



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 12, Issue 6

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Jan. 2023

## Winter worship schedule

Two services are 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 Sunday. Holiday, Lenten, and Holy Week Services are rotated between the churches.

### FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, JAN.-MAR.

#### JANUARY 2023

		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
New Years	Jan. 1	-	BLC <b>C</b>
Week 2	Jan. 8	BLC	FLC <b>C</b>
Week 3	Jan. 15	SL <b>C</b>	FLC
Week 4	Jan. 22	FLC	BLC
Week 5	Jan. 29	-	SL <b>C</b>

#### FEBRUARY 2023

		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Feb. 5	SL <b>C</b>	BLC <b>C</b>
Week 2	Feb. 12	BLC	FLC <b>C</b>
Week 3	Feb. 19	SL <b>C</b>	FLC
Ash Wednes.	Feb. 22	7:00 PM	FLC <b>C</b>
Week 4	Feb. 26	FLC	BLC

#### MARCH 2023

		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Lenten Serv.	March 1	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 1	March 5	SL <b>C</b>	BLC <b>C</b>
Lenten Serv.	March 8	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 2	March 12	BLC	FLC <b>C</b>
Lenten Serv.	March 15	7:00 PM	SL
Week 3	March 19	SL <b>C</b>	FLC
Lenten Serv.	March 22	7:00 PM	FLC
Week 4	March 26	FLC	BLC
Lenten Serv.	March 29	7:00 PM	FLC

**C** indicates communion service

## FLC notes

• First Lutheran is updating its prayer chain. If you are interested in helping out, please call Laura Isaacson at 507-276-0365.

• WELCA books have been put in the church mail boxes. Duties are pretty much the same as previous years, but in August (or so) a calendar will be put out in the basement to sign up for job duties for the next year. If you are unable to fulfill your dates, please exchange with someone.

## 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.

## FOG notes

- Confirmation classes resume Wednesday, January 4 at 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 8 at 10:45 a.m. at First Lutheran.
- The MN Valley Conference annual meeting will be held Sunday afternoon, February 19 at Bernadotte. We are in need of volunteers to serve refreshments for the attendees. Please contact Romi White if you are able to help with this. Four or five servers/volunteers will be needed.

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Jan. 2, 6:00 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Jan. 2, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Jan. 18, 7:45 p.m., FLC

*Bernadotte Lutheran will hold it's annual meeting Sunday, January 22 after the 9:30 a.m. service.*

## Community benefit for teen

The Lafayette Lions Club is spearheading a College Fund Benefit for Elissa Ries. The teen unexpectedly lost her father in October. Her mother has MS and is unable to care for her so Elissa is living with her aunt and uncle, Jackie and Glenn Forst.

The benefit is Sunday, January 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Fire Hall and will include a waffle breakfast, big ticket raffle, a silent auction, and a quilt raffle. Check the poster on the back page for all the details.

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# JANUARY 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 8-Randy Altmann, Allan Campbell; 15-Eric Sjogren, Denny Sjogren; 22-Dean Pehrson, Tyson Hutton.  
Reader: Sandy Hartley Liturgist: (open)  
Altar: Shauna Hoffmann, Jorja & Shelly Langhoff  
Coffee: 8-Kayla Campbell, Aimee Altmann; 15-Lori Brethorst, Traci Abrahamson; 22-Lindsay Benson, Jo Pehrson  
Visiting: Traci Abrahamson, Angie Hartmann

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Mia Ross, Jason Ross  
Readers: 1-Ruth Klossner; 8-Sarah Johnson; 22-Shaun Anderson  
Ushers: Dwayne & Judy Ross, Kyle Dalquist, Jim & Carol Young  
Communion (Jan. 1): S-Dwayne Ross; C- Lori. Fenske; U-Rosanne Johnson, Brent Johnson  
Coffee: 1, 8 & 22-Volunteers needed

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## The Best is Yet to Come!

by Pastor Bob Stover

We've all been told from time to time that "the best is yet to come!"

So, we wait and wait for it, but nothing happens. When will our waiting be over? How will we know when the best has happened? Who is going to bring "the best" to us? What will "the best" look like? And why does anything need to change, anyway?

I believe "the best is yet to come" for Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish. Some of the best worship ideas haven't been thought of yet. There are ways we can show God's love in the community and the world that we haven't yet tried.

Growth can occur in areas of our lives that maybe we've become overly content with. Is it possible we haven't even begun to plumb the depths of how God's grace can free, transform and enrich our lives?

I am so thankful for all the ways Fields of Grace's members shape, lead, and participate in our church. You make it fun and exciting to be your pastor. Because you are willing to share your time, talents, and treasures, everyone here at our church can feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging.

