



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 9, Issue 12 Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

July 2020

## Radio, outdoor and indoor worship

• Fields of Grace is continuing its collaboration with St. Paul's and Trinity Lutheran of Gaylord (Pastor Scott Richards), and Scandian Grove Lutheran in Norseland (Pastor Shelly Olson) to present "A New Day" Sunday morning worship services at 10:05 a.m. on KNUJ 860AM radio.

• Outdoor Joint Worship, Sunday, July 5, 9:30 a.m. at the Bernadotte Church Park. **BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS, PLEASE.** The first part of the service will include communion from individual "packets" of grape juice and a wafer. At 10:05, "A New Day" will be broadcast through a speaker.

• Indoor Services will begin Wednesday, July 8. Bernadotte will host Wednesday evening services in July, with First Lutheran hosting Sunday morning services each week. Two services will be held at Swan Lake.

### The July schedule:

• Wednesdays, July 8, 15, & 22—7:00 p.m. indoor services at Bernadotte (communion on 22nd); outdoor service on the 29th.

• Sundays, July 12, 19 & 26—9:30 a.m. indoor services at First Lutheran (communion on the 12th & 26th)

• Sundays, July 12 & 26—8:00 a.m. indoor communion services at Swan Lake

## Help Mildred Ross celebrate her 'century-plus-one' birthday

Stop by Oak Terrace in Gaylord Saturday, July 11 between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. to wish



Mildred Ross a happy 101st Birthday with a window visit from the front (east) lawn. Mildred will be inside where she will be able to hear you on a special microphone system.

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., July 6, 5:30 p.m., at FLC
- FOG Council—Wed., Jul. 15, after 7 p.m. worship service at BLC
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., July 20, 6:00 p.m., at BLC



## Bernadotte ladies present quilt to graduate

On behalf of the Bernadotte quilters and the Bernadotte WELCA, Rosanne Johnson presented a special quilt to 2020 graduate Ben Radke recently. The quilt has panels showing a variety of Ben's interests, especially sports.

## We're looking for YOUR database form

Come on FOG members!

PLEASE fill out those data forms we've been asking for and send them to Trish Gieseke at 52000 Fort Road, New Ulm, MN 56073. All FOG members are being asked to complete a form so that our church records can be updated.

Some may be holding on to the forms because they aren't sure of baptism and confirmation dates. Just send the forms with accurate contact information so that information is available if there should be an emergency.

**The priority now is to get accurate contact information.**

Another copy of the form is attached to this email.

## Pastor Heidi's reflection

This reflection is partially excerpted from an article written by Luther Seminary Professor, Karoline Lewis.

In August of 2016, Will Smith said this, "Racism is not getting worse, it's getting filmed." Who could have imagined how true these prophetic words would become? Things are not worse; they are getting uncovered and the truth is almost unbearable to speak. For far too long, we have denied the sin of racism—not just us as individuals but also the church and its leaders.

In his book *How to be an Antiracist*, Ibram X. Kendi argues that the heartbeat of racism is denial; the heartbeat of antiracism is confession. Being an antiracist, says Kendi, requires persistent self-awareness, constant self-criticism, and regular self-examination. I believe that God has given the church an opportunity to engage in this kind

of self-exposure. If the church cannot be the model for confession, then we have no right to claim that we are living out the great commission.

The time is now for those who profess faith in Jesus Christ to tell the truth to ourselves first and then to the world. The church should be leading the charge against racism. For most of us, I am guessing, that starts with education. For example, do you know the difference between race and ethnicity? Did you know that race is a socially constructed concept created to give power to white people over non-white people? If you want to start educating yourself—which is an act of faith—I highly recommend this online resource: <https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/Western%20States%20-%20Construction%20of%20Race.pdf>.

## July Sermon Series: The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss



*Would you, could you, in a church?  
Might you, might you, in a lurch?  
I would, I could, Pastor-I-am.  
In a church and in a lurch.*

Theodor Seuss Geisel—Dr. Seuss—has left an indelible mark on the lives of at least three generations of children. He wasn't a particularly religious man, but that doesn't mean that his work didn't have deeply religious themes.

During the month of July, we will look at the Sermon on the Mount through Dr. Seuss's stories. I hope this series will be fun and playful, but also an opportunity for us to revisit these gems of literature in a way that enhances our spiritual growth.

Oh, the places we'll go!

July 8 @ Bernadotte (7:00 p.m.) and July 12 @ First (9:30 a.m.) Dr. Seuss Tells the Sermon on the Mount, Part 1: Yertle the Turtle

July 15 @ Bernadotte (7:00 p.m.) and July 19 @ First (9:30 a.m.) Dr. Seuss Tells the Sermon on the Mount, Part 2: The Lorax

July 22 @ Bernadotte (7:00 p.m.) and July 26 @ First (9:30 a.m.) Dr. Seuss Tells the Sermon on the Mount, Part 3: The Sneeches

July 29 @ Bernadotte (7:00 p.m.) and August 2 @ First (9:30 a.m.) Dr. Seuss Tells the Sermon on the Mount, Part 4: The Zax

## Talking things over, in a civil manner

Some people are hoping all the racial tension will blow over or blow up, as the case may be.

