



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 14, Issue 23

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Oct. 2024

## FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Oct.-Nov.

OCTOBER 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	October 6	SL*	FLC* (Note Change)
Week 2	October 13	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	October 20	SL*	BLC* (Note Change)
Week 4	October 27	FLC	BLC

NOVEMBER 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	November 3	SL*	BLC*
Week 2	November 10	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	November 17	SL*	FLC*
Week 4	November 24	FLC	BLC
Thanksgiving (Tues.)	November 26	7:00 PM	SL

\* communion

## New pastor called

Friends at FOG!

As you probably know, FOG is in the midst of extending a call to Pastor Bruce Bringle, who is currently serving a two-point parish by Lac Qui Parle.

Here is an update.

In voting at congregational meetings Sunday, September 22, all three churches approved calling Pastor Bringle.

We hope to have Pastor Bringle start November 16, and possibly have installation service/s on November 17.

Bruce and his wife Jennifer are excited about coming to FOG and living in the parsonage at Bernadotte.

Please help us give them a warm welcome when you meet them.

Jim Bartels  
FOG President



## BLC hosted Swedish visitors

Bernadotte hosted visitors Tuesday, September 10. Janice Isakson of St. Peter brought the group to see Bernadotte Lutheran Church—the church of their Swedish ancestors Emil and Erika Anderson. The group included two sisters from Sweden.

One of them, Irene Johansson, is from Kalmar, Sweden—a city that almost provided the name for the township that became Bernadotte. Kalmar was the name that was first chosen for the township, but the state rejected that name as there was already a Kalmar Township in Minnesota. The area's early residents had to re-vote and named it Bernadotte. The second woman, a sister to Johansson, Marianne Henningson, is from Fiskesjo, Sweden.

After visiting the church and church park, the group followed with a tour of the Mooseum across the road.

Pictured are front, from left: Les Pettis of Gibbon, Bonnie Pettis of Gibbon; Irene Johansson of Kalmar, Sweden; Marianne Henningson of Fiskesjo, Sweden; Barb Stumm of Burnsville, and Jan Isakson of St. Peter. Back: Harold Pettis of Gibbon, Diane Pettis of Gibbon, Mark Matsumoto of Minneapolis, Julie Clemen of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Cindy Matsumoto of Minneapolis.

Win this  
quilt  
at FLC  
Fall  
Festival

See page 4



## UPCOMING FOG EVENTS\*

- SWAN LAKE HARVEST BREAKFAST, SAT., OCT. 5, 6:00-9:30 A.M.
- FLC FALL FESTIVAL, FIRST LUTHERAN, SUN., OCT. 6, 10:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
- BLC QUILTING DAYS, MON. & TUES., OCT. 21-22, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
- LOOK FOR MORE INFO IN THIS NEWSLETTER

# Sixty is a big number!

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

October is upon us. It doesn't seem that long ago to me that we were looking forward to June! Now, month #10 has arrived, as it inevitably does.

For me personally, October has always been a special month because...it is the month during which I made my grand entrance into the world back in the year 1964. I'll spare you from having to do the math. This October marks 60 years since that fateful day long ago. And, by the way, that's a big number.

For me personally, reaching age 60 is both exciting and a bit unsettling. My father never came anywhere near that age—he died from leukemia and didn't even make 40. His father (my grandpa) didn't make it out of his 60s—he died of a massive heart attack without ever seeing 70. My maternal grandmother also didn't make it out of her 60s, succumbing to years and years of heart-related health struggles.

What I'm trying to say is that I approach this next decade of my life with a sense of wonder and humility. I'm honored to have had the good fortune to have made it his far, and truly have enjoyed the journey. But I'm also all too aware that there are no guarantees, especially at this stage of life. The health troubles of my immediate ancestors give me reason to pause.

The Bible has a wonderful image of how each of us came to be. Psalm 139 declares, "For it was you, LORD, who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb."



Though I have been blessed with decent hand-eye coordination, I don't think I ever could master knitting. It takes great skill...a lot of focus and concentration... and you definitely need to know what you're doing as you go. I always watch knitters with a sense of awe and fascination.

Well, that's precisely how each of us was put together in our mothers' wombs—with great skill, focus, and determination. As Psalm 139 goes on to say, we are "fearfully and wonderfully made!" God most certainly knew what He was doing in the process! In God's eyes, we are all works of art, treasured more than all of the gold and silver in the entire universe.

I approach my "special" birthday this year with deep gratitude for the unique opportunity to have lived to the big number now facing me. I'm sad for all of those who never had the privilege to live this long.

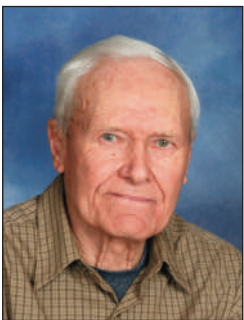
There have been some personal successes along the way, and plenty of failings. Thankfully we have a merciful God who gives us forgiveness for those failings.

So, I march on. Unquestionably older, and questionably wiser. My sincere thanks to all of you for being a blessing during your piece of my six decades of life. It's because of folks like the ones I've met during my time at Fields of Grace that have me excited for (hopefully) many more "big numbers" to come!

