



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 13, Issue 12

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

July 2024

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, July-August

JULY 2024			
		9:30 AM	5:00 PM
Week 1	July 7	FLC*	-
Week 2	July 14	-	SL Campfire
Week 3	July 21	BLC Park	-
Week 4	July 28	FLC*	-

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

* communion

UPCOMING FOG EVENTS*

- **CAMPFIRE CHURCH—SUNDAYS, JULY 14 AND AUGUST 25, 5:00 P.M., SWAN LAKE**
- **OUTDOOR PARK SERVICES, SUNDAYS, JUNE 30, JULY 21 AND AUG. 11, 9:30 A.M., BERNADOTTE**
- **FOG YOUTH TRIP TO MINNESOTA TWINS GAME, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, LEAVE AT 8:30 A.M.**
- **FLC WELCA ICE CREAM SOCIAL—JULY 26**

* Check for more details in this newsletter

Music with a Message outdoor services

Three summer outdoor “Music with a Message” summer services will be held in the Bernadotte Church Park this summer, each beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Mary Kavan will provide the music for this Sunday’s, (June 30) park service. She is filling in for the Larsons who had to cancel due to a medical situation.

The Norells from Norseland will be at Bernadotte Sunday, July 21 and Larry Mages Sunday, August 11.

A light treat or beverage will be served after each service.

The services will move indoors if the weather is bad.

105th birthday card shower

Let’s remember Mildred Ross for her 105th birthday July 11. A card shower will be held.

Cards and messages can be sent to Mildred at Bayside Manor, 640 3rd St., Gaylord, MN 55334.

Youth trip to Minnesota Twins game

Pastor Mike and youth director Mark Haler have planned a trip to a Minnesota Twins afternoon baseball game on Wednesday, July 24.

All Fields of Grace youth who will be in grades 5-12 this fall are invited to attend. As this is an event for FOG church youth to get to know each other better, the trip will be only for FOG youth (i.e., no invited friends this time).

The group will leave from First Lutheran at 8:30 a.m., have a light lunch at Bloomington, then take the light rail to Target Field for the 12:10 p.m. game. After the game, it will be back on the train to return to Bloomington. The group will eat supper together somewhere on the way home, getting back about 8:00 p.m.

All costs (except food purchases at the game) will be paid from the FOG youth account. In order to purchase the right number of tickets and arrange for transportation, the sign-up deadline is Sunday, July 14. Please contact Mark Haler or Pastor Mike. Chaperones and drivers are needed (costs will be covered). Chaperones can take additional family members along.

Have mowers, keep busy!

With Minnesota’s monsoon season, there’s been plenty of mowing to be done! Finding a break between the rains was the biggest challenge for Harold Holmgren and his Bernadotte mowing crew. The guys do a great job!



JULY 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 7-Myron Isaacson, Corey Langhoff; 28-Brian Martens, Mary Martens
Reader: Deb Grant Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Traci Abrahamson, Sandy Hartley
Coffee: 7-Laurie Larson, Judy Van Maasdam; 28-Amy Sjogren, Deb Grant

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ron & Denise Johnson
Ushers: Steve & Deb Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Ron & Denise Johnson
Coffee: 21-Rosanne Johnson, Pam White

Let's make today count

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

As many of you may already know, I write a weekly column for my hometown newspaper, *The Gaylord Hub*.

My column is entitled "Growing Up in Gaylord." I generally tell stories from the past, and share memories I have of people and events from my youth. It seems to have caught on with people—especially with folks who are around my age. It makes sense, I guess, for we share that history of which I write, and we lived through those times, wonderful and/or lousy, together.

A weekly trip down 'Memory Lane' can be fun, and can even be a healthy thing. However, I have found it is best not to stay stuck on Memory Lane for too long. Living in the past often distorts our present. We tend to so easily remember only the good things about yesteryear, while conveniently forgetting the bad. And thus we create fantasies in our brains that long ago life was "easy" and "perfect," thereby making here-and-now seem only arduous and failing. Neither is true.

