



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 13, Issue 5

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Dec. 2023

## FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, DEC.-JAN.

DECEMBER 2023			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Dec. 3	SL*	BLC*
Week 2	Dec. 10	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	Dec. 17	SL*	FLC*
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	7:00 PM	SL
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	9:00 PM	FLC
Christmas Day	Dec. 25	8:00 AM	BLC*
Week 5	Dec. 31	-	BLC*

JANUARY 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Jan. 7	SL*	BLC*
Week 2	Jan. 14	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	Jan. 21	SL*	FLC*
Week 4	Jan. 28	FLC	BLC Ann'l Mtg

\* communion

## Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Dec. 4, 6:00 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Jan. 17, First, 7:30 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**COMMUNITY CAROL SING, SUN., DEC. 10, 7 P.M., BLC**

Learn more on pages 4 & 5

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, SUN., DEC. 17, DURING 9:30 A.M. SERVICE, FIRST LUTHERAN**

SS songs and short story; songs on the bells by confirmation students during service; BBQ lunch for all afterwards

**BERNADOTTE WELCA BRUNCH, SAT., JAN. 6**

9:00 a.m. at Hahn's, Winthrop; all FOG ladies invited

## Interim pastor update

Pastor Mike Zaske will begin as our interim pastor on January 1. Ken Bentson will continue to fill in through December, for both Sunday and Christmas Eve & Day services.

## FOG council members

With the end of the calendar year near, each church is encouraged to review its membership on the FOG council. Council terms are for three years, for a maximum of two terms. If a church has a council member completing his or her second term, the church should select a new delegate before the next council meeting, Wednesday, January 17.

## Laurie Larson honored as Winthrop Chamber's Good Citizen



Fields of Grace organist Laurie Larson received the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce Good Citizen Award at the group's annual banquet Saturday, October 28.

Larson was recognized for her community service, including serving on the advisory board at The Lodge of Winthrop, where she is in her second term.

In introducing Laurie at the banquet, Kelsey Odegard said, "I've witnessed her unwavering commitment to making a difference. Laurie is not one to merely offer assistance when its convenient, she's always willing to jump in, regardless of the task or hour. Laurie has consistently demonstrated her commitment to The Lodge by donating items when in need and going above and beyond to ensure that those who require assistance receive it."

Larson responded, "It's good to give back to the community. It makes you feel good to help others. All of us need to look beyond ourselves. We need to help others because that's what makes a person better. It's not all about us. It's about everybody."

In addition to now playing for church services at all three Fields of Grace churches, Larson plays the pump organ for the Winthrop Historical Society and has played for the Uncommon Band of Renown in Gibbon since 1987.

---

# DECEMBER 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 12-Dean Pehrson, Tyson Hutton; 17-Matt Hagberg, Jay Hagberg; 24-Jon Hartley, Myron Isaacson  
Reader: (open)  
Liturgist: (open)  
Altar: Lila Ellies, Myra Kienlen  
Coffee: 10-Heidi Hutton, Jo Pehrson; 17-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg  
Visiting: Brian Martens, Mary Martens

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ruth Klossner, Konnie Bartels  
Reader: 3-Shaun Anderson; 10-Ruth Klossner; 25-Sarah Johnson; 31-Tim Schulz  
Ushers: Tim Schulz, Wendy Schulz, Elias Webster, Jim & Konnie Bartels  
Communion (Dec. 3, 25, 31): S-Tim Schulz; C-Steve Sjostrom; U-Neil Rasmussen, Elias Webster  
Coffee: 3-Advent Dinner; 10-Pam White, Wendy Schulz; 31-no coffee due to wedding

---

## Thanksgiving 'eve' community service at First Lutheran



The Thanksgiving offering of \$246 was divided between the Sibley, Nicollet and Brown County Food Shelves, with each getting \$82.



