



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: [fieldsofgracemn.com](http://fieldsofgracemn.com)

Vol. 12, Issue 12

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

July 2023

## Worship schedule

Worship services will rotate between the three churches during the summer months.

### FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, JUNE-AUGUST

#### JULY 2023

		9:30 AM
Week 1	July 2	FLC
Week 2	July 9	SL
Week 3	July 16	BLC
Week 4	July 23	FLC
Week 5	July 30	BLC

#### AUGUST 2023

		9:30 AM
Week 1	Aug. 6	SL
Week 2	Aug. 13	FLC
Week 3	Aug. 20	FLC
Week 4	Aug. 27	BLC

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Labor Day	Sept. 3	-	SL
Week 2	Sept. 10	BLC	FLC
Week 3	Sept. 17	SL	FLC
Week 4	Sept. 24	FLC	BLC

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **BEVERAGES AND HYMNS—MONDAYS, JULY 24 & AUGUST 14 AT LAFAYETTE MINI PARK/DAVE'S PLACE \***
- **GAMES, BONFIRES & FUN—SUNDAYS, JULY 16 & AUGUST 20 AT SWAN LAKE, 5:00 P.M. \***
- **MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE—SUNDAYS, JULY 30, AUGUST 27 AT BERNADOTTE CHURCH PARK \***

\* SEE PAGE 8

## It's been a busy month for the Fields of Grace churches

Along with regular Sunday morning services rotating between the three churches, there have been a lot of other events at FOG—campfire church, beverages and hymns, three ice cream socials, and an outdoor service. Check out pages 3 through 7 to see them all.

## Fields of Grace notes

- Pastor Bob posts "Seeds of Grace" devotions several times each week on the Fields of Grace Facebook page. The 5-10 minute devotions include a reading, scripture, and song.
- Prayer requests and announcements for the church bulletin should be sent to Administrative Assistant Trish Gieseke at [trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com](mailto:trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com) or phoned to her on the parish phone 507-766-3471.



## F.A.R.M. Haiti at Swan Lake June 18

Mary Anderson Harris, founder of F.A.R.M. Haiti, and Jhanson Fonrose spoke at the joint service at Swan Lake July 18. Fonrose has been working for Harris with F.A.R.M. Haiti for more than 10 years. He has gotten a work visa/sponsorship to be in America for two years. He gave a heartfelt description of his life growing up in Haiti and how blessed he is to be part of F.A.R.M. Haiti and spread God's word.

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## JULY 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 2-Brad Woller, Doug Durheim; 23-Mike Hoffmann, Randy Sandquist  
Reader: Deb Grant      Liturgist: (open)  
Altar: Heidi Hutton, Lindsay Benson, Jo Pehrson  
Coffee: 2-Wendy Woller; 23-Linda Youngblom, Shauna Hoffmann

### Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Rosanne & Kevin Johnson  
Reader: 16-Rosanne Johnson  
Ushers: Steve & Deb Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Ron & Denise Johnson  
Communion (July 16): S-Steve Sjostrom; C-John Nelson; U-Rosanne Johnson, Elias Webster  
Coffee: 30-refreshments after outdoor service.

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## The beginning of wisdom

by Pastor Bob Stover

### *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*

~Psalm 111:10

Several summers ago, I was heading up to the Boundary Waters for five days of canoeing in the Superior National Forest with three of my “kids”—who are really all grown adults, now.

But, as I prepared and packed and planned, I realized that what made this trip different from other vacations, was that I was choosing to make myself vulnerable. I was going off the grid of service for my cell phone. I would be in remote lakes and campsites, many paddling miles away from any hospital emergency room. A drought was in effect, with no campfires allowed, so a forest fire was a real and eminent danger. We would be exposed to the elements of rain, wind, bugs, heat and cold and, if we didn’t prepare well enough, we would have to suffer the consequences.

Preparing for this experience made me keenly aware of how sheltered so much of our existence is. If we are hot, we turn on the air conditioning. If we are thirsty, we grab something from our refrigerator. If we are feeling unmotivated but hungry, we may just run out to get a fast-food option in town. It is easy to feel powerful, safe, comfortable, and sat-

isfied. It is easy to get lulled into a feeling that we are the ones in control of our lives.

When I was a youth, my confirmation pastor taught me that being mindful we are not in control of life is called having the “fear of the Lord.”

