



Fields of Grace Newsletter

<https://fieldsofgracemn.com>

Vol. 10, Issue 1

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

August 2020

Radio, outdoor and indoor worship

Fields of Grace will continue to collaborate 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 through the rest of 2020.

In-person Worship Schedule:

- Wed., Jul. 29—7:00 p.m. outdoor service in Bernadotte park (bugs & weather permitting). Bring own chair; turkey supreme available.
- Sun., Aug. 2 & Wed., Aug. 5—No in-person worship services, Pastor Heidi is on vacation and pulpit supply is not available.
- Sun., Aug. 9, 23, 30 & Sept. 6—9:30 a.m. indoor services at First; communion on the 9th & 23rd.
- Sun., Aug. 9 & 23—8:00 a.m. communion services at Swan Lake.
- Wed., Aug. 12 & 26—7:00 p.m. indoor services at Bernadotte (No service Wed., Aug. 19).
- Sun., Aug. 16—9:30 a.m. outdoor Joint Communion Service at Bernadotte Park (bugs & weather permitting) with George's Concertina Band AND Noisy Offering for FOG Mission Project.

Bring your grain bin banks, loose change and/or folding money for the mission project

It's 'Turkey Supreme Wednesday' July 29 at BLC

The BLC WELCA Pie Social Committee will have Turkey Supreme for sale Wednesday evening, July 29, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. (before and after the Wednesday evening service).

With Covid 19 cancellations, the committee had purchased turkey breasts ahead of time for the ice cream social.

Turkey Supreme will be available for \$5.00 for a one-pound container. Please call Romi White at 507-276-2651 or Konnie Bartels at 507-240-0311 to get on the list for pick-up Wednesday. It will be cash and carry.

Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council— Mon., Aug. 3, 5:30 p.m.
- FOG Council— Wed., Aug. 19, 7:00 p.m., BLC.
- BLC Council— Mon., Sept. 21, 6:00 p.m.; unless earlier meeting is needed.



Two baptisms in two weeks at First Lutheran

Pastor Heidi had the honor of baptizing two little girls in the last two weeks. Hattie Mae, daughter of Miranda and Zach Schreiner of New Ulm, was baptized Saturday, July 18. Miranda's parents are Tom and Deb Sandberg, members of First Lutheran. Hattie's

sponsors are Patrick Sandberg, Ashley Sandberg, and Jess and Scott Kuehn. Kallie Jo Selbrade, daughter of Tanisha and Kristopher Selbrade, was baptized Sunday, July 26. Kallie's sponsors are Brianna Lund, Jessy Selbrade, and Dominic Thomas.

Pastor Heidi's reflection

It finally happened. Someone expressed to me that one of my sermons was “too political.” I have been waiting for that comment, and am deeply grateful for the courtesy of the conversation.

I am very aware of the privilege and responsibility I have to stand before you every week and preach the gospel. I wish I could bring a word that elicited a warm glow to your hearts every Sunday, but then I wouldn't be faithful to the gospel. While we might want Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday sermons every Sunday, the life of Christ also included Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. And in these chaotic times, who wouldn't want sermons outlining seven-ways-to-live-a-happier-life rather than seven-ways-to-suffer-like-Christ. That is not an unreasonable desire. The Christian church in America has conditioned us to leave worship feeling happy, uplifted, inspired.

It feels like everything is “too political” these days. We hear it on TV, on social media, on the radio, in the newspaper, at work, at home, at parties. Many of us want church to be a sanctuary from things that feel so divisive.

But, we must remember that the “gospel” got Jesus killed by an angry mob. All our pretty, sanded-down crosses belie the fact that Jesus was lynched and hanged on rough-hewn timbers in an act of public humiliation. Jesus upset the status quo, undermined the religious and political leaders of his day and called people to sacrifice what made them feel safe and secure.

The essence of the gospel is announced by Jesus in Luke 4:18-19: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the

Lord's favor.” That was/is Jesus' agenda.

In today's climate, if I declare help for the poor, release of captives, and health care for the blind I can easily be accused of being political, or soft on crime, or a socialist or worse. I understand the critique, but I also can't subdue Jesus' message. I wish we could talk about it more—together, civilly—and not keep our feelings to ourselves.

In the sermon I preached on the radio July 26, I suggested that it is time for us—not just FOG, but the whole Christian church—to grow up. Like high school graduates, we can't stay in the comfort of our parent's home forever. We need to declare our allegiance to Jesus, and trust the Spirit to empower us to live according to Jesus' way. We need to leave home and engage with the world. Being church is not about self-preservation. As the apostle Paul teaches, it is about action, commitment, sacrifice and devotion—radial discipleship.

