



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 13, Issue 7

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Feb. 2024

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Feb.-Mar.

FEBRUARY 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Feb. 4	SLLC Annual Mtg	BLC*
Week 2	Feb. 11	BLC	FLC*
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 14	7:00 PM	SL
Week 3	Feb. 18	SL*	FLC*
Lenten Week 1	Feb. 21	7:00 PM	FLC
Week 4	Feb. 25	FLC	BLC
Lenten Week 2	Feb. 28	7:00 PM	FLC

MARCH 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	March 3	SL*	BLC*
Lenten Week 3	March 6	7:00 PM	SL
Week 2	March 10	BLC	FLC*
Lenten Week 4	March 13	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 3	March 17	SL*	FLC*
Lenten Week 5	March 20	7:00 PM	BLC
Week 4	March 24	FLC	BLC
Maundy Thursday	March 28	7:00 PM	BLC
Good Friday	March 29	7:00 PM	FLC
Easter Sunday	March 31	7:00 AM	SL*
		8:30 AM	BLC*
		10:00 AM	FLC*

* communion



Baptized at First Lutheran

Hazel Marie VanDeest, daughter of Logan and Cheyanne VanDeest, was baptized by Pastor Mike Zaske Sunday, January 28 at First Lutheran Church. Hazel was born October 24, 2023. Her sponsors are Nick and Morgan Klingler.

Council Meeting Dates

- Bernadotte Council—Mon., Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Feb. 21, First Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Mar. 11. 6:00 p.m.

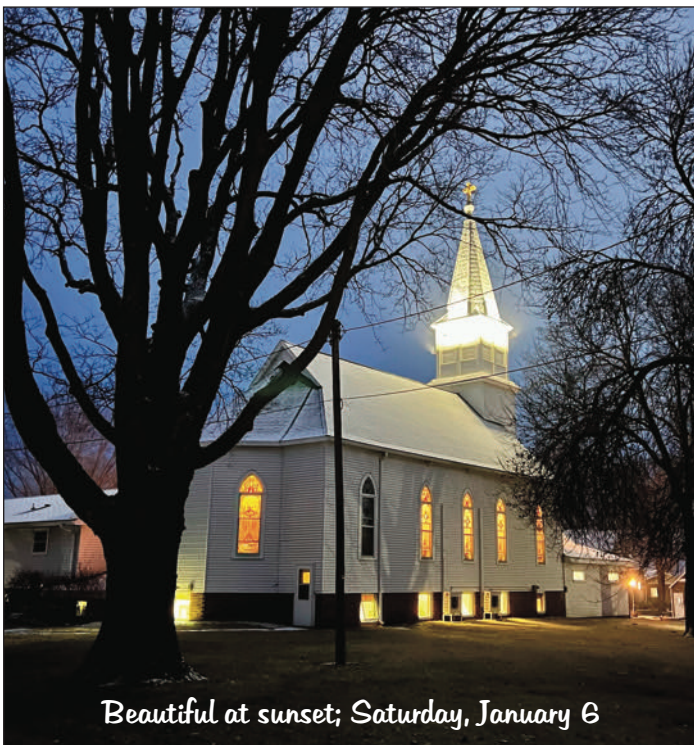
FOG council members

The FOG Council is looking for new members. It needs representatives from Swan Lake and First Lutheran to help fill positions previously held by members whose terms are up.

This is a great way to serve the parish. No experience is required or necessary, with a minimal time commitment. All members are welcome to help in this capacity. Please contact a member from your congregation for more information—Marvin Gieseke or Lorie Giefer at Swan Lake or Wendy Hagberg or Dennis Sjogren at First.

Choir practice at FLC

Choir practice will be held at First Lutheran Church on February 11 and 18, following the 9:30 a.m. church services.



Beautiful at sunset; Saturday, January 6

FEBRUARY 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 11-Dennis Sjogren, Eric Sjogren; 18-Laura & Kevin Isaacson; 25-Dennis Sjogren, Eric Sjogren
Reader: Sandy Hartley
Liturgist: (open)
Altar: Laura Isaacson, Sara Kanuch
Coffee: 11-Sandy Burger, Sandy Hartley; 18-Laura Isaacson, Sara Kanuch; 25-Tami Stadtherr, Nancie Carlson.