How about you? Would you welcome the opportunity to discuss the topic of white privilege without having to hold your breath or bite your tongue, and without trying to bite someone's head off? It isn't easy to have a civil conversation on such a weighty and heated topic.

It seems that no matter where you stand on the racial spectrum, "white privilege" is an extremely hard issue to dis-

cuss. Discussions on race tend to raise the blood pressure and temperature in the room. As a result, some choose not to discuss it. Others rush in where angels fear to tread and knock angels over on the way.

Pastor Heidi is looking for dialogue partners who won't avoid the subject, but will engage with her and others in a clear and careful manner.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Heidi at [pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com) or 507-766-3471.

## Alone together...feeling isolated

If you are aware of someone who may be feeling isolated, and could use some connection from their church, please let

Pastor Heidi know by either emailing [pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com) or calling 507-766-3471.

**To contact Pastor Heidi: 507-766-3471 or [pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com](mailto:pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com)**



# JULY 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Reader: Deb Grant      Visiting: open  
Ushers: 12-Howard Lokensgard, Doug Durham; 19-Tom Brethorst,  
Dwight DeBoer; 26-Howard Lokensgard, Randy Sandquist  
Liturgist: 12-Brad DeBoer, 19-Charlie Hartley  
Coffee Servers: 12-Diane Durham, Mindy Engel; 19-Ann Gieseke, Beth  
Gavranovic  
Altar: Heidi Hutton, Lindsay Benson, Jo Pehrson

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Marissa Anderson, Meghan Houdek  
Acolyte: Tanner Johnson  
Readers: (not available)  
Ushers: Jerry Oscarson, Julia Oscarson, Ron Johnson, Denise  
Johnson, Andrew Rasmussen  
Communion (July 5 & 22): S-Jerry Oscarson, C-John Nel-  
son, U-Rosanne Johnson, Elias Webster

## Protocol for returning to worship in our buildings

A lot has changed. We have changed. Because of COVID-19 we have to rethink many aspects of worship to keep people safe. When we gather in our buildings you can expect the following:

- The entrance will be sanitized after everyone has entered the building, so you can leave safely.
- Face masks are highly recommended. Some will be available if you forget yours.
- Social distancing: households can sit together, but there must be six feet between people who don't live in the same home.
- Every other pew will be taped off. Please do not remove the tape or sit in those pews.
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer as you enter the sanctuary.

- Hymnals will be removed and placed on the floor. We will not use them, so please do not touch or handle them.
- No singing and minimal responsive speaking.
- When we celebrate Holy Communion, people will be offered a self-contained package of grape juice and a wafer that they will take from a tray to minimize contact.
- An offering plate will not be passed; receptacles will be placed at the entrance/exit, but we strongly encourage giving online—or mailing your donations.

After so many weeks and months of online and radio worship, it will feel good to be back in the presence of God's people. After all, we have an embodied faith that was meant to be lived out in person, with one another. That being said, we need to be smart and cautious in order to remain safe.

## FLC member named KNUJ Hometown Hero



First Lutheran member Brad DeBoer of Winthrop has been named a Hometown Hero by KNUJ/SAM and Hy-Vee of New Ulm.

DeBoer has worn many hats and his contributions to the community are numerous. A member of the Lafayette Area Lions, he has served two terms as presi-

dent, received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for his community service, has been Lions Zone Chairman, and was named Zone Person of the Year.

He has given countless volunteer hours during 42 years with the Lafayette Ambulance Squad, 13 years as president.

DeBoer is also active with Fields of Grace Lutheran Church, Masons, and 4-H. He will receive a Hy-Vee gift card and be honored at a luncheon this fall. KNUJ/SAM and Hy-Vee acknowledge those in the community who give the most precious gift—time—to worthwhile causes.

## Please remember the church's needs

Although we're not holding services, church expenses do continue. Please remember the church in these times.

Fields of Grace has set up online giving through Tithe.ly. Information on how to donate online was sent by email some time ago.

In addition, donations can be mailed to these addresses:  
Bernadotte: Ruth Klossner, 34085 515th Ave., Lafayette, MN 56054

First Lutheran: Jorja Langhoff, P.O. Box 14, Lafayette, MN 56054

Swan Lake: JoAnn Gieseke, 29540 State Hwy 4, St James MN 56081

FOG Haiti Mission Project: Brad DeBoer, 31706 601st Ave., Winthrop 55396

## Sponsoring a KNUJ radio service

The cost of broadcasting worship on KNUJ Radio is \$150 per week, split among the three entities. If you'd like to sponsor a broadcast, contact Brad DeBoer at [abdeboer57@gmail.com](mailto:abdeboer57@gmail.com).

## Notes from the FOG council

- Confirmation was discussed, with tentative plans to hold it sometime in August.
- The council supported a plan proposed by youth director Mark Halter to award \$100 scholarships to 2020 graduates Kaylyn Broste and Ben Radke from the youth account.
- Discussion on fall Christian education was tabled to a future meeting.