I am learning that many of us want to come to church to lay down our burdens and be comforted, to find rest from the troubles of the world. There's nothing wrong with that. But that warm and comforting line from Luke's gospel is followed by this sentence from Jesus in the same breath: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.”

The gospel calls us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, to turn the other cheek, not to consider ourselves superior to others, to live at peace with all people, to model an engaging faith, to bind the wounded, to work for the release of those held captive, to feed the hungry, and bring God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. That is what it looks like to live into our baptismal identity. It can be an uneasy call, but we are encouraged to remain faithful each week as we are gathered in hope, nourished by word and meal, and sent out into the world to serve in Jesus' name.

To contact Pastor Heidi: 507-766-3471 or pastor@fieldsofgracemn.com

Our partners in South Africa

Fifty thousand meals will be delivered to our partners in the Vryheid Circuit of the Lutheran Church in South Africa on July 30, thanks to the generosity of MN Valley Conference congregations, and a matching grant from Thrivent.

The situation in South Africa was described by church leaders as “dire” because of the impact of the coronavirus.

“People are starving; the food is coming at just the right time,” they said.



Gathering at Bernadotte

The Engwall family gathered at Bernadotte Sunday, July 12 to remember Garth Engwall, 60, who passed away suddenly in March. His funeral was held March 14 in Anoka. He was the son of Dick and Vianne Engwall and grandson of Abdon and Maude Lager of Bernadotte and Pastor Lambert and Elizabeth Engwall of Winthrop.



Outdoors at Bernadotte for first Sunday of worship

After not being able to worship together for nearly four months, members of Fields of Grace gathered for the first time in the Bernadotte Church Park Sunday, July 5. It was a beautiful day—and so good to be together again!



The Norells from Scandian Grove provided music.



And there was time to go see the chickens afterwards

We're looking for YOUR database form

Come on FOG members!

If you haven't already, 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.



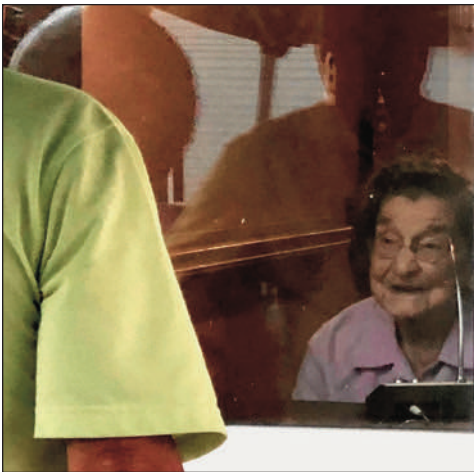
Happy Century+1 Birthday, Mildred

Bernadotte's oldest member, Mildred Ross, celebrated her 101st birthday with window visits by family and friends on Saturday, July 11—but the visit was cut short by bad weather. Judy Ross described the day as “icky, sticky, hot, and wet!”

Mildred was able to be outside briefly before company arrived—then visited with guests through the window. That is, until a downpour of rain hit Gaylord (and the surrounding area). That ended the party early!

Happy, Happy Birthday, Mildred!

Thanks to the family for sending the photos



BLC member named to 5M Lions Hall of Fame



Bernadotte member Ruth Klossner—a Lafayette Area Lions member for 21 years—was voted into the prestigious Minnesota/Canada Lions Hall of Fame at the District 5M2 Lions Mid-Winter Convention February 15.

The actual Hall of Fame induction was to take place at the Lions 5M Multiple Convention in Rochester on May 2—but was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, the induction took place on a smaller scale at the club level. Past District Governor Brian Thies presented Ruth with a plaque and pin at the club's Awards Night Tuesday, July 14, at the Lafayette Charter School.

The Lions Hall of Fame honors

Lions members of character and substance who demonstrate commitment and dedication to the efforts of their club and community—fulfilling the Lions' motto, “We Serve.”

Klossner was recognized for the impact she has had through volunteer work with the Lions Club, Fields of Grace Parish, Bernadotte Lutheran Church, New Ulm Farm City Hub Club, Nicollet American Legion Auxiliary, Connecting Nicollet County, dairy organizations, and 4-H—and doing photography work for all those groups. She especially enjoys photographing the Minnesota State Fair 4-H shows and area school and youth events.