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Jerome & Shaun Anderson
Reader: 4-Rosanne Johnson; 11-Shaun Anderson; 25-Ruth Klossner
Ushers: Brent Johnson, Tim & Beth Anderson, Kevin & Rosanne Johnson
Communion (Feb. 4): S-Brent Johnson; C-Roanne Johnson; U-John Nelson, Steve Sjoström.
Coffee: 4-Carol Young 11-Judy Ross; 25-open.

It's the relationships

Way back, 32 years ago already, when Bill Clinton was running for president, he realized that people were struggling financially. The country was in a recession, and jobs were tougher to find than in previous years. So, to help focus their message, Clinton's campaign manager developed a slogan that said (pardon the insult) "*It's the economy, stupid.*" In other words, keep your focus on the economy. THAT'S what matters if we want to have success and win the upcoming election. Keep your attention on the economy.



Well, I bring this up because, when it comes to being a member of a small, rural-based church like Bernadotte/First / Swan Lake, I believe the key to success is to stay focused on relationships (perhaps our slogan should be—pardon the insult again—"*It's the relationships, stupid.*"). To me, relationships are what matters in a small church to have success and to thrive. THAT'S what matters. Keep your attention on the relationships.

As many of you know, I grew up in Gaylord (pop. 1720 back in my day), and I now live in Rosemount (pop. 29,310). Rosemount is a nice town, don't get me wrong. But do you know what is clearly missing? Relationships! I have lived there 14 years, and I barely know the names of most of my immediate neighbors. When I got sick with COVID-19 last year, I didn't have anyone in town who knew—or cared. The church I belong to is very nice and people there are kind, but in truth we are not close. We're more or less strangers who

happen to gather in the same building each week. I rarely know even 25% of the names of the people worshipping with me. Deep connections simply aren't there.

The lack of relationships is a huge problem in larger communities—and churches. Which is why I have often said that smaller churches like those in Fields of Grace have a HUGE advantage. In a smaller church, people know your name...they know what you do for a living...they know your personality and your interests...they know your mom and dad, your brothers and sisters...

In a small church, you are known! And in my opinion, that is a precious thing! In a small church, if you get COVID-19, you'll get phone calls—and probably a meal or two or five delivered to your house. If you are absent on a Sunday, you'll be missed. If you have a baby (or a new grandchild), people will know about it and ask you about it. At my "big" church in Rosemount, these kinds of things rarely (if ever) happen.

So, dear friends, during my time at Fields of Grace, you will hear me (again and again and again) proclaiming the tremendous advantages of belonging to a small church. You have a great treasure because you have relationships—deep ones that often go back generations. Don't ever take that for granted. My goal as your pastor is to do everything I can to make those connections even stronger. Stay focused on relationships, my friends. If we do, Fields of Grace will continue to be a force to be reckoned with!

Bernadotte Lutheran notes

- BLC members are encouraged to volunteer to be readers at Sunday morning services. Please contact Trish or Ruth to have your name added to the reader list.
- Bernadotte's annual Mission Sunday—Food for Kidz—will be Sunday, April 14. It's an event for all ages to work together and have fun!
- The 2024 Blooming In Bernadotte Fundraiser will be Saturday, May 11. The event will feature flower sales, take-out lunches, and opportunity tickets. Those willing to donate something to be given away (i.e. gift baskets; gift certificates for restaurants, services, food and entertainment; or other ideas), are asked to contact Shaun Anderson at shaun.anderson10@gmail.com.
- BLC's WELCA is looking for a volunteer to be vice president. If willing, please inform Rosanne Johnson or Shaun Anderson.

Thank you from Landon

"Thank you for the two very generous scholarship gifts, which I am very grateful for. They will be used to help me pay for my books, along with the tools required for class. This will be influential in my success as a student and I am appreciative of that."

