



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 16, Issue 1

Bernadotte & First Lutheran Churches

August 2026

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE Aug.-Sept.

AUGUST 2026		
		9:30 AM
Week 1	August 2	FLC*
Week 2	August 9	BLC*
Week 3	August 16	FLC
Week 4	August 23	BLC Park
Week 5	August 30	FLC

SEPTEMBER 2026			
		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Week 1	Sept 6	FLC*	BLC*
Week 2	Sept 13	FLC	BLC
Week 3	Sept 20	FLC	BLC
Week 4	Sept 27	FLC*	BLC

* Communion



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE OUTDOOR SERVICE**
Sunday, August 23 with Larry Mages
9:30 a.m., Bernadotte Church Park
- **CONFIRMATION INFORMATION MEETING**
Sunday, September 13, 6:30 p.m., First Lutheran
- **NAT'L YOUTH GATHERING INFO MEETING**
Sunday, September 13, 7:15 p.m., First Lutheran
- **CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN**
Wednesday, September 16, First Lutheran
- **BERNADOTTE SPAGHETTI FEED**
Sunday, September 27
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.,
Lafayette Community Center

Youth Meetings set

A meeting for those interested in taking part in the 2027 National Youth Gathering is set for Sunday, September 13, at 7:15 p.m. at First Lutheran.

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis from Monday, June 28 through Friday, July 2. It is for students who will be in eighth through twelfth grade this fall and is a national gathering, with anywhere from 30,000 and 33,000 youth expected to attend.

Pastor Bruce and Mark Haler will meet with students (and their parents) who are interested in going.

More details on the gathering will be in future newsletters.

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Another youth meeting will be held earlier the evening of September 13. Pastor and Mark will meet with confirmation parents and students at 6:30 p.m. at First. This is a required meeting for both parents and students. If, for some reason, you cannot make it to the meeting, let pastor know so another time can be arranged. Classes will begin September 16.

Zel-Mari crowned Haley

Miss Lafayette 2025 Zel-Mari Kamm crowned the new Miss Lafayette, Haley Kanuch, in ceremonies Friday, July 24 at the Lafayette band stand in Memorial Park.

Haley is the daughter of Dan and Sara Kanuch and Zelli is the daughter of Elmari and Andy Kamm—all members of First Lutheran.

Megan Hacker, daughter of Chad and Laura Hacker, was named Lafayette Princess and Olivia Fischer, daughter of Josh Fischer and Kristina Braulick, was named Lafayette Junior Miss.

Over the past year, Zelli has appeared in parades around the area and Haley and the new court will do the same.



AUGUST 2026 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 2-Charles Hartley; 16-open; 30-Jim & Jorja Langhoff
Altar: Jorja Langhoff, Sandy Hartley
Reader: Sandy Hartley
Coffee: 2-Sandy Hartley; 16-Mary Martens & Jorja Langhoff; 30-Kris Hagberg

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Tim & Wendy Schulz
Ushers: Andrew Rasmussen, Neil & Renee Rasmussen, Jim & Stacy Kline
Readers: 9-Jennifer Bringle; 23-Musicians
Communion (Aug. 9): S-Andrew Rasmussen; C-Steve Sjostrom; U-Tim Anderson
Coffee: 9- open; 23-Outdoor service refreshments

From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Bruce Bringle

"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part" (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)

Did we read that right? Look at it again! Doesn't it say that the Macedonian Christians during a "severe ordeal of affliction" felt "abundant joy" and, despite "their extreme poverty," their "wealth of generosity...overflowed?"

That is what it says. Maybe St. Paul got it wrong when he wrote the book. Although I suppose if St. Paul wrote it, and we believe he was inspired by the Holy Spirit, then maybe it is right. It just seems so foreign to what we experience.

Do you suppose that, instead of being wrong, this is very much right, and that instead we and our culture have it wrong?

Do you ever wonder what would happen if we worried less about what we have and were more concerned about what we give? Do you ever wonder what would happen if we gave proportionally of all that God has first given to us, even to the point that we would become tithers?

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to trust God so completely that we have placed all we have, including ourselves, in God's hands?

Maybe this is just what the people of the church in Corinth did. And they experienced joy. When is the last time you experienced true joy in giving, joy to the extent you wanted and begged to give more?

The Corinthians did exactly that. While not materially wealthy, the Corinthians were wealthy in trust of God, in grace, in joy, and in generosity. They were a thankful people. Somehow it all ties together—joy and generosity—and thankfulness.

Think about it. Pray about it.

Called to his heavenly home

We express our sympathy to the family of Doug Rood, 88, father of Jennifer Bringle, who passed away July 21. His memorial service will be held at Redemption Lutheran Church, Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, Saturday, August 1, at 11:00 a.m., with visitation at the church one hour prior to the service.

In addition to Jennifer and Pastor Bruce, Doug is survived by his wife, Vi; grandchildren Rachel and Jacob; son Marc Rood of Rosemount; and other relatives.

