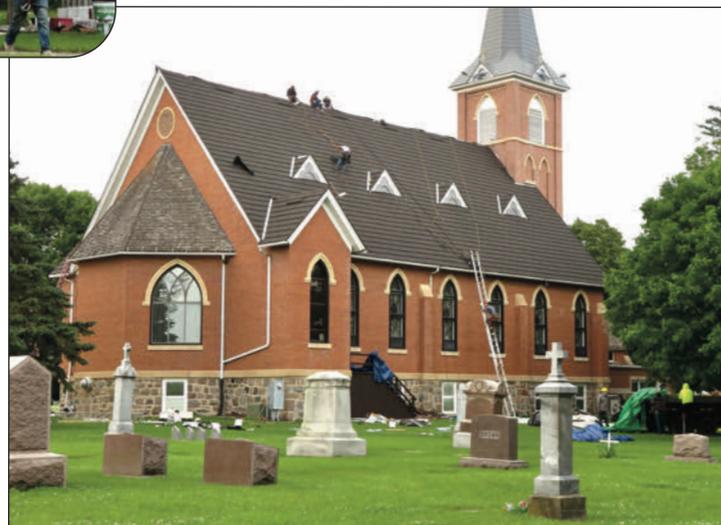


A lot of scaffolding was involved the last time that the south side of the Bernadotte church was shingled in 2000.

Things were different when steel shingles were put on this June.



The crew from Heyn Brothers started work Monday, June 16 and completed the north side that day.



The south side was shingled Tuesday, the 17th, with the work on the west end and the entryway addition completed on Wednesday the 18th.

The sure-footed workers moved around on the roof like mountain goats.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 23

WEDNESDAY

5P CAR/BIKE NIGHT: DAVE'S PLACE
6P MEDALLION HUNT CLUE #1
6P ARMSTRONG BOULEVARD BRASS QUINTET
6:30P ROOKIE BASEBALL GAME: LUND PARK
*POP SHACK GRILLING SUPPER!

JULY 24

THURSDAY

9A MEDALLION HUNT CLUE #2
5:30P T-BALL: LUND PARK
6:30P SOFTBALL: WELLNITZ FIELD
*POP SHACK GRILLING SUPPER!
TBD HUMAN FOOSBALL: DAVE'S PLACE

JULY 25

FRIDAY

9A MEDALLION HUNT CLUE #3
5-7P PORK CHOP MEAL: COMM. CENTER
6:30-11P BEER/WINE TASTING: FIRE HALL
6:30P LAFAYETTE BAND: MEMORIAL PARK
7P MEN'S FASTPITCH: WELLNITZ FIELD
8P CONCORD SINGERS & NARREN:
MEMORIAL PARK



JULY 26

SATURDAY

9A MEDALLION HUNT CLUE #4
9A SILENT AUCTION BEGINS: FIRE HALL
9A HISTORY OF LAFAYETTE: CITY BLD
9-2P CRAFT FAIR: COMMUNITY CENTER
9-2P QUILT SHOW: FIRST LUTHERAN
10-5P FAMILY ACTIVITIES: LUND PARK
11A ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL: UFC
11A-5P ENTERTAINMENT: BAND STAND
12P BOUNCE HOUSES: LUND PARK
12P LIL MISS CROWNING: MEMORIAL PARK
1P FIRE KEG FIGHTS: DAVE'S PLACE
3P AMAZING RACE: LUND PARK
4-7P FOOD TRUCKS: LUND PARK
5:45P KIDDIE PARADE: MAIN STREET
6P KIDDIE PARTY: DAVE'S PLACE
8P STREET DANCE: DAVE'S PLACE
10P FIREWORKS

JULY 27

SUNDAY

9A MEDALLION HUNT CLUE #5
9:30A PRAYER SERVICE: MEMORIAL PARK
10A DAD'S BELGIAN WAFFLES: FIRE HALL
11:30A PEDAL PULL: DAVE'S PLACE
2P PARADE ENDING WITH NEW ULM BATTERY
4P QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING: MEMORIAL PARK
4:30P SILENT AUCTION ENDS: FIRE HALL
MISFITS PERFORMING AFTER THE PARADE