



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 12, Issue 5

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Dec. 2022

Winter worship schedule

The FOG Council has planned the worship services going forward. Two services will be held each Sunday, at 8:00 a.m. and at 9:30 a.m., with the exception of holiday weekends and the fifth Sunday of the month. In months that have five Sundays, there will only be one service on that fifth Sunday. The schedule will be followed through the end of 2022, then evaluated to see if any tweaks are needed.

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, DEC.-FEB.

DECEMBER			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Dec. 4	SL C	BLC C
Week 2	Dec. 11	BLC	FLC C
Week 3	Dec. 18	SL C	FLC C
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	7:00 PM	SL
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	9:00 PM	FLC
Christmas Day	Dec. 25	8:00 AM	BLC
JANUARY 2023 ~ Tentative ~			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
New Year's Day	Jan. 1		BLC C
Week 2	Jan. 8	BLC	FLC C
Week 3	Jan. 15	SL C	FLC C
Week 4	Jan. 22	FLC	BLC
Week 5	Jan. 29		SL C
FEBRUARY 2023 ~ Tentative ~			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Feb. 5	SL C	BLC C
Week 2	Feb. 12	BLC	FLC C
Week 3	Feb. 19	SL C	FLC C
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 22	7:00 PM	FLC C
Week 4	Feb. 26	FLC	BLC

FOG Holiday Schedule

- 50th annual Community Christmas Sing-a-long—Sunday, December 11, 7:00 p.m., First Lutheran
- First Lutheran Sunday School students will sing in the 9:30 a.m. worship service, Sunday, December 18 at FLC.
- Christmas Worship Services—7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve at Swan Lake; 9:00 p.m., Christmas Eve at First; and 8:00 a.m. Christmas morning at Bernadotte.

Christmas Carol Sing at FLC

First Lutheran will host the 50th annual Lafayette Community Christmas Carol Sing Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The event continues the 50-year tradition—started by the Methodist Church in Lafayette—of gathering the community to sing Christmas carols and enjoy songs by church choirs and individuals.

Anyone wishing to sing or play an instrument is welcome—just come that night and tell those in charge that you want to participate.

The annual event began in 1972 when members of the Methodist Church gathered to sing carols—since they didn't have a Sunday School program. When the Methodist Church closed, the event first moved to St. Gregory the Great and First Lutheran, with Bernadotte now also taking a turn in the rotation. Now that St. Gregory the Great has closed, the event will rotate between First and Bernadotte Lutheran Churches.

Choir members needed for Carol Sing

Fields of Grace members are needed for a choir for the 50th Anniversary of the Carol Sing. That event will be held at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 11 at First Lutheran Church.

Practice will be held Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. at First. *Church services are at SL and BLC that day.*

A second practice will be held Sunday, December 11 following the 9:30 a.m. service at FLC.

Contact Laurie Larson for more information.

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Dec. 14, 7:45 p.m., FLC
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m.

Youth to sing at December 18 service

The Fields of Grace Sunday School kids will take part in the 9:30 a.m. morning worship service at First Lutheran Sunday, December 18.

The children will open the service with “Away in a Manger,” followed by “Baby Jesus We Love You.” They’ll end the service with “Joy to the World,” with the whole congregation joining in, and will walk out with Pastor Bob.

Everyone is invited to a BBQ lunch afterwards.

DECEMBER 2022 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 11-Dean Pehrson, Tyson Hutton; 18-Matt Hagberg, Jay Hagberg; 24-Mark Halder, Jon Halder, Jon Hartley.

Reader: Sandy Donnay Liturgist: (open)

Altar: Lyla Ellies, Myra Kienlen

Coffee: 11-Heidi Hutton, Jo Pehrson; 18-Corey Langhoff, Bailey Langhoff

Visiting: Brian & Mary Martens

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ruth Klossner, Konnie Bartels

Readers: 4-Jim Bartels; 11-Rosanne Johnson; 25-Ruth Klossner

Ushers: Tim & Wendy Schulz, Elias Webster, Jim & Konnie Bartels

Communion: 4 & 25-S Tim Schulz, C-Steve Sjostrom, U-Neil Rasmussen, Shaun Anderson

Coffee: 4-Romi White, Rosanne Johnson ; 11-(open)

The Characters of Christmas

by Pastor Bob Stover

The Christmas Story is so full of color, meaning, and characters. On each of the four Sundays of Advent this year, one of our church families will share a different character who played an important role in the amazing story of the birth of Jesus. The wreath candles will glow brighter each week, as we prepare to once again receive the Christ child in our hearts and minds.