No era has been devoid of challenges. The trials we face today may look different than the ones from years ago—but never for one second believe that difficulties were entirely absent back then. Don't be fooled, as the former times had obstacles, too. Beware of anyone who speaks a little too glowingly of yes-



terday, and a bit too despairingly of today and tomorrow.

God, the Bible tells us, is the Lord of the past, present, and future. The Bible also assures us that God is good, and that God is always active...never slumbering or sleeping. A good and active God who rules the past, present, and future means that we have been, are, and always will be in excellent hands! We can live confidently today as we move forward—even if things around us barely resemble those which have already gone by.

As a pastor, I've been asked numerous times in my career, "Why can't it be like it used to be?" Jokingly (but not completely jokingly), I have responded with, "Well, then we'd all be living in caves, wearing animal skins, and eating berries and raw mammoth meat." I often wink after saying it, and the person usually gets what I meant: The past is not automatically better than now. It is possible to honor both the past and the present—it's not an either/or proposition.

And since God only gives us access to today, let's make today count. Instead of wishing we lived in a magical time of zero problems (which never existed anyway), let's face our challenges head on and trust that God will see us through, as God has always done.



Arden and Marilyn DeBoer celebrated their 70th anniversary and their 90th birthdays with an open house after church June 16. With a lot of kids in church—many of them DeBoer descendants—Pastor Mike talked about years and the passage of time in the children's sermon.



Campfire church at Swan Lake



With June 23 being six months and two days before Christmas (!!!), the evening campfire service at Swan Lake was an outdoor Christmas service. As Pastor Mike pointed out, theologians aren't really sure what day Jesus was born but picked a day near when the days start to get longer after the short days of winter. After a brief opening service, the group enjoyed hotdogs and more, made S'mores, played bean bags, and visited. Nice change of pace for worship.

If you missed this, there will be two more Sunday evening campfire services at Swan Lake this summer—
July 14 and August 25

African partnership met at Bernadotte June 13



Pastor Mike welcomed the group and gave the opening devotion.

The Minnesota Valley Conference African partnership gathered at Bernadotte Thursday evening, June 13, to meet with Mr. Mkhize, the chair of the Diocese council, the top lay leader in the church in South Africa. The evening started in typical "Lutheran fashion" with a "little lunch" prepared by Pam White, Wendy Schulz, and Rosanne Johnson. The group learned more about the walking together ministry that pairs the Minnesota Valley Conference with the Vryheid Circuit.





Wet night at Bernadotte June 5



The wind was blowing—but there was no rain—when Bernadotte’s ice cream social got underway. That didn’t last long as the rain started and everything had to be crammed in under cover. Some helpers used umbrellas to move guests to seating in the garage. The band played on—inside!



Fields of Grace Ice Cream socials

Another damp evening, but Fields of Grace youth were indoors June 21



It was only drizzling for the FOG Youth ice cream social Friday, June 14. Along with their parents, the kids had a successful social, serving up pork chops & more.



Called to their heavenly home

Bernadotte member Randy Peterson, 67, of New Ulm died unexpectedly Thursday, June 20, at Abbott Northwest Hospital in Minneapolis.



Funeral service will be Tuesday, July 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Bernadotte Lutheran. Pastor Mike Zaske will officiate with burial to follow in the Bernadotte Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. before the service.

Randy is survived by sister Paulette (Allen) Botten, brothers Bradley (Cathy) Peterson and Kevin Peterson; and by nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Randy most recently worked for Krenz Real Estate, after having worked for the *Sleepy Eye Herald* newspaper. Randy was a true man of the people. His family was always the most important to him.

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Former Bernadotte organist Ilene Bussler, 88, passed away Monday, June 17. A celebration of life was held Tuesday, June 25 at Peace Lutheran Church in Winthrop.

Ilene grew up on the family farm across from the Harkin Store which was owned by her great-grandfather, Alexander Harkin. After moving to Winthrop and graduating from Winthrop High School, Ilene went to nursing school in New Ulm and embarked on a fulfilling 50-year career as a nurse.