A veteran of eight years in the U.S. Army Reserve, Doug spent 32 years working as a food broker salesman.



First Lutheran Parking Lot

First Lutheran is looking into the repair/replacement of the church's blacktop parking lot. Sections of the lot are in dire need of repair. The church council has received a quote for the removal and replacement of the blacktop for \$16,000, with an additional \$9,500 for groundwork that will most likely be needed. An additional quote to only correct the 10-foot by 10-foot area of the handicap parking spots would be \$1,600, plus \$2,500 for groundwork.

As this is a huge undertaking for the church, the council is looking for ideas for the project, as well as ideas for other companies to get quotes from.

The council is also looking into the charter, as there is a cap on spending without a full member vote. To do the entire area would require a big fundraising drive to accomplish the much needed parking lot update.

Members are asked to bring any ideas for the area, other companies to get quotes from, or fundraising to any church council member—Carmen Broste, Jean Ahl, Sara Kanuch, Stacy Reinhart, Jeff Donnay, Charlie Hartley, and Sandy Burger. The council next meets on August 3.

Outdoors moved indoors June 28



Early morning rain moved Bernadotte's June 28 outdoor music service indoors. Gerry and Carol Larson and Jodi Poehler provided the music for the special Music with a Message service. The congregation's 160th anniversary was recognized during the service and with cake afterwards.



News and notes

- Pastor Bruce is on vacation through Sunday, August 2. In his absence, Pastor Bob Miner will be available for pastoral concerns. He can be reached at 320-296-1800
- The final outdoor music service at Bernadotte is August 23 with Larry Mages providing the music. The services will move indoors if weather is bad. Light beverage/treat will be provided after the service.
- The First Lutheran WELCA ladies are doing a stewardship drive. WELCA will match up to \$10,000 given to the church that is not part of members' regular offering. Donations can be put in the plate as a separate check, marked "WELCA Match," or given to Laura at the bank. As of June 22, \$2,382 had been received.
- Bernadotte Lutheran is planning a Spaghetti Feed at the Lafayette Community Center, Sunday, September 27 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 pm. Free will donations will be accepted.
- BLC Opportunity Tickets will be out by September 1. There will be many opportunities to win prizes, cash, and more. More information in nex month's newsletter.
- Thanks to all for your support of the "Blooming in Bernadotte" plant and flower sale in May.

Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council—Tues., Aug. 3, 6:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m., BLC
- BLC Council—Sun., Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m.

High School grad

Caiden Rose, son of Amy Sjogren and Jason Rose, graduated from New Ulm High School/online. He will go into the workforce and may attend vocational school. First Lutheran planned to give him a tied blanket.





Outdoors at BLC July 26

It was a bit warm but, with a breeze blowing through the trees, it was relatively comfortable for the outdoor service in the Bernadotte church park. The Norells of Norseland provided the music and message. Jill also did a children's sermon. There was ice cream for all afterwards.



FOG youth serve ice cream social

The Fields of Grace youth served the July 17 Friday evening social in Lafayette, dishing up pulled pork sandwiches or hot dogs, beans, potato salad or chips, and ice cream sundaes. It's a great Friday evening tradition—and it's good to see the youth help carry it forward.





First Lutheran ladies took a turn serving the Friday evening ice cream social at Lafayette Community Center



The First Lutheran WELCA ladies hosted the weekly Friday evening social at Lafayette July 10. They served turkey and ham wraps, along with ice cream and a variety of cookies. The weekly concert by the Lafayette Band followed.





High rise work in Bernadotte

Dietz Builders, Inc. repaired the dormer windows high up on the church recently.



Community gatherings coming up for Neighborhood Night Out

As summer winds down, a number of end-of-the-season events are being held around the area. Mark the dates on the calendar.

LAFAYETTE'S

NIGHT UNITE

Lafayette Area
LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL



ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ BOUNCE HOUSE
- ✓ FIRST RESPONDERS
- ✓ FOOD STAND & ICE CREAM TREATS
- ✓ VENDORS



TUESDAY
AUGUST 4

6-8 P.M.
LUND PARK



Contact Kayla - kayla.altmann@gmail.com

Lafayette Area Lions

PORK CHOP & CORN SUPPER

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 22
4:30-7:30 pm**

Lafayette Fire Station
800 Main Ave, Lafayette

\$13⁰⁰

Extra Chop \$4
Kid's Hot Dog Meal \$5



Grilling by
Nicollet County
Pork Producers

MUSIC BY:

4:30 **Ricky Franta**
5:30 **Larry Mages**
6:30 **Lafayette Community Band**

BERNADOTTE • BRIGHTON

neighborhood

BLOCK PARTY

Hotdogs, brats,
water & lemonade
will be provided.
(This party is non-alcoholic)

Please bring:
A dish to share

Any questions or to RSVP:
call or text Paula 507-779-5571

Saturday
Aug 1, 2026
5:00 pm

51680 Fort Rd
New Ulm