We'll look at Mary, of course, the unlikely young lady who was obedient to God's plan. Joseph is often almost forgotten for his significant role in the entire drama. The wise men from the east add their own mystique and grandeur to the picture. And then there were those dirty, smelly, simple

shepherds, who were the improbable audience to the angels that night.

While we embellish legends of snow men and reindeer, I hope you enjoy pondering the "background stories" of the real characters of Christmas this year. Whatever you do, and whichever services you attend, my prayer for you this Advent and Christmas is that the wonder of the season is born anew in your heart. I hope that you marvel at God's love, ponder the mystery of the incarnation, and delight in the nativity message in some new ways.

In the midst of all the festivities, have a blessed holiday season, full of reflection, peace and joy!

Called to her heavenly home

Bernadotte member Gerry Peterson, 94, died November 3 at her home at Ridgeway on 23rd in New Ulm.

Funeral service was Wednesday, November 9 at Bernadotte, with burial in the Bernadotte Cemetery.

Gerry is survived by daughter Paulette (Allen) Botten of Albert Lea; sons, Bradley (Cathy) Peterson of rural New Ulm, Randal Peterson of New Ulm, Kevin Peterson of New Ulm; eight grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren; and nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Wallace in 2016.



Advent readers needed

Pastor Bob is seeking additional readers—all ages, kids and adults—for special Advent readings during the lighting of the Advent candles at all three FOG Churches. Please contact Trish (trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com) if you're interested and the readings will be sent to you.

Readers are still needed for December 11 and December 18 at FLC.

Thank You

• Thanks to everyone who helped make quilts at Bernadotte October 24 and 25. Also thanks to the people responsible for all the wonderful fabric that we found in the closet. It was a great surprise. We made some absolutely wonderful quilts. Stop by Bernadotte church basement to check them out for yourself. Also, if you know of someone who would be in need, or just needs a little comfort, please let us know. Thanks.

Renee Rasmussen & Konnie Bartels

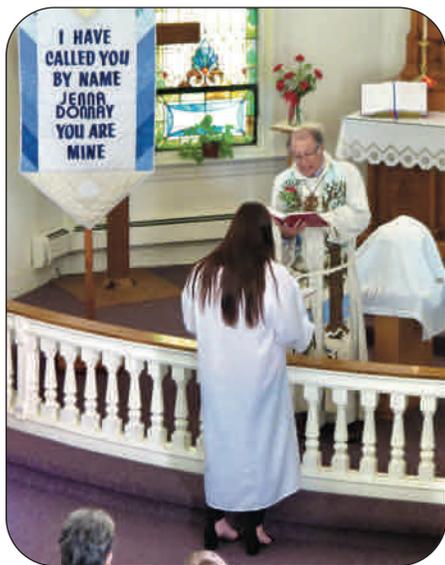
• Thank you to Pastor Scott Richards for the beautiful service and to organist Laurie Larson for providing the music for our mom's funeral. Also thanks to the Bernadotte church ladies for the delicious lunch.

The family of Gerry Peterson

• Thank you to Ken Bentson and Tom Maidl for leading FOG with worship and music November 13, 20 and 22.