It is to know that every breath, every meal, every good thing in our lives comes from our gracious God, whose good pleasure it is to give us what we need. The psalmist tells us that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

A true perspective and understanding of the world begins and ends with knowing that we are entirely dependent on God each day, whether we are surrounded by luxuries or separated from our comforts by many miles.

Wherever life takes you this summer, be it to a place of scarcity or enjoying some creature comforts at home, I hope that your days are filled with awareness that each blessing, each gift, and every good thing is from God.

God loves you with an everlasting love. Be sure to take a moment every day to give praise and thanks to our great God. He is the source of all contentment, and fear of the Lord is the beginning of living life wisely.

I hope you enjoy this warm and sunny season!

### Council Meeting Dates

- Bernadotte Council—Mon., July 17, 8:00 p.m. (bi-monthly meetings)
- FOG Council—Wed., July 19, First Lutheran, 7:30 p.m. (meetings will be held every other month)
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Aug. 1, 6:00 p.m. (meetings will now be held every other month)

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### A New Day radio program

“A New Day” is broadcast each Sunday on KNUJ 860 AM at 10:05 a.m. If you can’t catch it live, it is posted and saved at <https://knuj.net/category/programming/>. It is on the KNUJ web, under programming and “Sunday Morning.”

Mildred Ross’ family is sponsoring the program Sunday July 9, in honor of her 104th birthday which is July 11.

Sponsorship is welcomed—perhaps in honor or memory of a birthday, anniversary or other special event. The cost per broadcast is \$162. Checks may be sent to John Petterson, c/o BLC, PO Box 173, Lafayette 56054.

### Newsletter items

Input for this newsletter should be sent to Communications Coordinator Ruth Klossner at [cowladyruth@gmail.com](mailto:cowladyruth@gmail.com) or phoned to her at 507-240-0048.



## Hanging around the campfire

About 30 people took part in the first of three campfire gatherings at Swan Lake June 11. It was a great evening to visit, roast wieners, enjoy other goodies, and throw beanbags.



The next campfire gathering will be Sunday, July 16 at 5:00 p.m.



## It was an 'indoor outdoor' service at BLC

With threats of rain and only 65 degrees, Bernadotte's first outdoor service was moved indoors Sunday, June 25. Gerry and Carol Larson and Jodi Poehler provided great music and led the service. Thank you to the musicians for a very special morning!

As planned, root beer floats were served afterwards—in the church basement instead of in the park.



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## First Beverages and Hymns held at Lafayette mini-park



The first of three Beverages and Hymns was held June 5. Future events will be July 24 and August 14.



# Youth serve Lafayette ice cream social

The Fields of Grace youth served pork chops and ice cream at the Friday evening social at the Lafayette Community Center June 2. The kids got help from their parents in grilling the chops, preparing the food, and serving.



Thank you to the kids and parents for helping raise money for youth activities.





**BLC  
ice  
cream  
social  
June 7**

The weather was great for the Bernadotte ice cream social—not too hot and enough breeze to keep most of the gnats away. The pork producers grilled rib sandwiches and hot dogs and the BLC ladies furnished the great homemade pies.



As always the Lafayette Band provided great music.



**FLC  
WELCA  
served  
June 16  
ice cream  
social**



First Lutheran Church's WELCA served the social before the second Lafayette Band concert Friday, June 16. Everyone enjoyed the sandwiches and desserts!



Fields of Grace  
**Summer  
Worship**

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Campfire  
Church**

**5:00 pm - Swan Lake**  
July 16  
August 20

*We'll roast hot dogs, play games,  
have devotions and enjoy time together  
outdoors at Swan Lake Church\**

*\*Hot dogs and lemoade provided.  
Please bring a snack to share.*

**FIELDS OF GRACE  
PARISH**

**Bernadotte Lutheran**  
34122 515th Ave, Lafayette

**First Lutheran**  
1020 Lafayette Ave, Lafayette

**Swan Lake Lutheran**  
51420 Fort Rd, New Ulm

**Beverages  
& Hymns**

**7:00 pm - Dave's Place**  
July 24  
August 14

*Grab a beverage of your choice and  
food\*, from Dave's Place and join us  
on the patio for Music,  
Beverages and Fellowship*

*\*You are responsible for the cost of  
your food and beverages.*

**Music with  
a Message**

**9:30 am - Bernadotte**  
July 30 - Larry Mages  
August 27 - Mary Kavan

*Enjoy Sunday morning worship with  
music from local musicians  
in Bernadotte's beautiful park.*

*Fellowship to follow.*