In December, we heard again how the Christmas angel

told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid...for unto you is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

As we enter 2023, I hope you don't have a spirit of fear. We have a great God who tells us, "All things are possible for the person who believes." This year, we will continue exploring options and opportunities for calling a new permanent pastor to this church, to partner with you, and to enter into the joy of ministry here in our churches.

So, I ask you to keep your hearts and minds open to what is to come. There are so many people who need to be invited to worship with us. There is so much to learn from God's Word. There are so many people waiting to see the light of Christ shine through us.

How can we as individual churches be better servants of Christ in our community, spreading seeds of grace throughout the world?

These past years were challenging in many ways. But "God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!" God has great things in store for you, for me, and for all of us here at Fields of Grace.

Let's walk through this New Year with expectation, believing that "the best is yet to come!"

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## It's another boy for the Sjostroms



The Sjostrom family received the best little Christmas present in mid-December.

Chet LeRoy was born to Jacob and Lindsay Sjostrom on Tuesday, December 13. He weighed six pounds, eight ounces, and was 20.25 inches.

Big brother Owen was thrilled.

It's the sixth grandson for the "Sjostrom basketball team"—following granddaughter Lucy.

Chet's grandparents are Steve & Deb Sjostrom and Lorie Thomes of Arlington and his great-grandparents are Lowell and Adrienne Sjostrom, LeRoy Rathmann of New Ulm, and Hannah Coney of Ames, Iowa.

# Thank You

Thank you to Swan Lake Lutheran Church for the gift I received. It is appreciated.

Laurie Larson

## Blue Christmas service at Gaylord

Bad weather postponed the "Blue Christmas Service" at St. Paul's Lutheran in Gaylord from December 21 to Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m. The service is especially for people who have experienced a loss during this or past holidays, making it difficult to get "into the spirit" of Christmas.



# Sunday School and confirmation kids involved in December 18 service

The Fields of Grace Sunday School students sang at the start and close of the December 18 service at First Lutheran Church.

The confirmation kids sang and played the bells during the service.



Tanner Johnson played several numbers on the piano as a prelude.



Meanwhile, up in the balcony, a "new organist" took the bench.



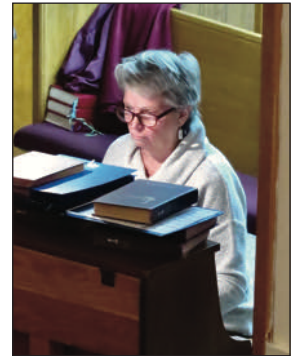




## 50th Community Carol Sing held



The 50th annual Lafayette Community Carol Sing was a fun and festive event Sunday, December 11. The event began in 1972 at the Methodist Church and continued, even after the Methodist Church closed in 1994. It moved to First Lutheran and St. Gregory's and now rotates between First and Bernadotte.



This year's event included Charles Hartley telling the Christmas Story, the continuing St. Gregory the Great choir and the First Lutheran choir singing, Tom Maidl playing organ and piano, Pastor Bob Stover and his wife Sarah singing/playing piano, Larry Mages singing

and playing guitar, and congregational singing to the accompaniment of organist Laurie Larson.

And, of course, there was "a little lunch" afterwards.





**DAD'S BELGIAN**  
**WAFFLE**  
**BREAKFAST**

**Sponsored by the  
Lafayette Area Lions**

**Sunday, January 15, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**  
**Lafayette Fire Hall**

**Lafayette Lions Cash Raffle**  
**Quilt Raffle • Silent Auction**  
**Cash donations will be accepted for**  
**Elissa's future college costs.**

**Raffle & waffle tickets available from Lions members,**  
**Citizens Bank-Lafayette & Sewing Seeds Quilt Company**

**Please Attend, Eat, Bid, and Give from the Heart.**

**Silent auction items may be dropped off at Community Insurance in Lafayette,**  
**Citizens Bank Minnesota-Lafayette, UFC offices in Lafayette & Winthrop,**  
**and at Sewing Seeds Quilt Company in New Ulm**

**College Fund Benefit**  
**for Elissa Ries**

Elissa's dad, Jason Ries of Lafayette Township, died unexpectedly October 9. Her mother, Cindy Preisinger, is not able to care for her due to MS. Elissa is living with her aunt and uncle, Jackie and Glenn Forst in West Newton Township.

Now a high school sophomore, Elissa is an active student at New Ulm Cathedral and especially enjoys theatre, dance, band, and Knowledge Bowl. She is already thinking college choices with possible majors in theatre or criminology.