The Fields of Grace staff

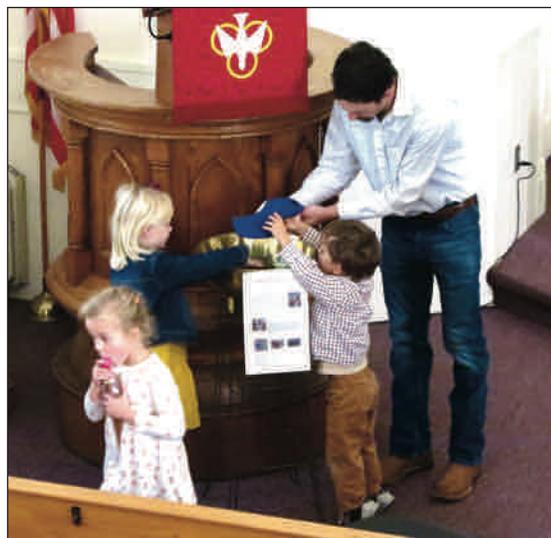
Confirmation, First Communion and noisy offering at FLC Oct. 30



Sunday, October 30 was a busy day at First Lutheran Church. Not only was the joint service Reformation Sunday, but Confirmation Sunday, First Communion Sunday, and Noisy Offering Sunday. Jenna Donnay, daughter of Jeff and Sandy Donnay of First, was confirmed and six youngsters took communion for the first time. A noisy offering was collected for the people of Haiti who are experiencing a severe food shortage.



First communion kids with Pastor Bob. From left: Taylyn and Breck Reinhart, Hudson Kanuch, Douglas Henderson, Owen Hartmann, and Haley Kanuch.



New member joins First Lutheran

First Lutheran welcomed new member Heidi Bendix on Sunday, November 27. Heidi will marry Eric Sjogren on January 6.



FLC WELCA Duties

First Lutheran has placed its WELCA booklets in the church mail boxes. The church duties are pretty much the same as in previous years but—in August or so—a calendar will be placed in the church basement for members to sign up for job duties for the next year.

FLC thanks all who have volunteered their time to help with the duties and make events and coffee hours run smoothly for the church.

Anyone unable to help on the dates listed is asked to exchange with someone else.

BLC WELCA brunch

Women from all Fields of Grace churches are invited to Bernadotte WELCA's 2023 Brunch. It's Saturday, January 14, at 9:00 a.m. at Hahn's Dining in Winthrop. It's a fun time to visit over a good meal. Feel free to bring a guest(s).

There's a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary at Bernadotte—or those planning to attend can call or text Romi White at 507-276-2651 or Rosanne Johnson at 507-276-8251 by January 8, 2023. Cost is \$10.00 each.

Bridal shower for Bergan Forst

An open house bridal shower will be held for Bergan Forst, bride-to-be of Jacob Broste, on Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran Church. Bergan and Jacob will be married January 7 at First Lutheran.

*With God,
Every Day is A New Day*

New Day Worship Service
On 860AM KNUJ
Sundays at 10:05 a.m.

Tune in for a word of hope & songs of praise

A New Day is a worship service brought to you by St. Paul's & Trinity Lutheran Churches of Gaylord, Scandian Grove Lutheran Church of Norseland, and the Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish.

KNUJ
860am • knuj.net • 97.3fm
Your Friend in Southern Minnesota

Sponsors needed for 'A New Day'

Can you sponsor a broadcast of "A New Day?" Think of sponsoring in honor or memory of a birthday, anniversary, or special event in your life. The cost per broadcast is \$160. Checks may be sent to John Petterson, c/o BLC, PO Box 173, Lafayette, MN 56054.



New member and All Saints Sunday at Bernadotte

It was new member welcome Sunday, November 6, at Bernadotte with the Petterson family—John, Gretchen, Sam and Gabe (not pictured)—joining the church. John is the grandson of longtime Bernadotte member Gerald "Junior" Petterson, now 96. The family lives on Junior's place on County Road 1.



It was also All Saints Sunday, with members lighting candles in memory of loved ones. For the kids' sermon, Pastor Bob talked about God "loving a loser," after his Phillies team lost the World Series the night before. Meanwhile, at the back of the church, Bernadotte's own pole dancer was enjoying himself.