Community members gathered at First Lutheran Tuesday, November 21 for an early Thanksgiving Eve service. Ken Bentson led the service, with Laurie Larson playing the organ and the FLC choir singing. After the service, treats were served downstairs.





## FOG Holiday Schedule

- Community Christmas Sing-a-long—Sunday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., Bernadotte Lutheran
- First Lutheran Sunday School and confirmation students program during the 9:30 a.m. worship service, Sunday, December 17 at FLC; BBQ lunch afterwards
- 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.

## Thank you notes received

Fields of Grace Council,

Thank you for the retirement gift card. I have enjoyed working with you and all the fine leaders in your three churches! I appreciated the opportunity to serve you, and I pray for a beautiful future for all the ministry that you do!

Pastor Bob Stover

Thank you, FOG council,

I received the Kwik Trip grocery card. We always have use for groceries. They have stuff at great prices and items not found at other stores. Thank you!

Steve Briggs,  
FOG Web Coordinator

## Bernadotte Lutheran notes

• BLC's annual Advent potluck dinner will be held after the service Sunday, December 3. M-Z will be the kitchen crew. Wendy Schulz and Laura Dalquist are in charge. Everyone is invited.

• The 2024 WELCA New Year's brunch will be Saturday, January 6, at 9:00 a.m. at Hahn's Dining in Winthrop. Cost is \$10.00. Please sign up at the back of church or call Rosanne at 507-276-8251 to register by Monday, January 1. All Fields of Grace women are invited—bring a friend!

• BLC members are encouraged to volunteer to be readers at Sunday morning services. Please volunteer by the time of the annual meeting, to be included on the list.

• Bernadotte's annual meeting has been set for Sunday, January 28, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

## Upcoming community event

Santa Day in Lafayette is Tuesday, December 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center. The event will include a hot chocolate bar, hotdog meal (free will donation), and cookies and milk. The city's Christmas tree lighting will be in the Lafayette Memorial Park at 6:30 p.m. There will be a fire pit to make s'mores in the park if weather cooperates.

## First Lutheran Church notes

• Plant pickup for First Lutheran's Gerten's fundraiser is Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy coffee and donuts from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

• Choir practice will be held at FLC following the 9:30 a.m. services on December 10 to prepare Christmas music.

• First Lutheran has a challenge put forth by a member. If the church can gather donations totaling \$5,000 towards the heating bill, the challenger will contribute \$1,000. This is a donation above and beyond regular donations. Please designate on your donation that it is to go towards the challenge. The challenge will continue through December 31.

• Scholarship applications for the Roman Fischer and John S Johnson Scholarships are now being accepted at First Lutheran Church. Application deadline is December 24, 2023. Applications are in the church entryway on the east side of the front door. Completed applications should be placed in the offering plate at First Lutheran or into the night drop at Citizens Bank Lafayette Branch, Attn. Laura. Once a student's first trimester grades have been posted, they should be turned in in the same manner as the application. Checks will be awarded once grades have been submitted.

## End of the year finances

With it being almost the end of 2023, it may be time to think about making an end-of-the-year donation to your church.

Contributions can be put in the offering plate 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.

## Christmas Carol Sing at BLC

Bernadotte will host the 51st annual Lafayette Community Christmas Carol Sing Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The event continues the 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.

BLC's WELCA will serve coffee and cookies after the sing-a-long.



# Quilting Days at Bernadotte



The Bernadotte ladies, along with a few “reinforcements” whipped up a bunch of quilts and lap robes over two days in mid-November. They got a lot done—and had a good time working together and enjoying coffee and lunch in between.





LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY

# Sing-A-Long



*Continuing an over  
50-year tradition  
started by the  
Lafayette Methodist  
Church in 1972*

**Sunday, December 10**

**7:00 pm**

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

- Community singing of favorite carols
- Songs by church choirs & individuals
- Anyone wishing to sing or play is welcome—  
just tell us that night that you want to participate.

*Refreshments to follow in the church basement.*