Landon Uhde
Ridgewater College Student
Willmar, MN.

Called to his heavenly home

John Arlandson, 82, entered eternal life on December 29. A celebration of his life was held Saturday, January 6 at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette.



John is survived by his wife of 58 years, Karen; children John, Chris, Scott and Dawn and their spouses; 14 grandchildren; and other relatives.

John grew up in Lafayette. After graduating from New Ulm High School, John attended the University of Minnesota School of Engineering, then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked at Univac as a computer programmer in the Twin Cities, then returned to the Lafayette area where he farmed and resumed computer programming, cofounding CWC in Mankato. He retired in 1995.

John was an active community member, serving the Lafayette Legion, volunteer ambulance/EMT team, and the local school board, and was president of the church council.



Musicians come from Sweden

From a young age when he learned to play trumpet, music was a big part of John Arlandson's life. He and Karen coordinated the concerts each time the Vettern College Choir came here from Jonkoping, Sweden.

Vettern College Choir musicians and leaders Andreas and Git-tan Glans came from Sweden to provide music for John's funeral. Local musicians Tom Maidl and Pam Humphrey also provided instrumental music.



BLC WELCA Brunch – January 6, 2024

The annual Bernadotte WELCA brunch was held a week earlier than usual—and it was a good thing! The weather was nice on January 6, but was downright cold and nasty the next Sat-

urday. Everyone enjoyed a great meal prepared by the staff at Hahn's in Winthrop, then enjoyed good conversation before moving on to the rest of their day.





Thank you, Ken!



Ken Bentson, FOG's "interim for the interim" at various times over the last two years—and our regular interim the last two months of 2023, was honored at a pancake breakfast at Swan Lake December 31. Ken—and organist Laurie—received Trifecta shirts, recognizing their being at all three Christmas services and Ken received a Sermonator sweatshirt that he wore at his last service at BLC.

New Year's Eve wedding held at BLC



Jason Anderson and Laura Wels were married on New Year's Eve at Bernadotte Lutheran. Jason is a member of BLC; his parents are BLC members Jerome and Shaun Anderson. Laura's parents are Mark and Helen Wels from rural Nicollet.

Ambulance Steak Fry February 10

The annual Lafayette Ambulance Steak Fry will be held Saturday, February 10 from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Dave's Place. Choice of ribeye steak, Windsor chop, walleye fillet or butterfly shrimp with all the extras.

Retirement time

First Lutheran member Darrell Abrahamson retired recently after a 48-year career with United Farmers' Cooperative in Lafayette. Though he won't be working full time, people can still expect to see Darrell around UFC from time to time as he plans to help out part-time. That is, when he's not on the golf course or spending time with family or friends—or dog-sitting the various pets that find their way to the Abrahamson home.



Darrell is known as a guy with a friendly smile and who was always willing to help out. Customers wanted to work with him. With his long history with the co-op, he had great knowledge. Congrats, Darrell!

FIELDS OF GRACE WORSHIP

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	10:00 AM	FLC

APRIL 2024

	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
April 7	SL *	BLC *
April 14	FOG Mission Sunday 9:00 Food for Kidz - BLC	
April 21	SL *	FLC *
April 28	FLC	BLC

MAY 2024

	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
May 5	SL *	BLC *
May 12	BLC	FLC *
May 19	SL *	FLC *
May 26	Joint Worship	FLC *

JUNE 2024

		9:30 AM
June 2	Joint Worship	SL *
June 9	Joint Worship	BLC
June 16	Joint Worship	FLC *
June 23	Joint Worship	SL *
June 30	Joint Worship	BLC PARK

JULY 2024

		9:30 AM
July 7	Joint Worship	FLC *
July 14	Joint Worship	SL *
July 21	Joint Worship	BLC PARK
July 28	Joint Worship	FLC *

AUGUST 2024

		9:30 AM
August 4	Joint Worship	SL *
August 11	Joint Worship	BLC PARK
August 18	Joint Worship	FLC *
August 25	Joint Worship	SL *

* Communion