<h1 style="text-align: center;">Sunday School</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME, PLEASE REACH OUT! 507-276-6150</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AGES 3-11 YEARS OLD!</p>							
SEPTMEBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
4	2 NO CLASS! FALL FESTIVAL	6 10:45 TO 11:30A	4 10:45 TO 11:30A	1 NO CLASS!	5 10:45 TO 11:30A	5 10:45 TO 11:30A	2 10:45 TO 11:30A
11 FIRST DAY!	9 10:45 TO 11:30A	13 10:45 TO 11:30A	11 10:45 TO 11:30A	8 10:45 TO 11:30A	12 10:45 TO 11:30A	12 10:45 TO 11:30A	9 NO CLASS! EASTER!
18 10:45 TO 11:30A	16 10:45 TO 11:30A	20 10:45 TO 11:30A	18 10:45 TO 11:30A	15 10:45 TO 11:30A	19 10:45 TO 11:30A	19 10:45 TO 11:30A	16 10:45 TO 11:30A
25 10:45 TO 11:30A	23 10:45 TO 11:30A	27 NO CLASS!	25 NO CLASS!	22 10:45 TO 11:30A	26 10:45 TO 11:30A	26 10:45 TO 11:30A	23 10:45 TO 11:30A
	30 10:45 TO 11:30A			29 10:45 TO 11:30A			30 10:45 TO 11:30A

Upcoming community event

• Santa Day in Lafayette—Tues., Dec. 13, Lafayette Community Center, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn wagon rides, hot-dog meal (free will donation), cookies and milk at the Community Center. Christmas tree lighting in the Mini-Park, 6:30 p.m.

FLC scholarship applications available

Scholarship applications for First Lutheran members, for the Roman Fischer and John S. Johnson scholarships, are now being accepted. Applications are available in the entryway at First Lutheran (on the east side of the front door).

Completed applications must be turned in by December 25, 2022. They can be placed in the offering plate at First Lutheran or in the night drop at Citizens Bank MN, Lafayette branch, marked "Attn: Laura." Grades from the first semester must be turned in to receive scholarship payment.

End of the year finances

With it being almost the end of 2022, it may be time to think about making an end-of-the-year donation to your church.

Contributions can put in the offering at any church where you attend services—but may be delayed in getting to the right church.

Donations can also be mailed to the churches as follows:

First Lutheran, P.O. Box 14, Lafayette 56054.

Bernadotte: c/o Ruth Klossner, 34085 515th Ave., Lafayette, MN 56054.

Swan Lake: c/o JoAnn Gieseke, 29540 State Hwy 4, St. James MN 56081.



Thanksgiving at Swan Lake

Community members gathered at Swan Lake Lutheran Tuesday, November 22 for an early Thanksgiving Eve service. Ken Bentson led the service, with Tom Maidl playing the organ. After service treats of cookies, munchies, milk and coffee completed the evening.



FLC looking for help

First Lutheran is looking for someone willing to clean the sidewalks during the week as the city asks that sidewalks be cleared after each snowfall. Snow removal will also be needed before 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday for confirmation classes. Contact Laura Isaacson if interested.

Presented by Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran churches of Gaylord

CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN

A Special Christmas Service with God's creatures

December 24, 2022
Services at: 10 am - 12pm - 2 pm - 4 pm

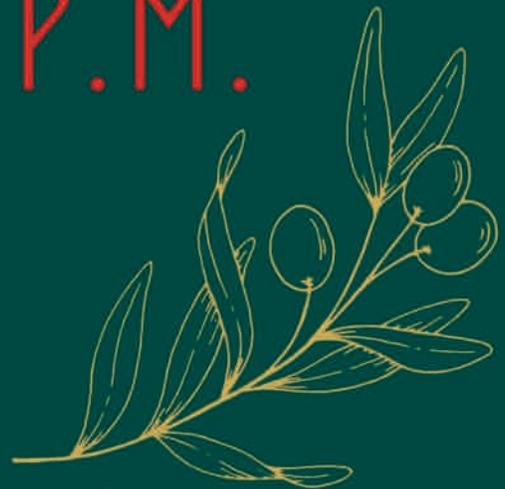
Join Us at:
David Kahle Farm
31074 431st Avenue
Gaylord, MN 55334

50TH *Annual Community*
CAROL SING



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 11
7 P.M.

*First Lutheran Church
of Lafayette
Refreshments to follow!*





YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF LAFAYETTE

18
DECEMBER



CHURCH STARTS
AT 9:30A.M. WE
WILL SING TO
START AND FINISH
THE SERVICE