She shared her love of music throughout her life, teaching piano lessons and playing organ for church services and was still playing organ until the time of her passing. She played at Bernadotte from 1988 to 2006.

Thank you notes received

Dear Bernadotte Family,

Thank you to everyone who helped to make Dennis Swenson's Memorial Service a perfect goodbye. Our family has always had so many fond memories of Bernadotte.

Denise Downhour, Tim Swenson & Andrea Feltes

A huge thanks to everyone who pitched in in any way for the annual BLC WELCA Pie and Ice Cream Social. Despite on and off inclement weather—including high winds, thunder, lightning, and rain—we surprisingly still managed a very healthy profit. Thanks again!

The Committee

To the First Lutheran WELCA Ladies,

Thank you for taking the time to make us seniors those blankets to take with us to college. It was greatly appreciated!

Brooklyn Hagberg

To BLC's Blooming in Bernadotte Committee,

Thank you for the half hog I won on the opportunity ticket. It was truly appreciated.

Dwayne Ross

Pastor paints Bernadotte

Retired pastor Patrick Genereux of Des Moines, Iowa surprised the Bernadotte folks when he stopped in to drop off an original painting of the church. Done from a photograph that he took, Genereux said that the "line and wash" painting is not meant to be totally accurate, but rather artistic.

Genereux, originally from Bird Island, paints and draws as a hobby and especially likes to do churches.

The framed painting hangs in the BLC church office.



Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Monday, July 22, 6:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m., Bernadotte
- Bernadotte Council—August, date TBD

Upcoming community socials

Friends of the Lafayette 125th Celebration will host a Friday Night Social July 12 to raise money for the Quasquicentennial happening in July of 2025.

The meal will be hot dishes and cookies and will include a contest. Bring your favorite hot dish and enter the competition to try to win a prize.

The Lafayette American Legion will serve the July 19 social and the First Lutheran WELCA the July 26 one. (More details on a following page.)

Join us for the last
**FRIDAY NIGHT
SOCIAL**

of the year!

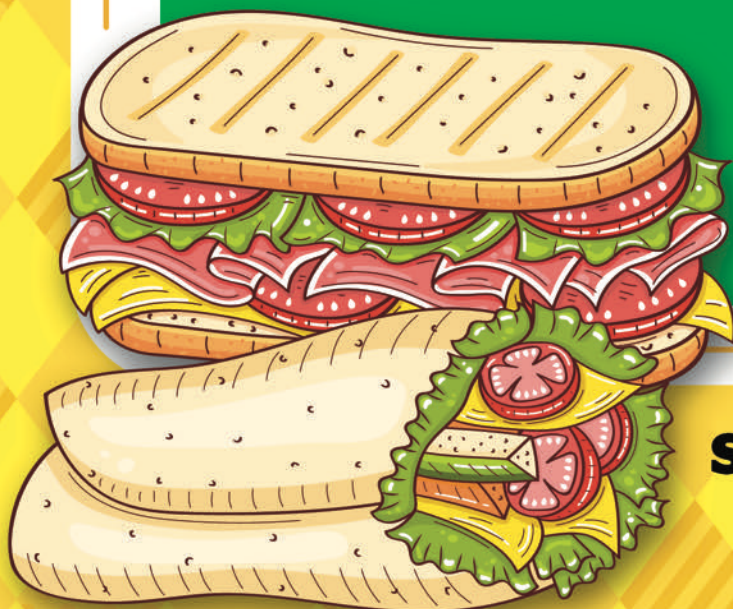
*Served by the Women of
First Lutheran Church, Lafayette*

**FRIDAY, JULY 26
5:00-7:00 PM**

**Turkey or Ham Wrap or Sandwich
with the fixings, chips and dessert!**

FREE WILL OFFERING

supports the
projects of the
First Lutheran
WELCA



**Stop for supper, Stay for
the Lafayette Band
from 7:30-8:30 pm!**