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## Called to their heavenly home

Bernadotte member **Gerald "Junior" Petterson**, 98, passed away Friday, August 30 at Ecumen Pathstone in Mankato. Visitation and funeral service were Thursday, September 12 at Bernadotte Lutheran with Pastor Mike Zaske officiating. Burial followed in Bernadotte Lutheran Cemetery.



Junior came into this world during a harsh winter in January 1926, delivered by a doctor who arrived in a horse-drawn sleigh. He moved to the Bernadotte Township farm with his family in 1944. Junior took over farming duties alongside his mother in 1954. In addition to farming for 44 years, he worked at the Bernadotte Creamery and for other local farmers.

Junior is survived by sons Duane (Sherryl) and Brian; grandchildren Sherry (Shawn) Eggum, John (Gretchen) Petterson, and Jason (Kristen) Petterson; 12 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Gerald was preceded in death by parents Gerald & Helen Petterson, step-dad John Larson, wife DeLores Petterson, daughter Denise Woods, son-in-law Tim Woods, and grandchildren Sara Woods and Nathan Woods.

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First Lutheran member **Ardis Lund**, 98, passed away Sunday, September 15 at Benedictine Living Center in St. Peter.

Visitation and funeral service were held Saturday, September 21 at First Lutheran Church with Chaplain Leonard Hummel officiating. Burial followed in First Lutheran Cemetery.



Ardis grew up in Lafayette. She graduated from New Ulm High School in 1944 and was employed by Brown County Human Services for two tenures—as a social worker before her children were born, and as a financial case worker when her children were older, retiring in 1991. She was the organist at Lafayette First Methodist and First Lutheran churches for more than 50 years, retiring in 2004.

Ardis is survived by children Becky (Steve) Briggs and Bill (Annie) Lund; two granddaughters; and other family members. She was preceded in death by husband Earl "Shorty" Lund.

### Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wed., Oct. 9, First Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—Sun., Oct. 20 after 9:30 a.m. church
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.

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# OCTOBER 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 6-Al Youngblom, Doug Durheim; 13-Jeff Donnay Family; 27-Dan Kanuch, Brad Woller

Reader: (open) Liturgist: (open)

Altar: Laura Isaacson, Sara Kanuch

Coffee: 6-Sue Helget, Katie Decko; 13-Myra Kienlen, Sheri Portner; 27-Lori Brethorst, Kris Hagberg

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Jessica Webster, Deb Sjostrom

Ushers: Elias Webster, Steve & Deb Sjostrom, Jacob Sjostrom, Jim Henderson

Readers: 13-Rosanne Johnson; 20-Shaun Anderson; 27-Steve Sjostrom  
Communion (Oct. 20): S-Elias Webster; C-Andrew Rasmussen; U-Jim Bartels

Coffee: 13-Carol Young, Donna Webster; 20-Romi White, Renee Rasmussen; 27-Wendy Schulz, Pam White.

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## First Lutheran Flower Fundraiser

Sara Kanuch and daughters London and Haley welcomed visitors to their flower gardens on Saturday, September 14.



Visitors could pick up flower bouquets purchased through the FLC Flower Fundraiser—or could cut their own flowers from Sara's expansive flower gardens. Pumpkins were also available.



## Fields of Grace News & Notes

- Bernadotte will hold Quilting Days Monday and Tuesday, October 21-22. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. BBQs will be furnished for lunch both days. Everyone welcome—experience not required.

- FLC Choir practice will be held October 13, following the 9:30 service at FLC. Future practices will be held in November following 9:30 services at FLC.

- FLC WELCA is holding a Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser. Poinsettias, holiday decorations, doorstep favorites, and Gertens gift cards can be ordered online until October 21. Check with a WELCA member for a brochure.

- First Lutheran Church is looking for volunteers to head its altar committee and WELCA. The altar person would order supplies when needed and help direct the monthly volunteers. WELCA co-chairs would help with the calendar, email information for church bulletins and the FOG newsletter, and chair WELCA meetings. The co-chairs would also play a pivotal role in fundraisers for the church.

- Bernadotte WELCA is serving at The Lodge in Winthrop twice in October. Servers Sunday, October 6 at 2:30 p.m. are Rosemarie White and Rosanne Johnson; On October 13 at 2:30, the servers are Betty Johnson and Renee Rasmussen.

- The Minnesota Valley Conference WELCA Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, October 12 at Arlington. Check the poster on the next page for details.

- First Lutheran extends big thanks to the Nicollet County American Dairy Association (ADA) for its generous donation to the FLC WELCA Ice Cream Social. The donation helped cover the cost of dairy products—butter, ice cream, milk and cheese—for the July social.

- Confirmation classes for grades five through nine started Wednesday, September 25. Class time is 5:30 to 7:15 p.m., with supper first at 5:30.

- The 2024-2025 Sunday School season begins Sunday, September 29 and will be held at whichever church has the 9:30 service that Sunday, with classes rotating between First and Bernadotte.

- Augustana Lutheran of Gibbon will hold a fall bazaar and bake sale Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Morning coffee, hot turkey & beef sandwiches, raffle, and more.

## Thank you from Junior Petterson's family

The family of Gerald "Junior" Petterson would like to extend a thank you to all of our family, relatives, church families, neighbors, and friends who have supported us and given of their talents and time in any way during this difficult period.

Losing our dad (Grandpa Pete Pete) and looking back to time spent at grandparents farm with all the memories has been a real gift.

We thank Pastor Zaske for his generous time and visits to make September 12 a very special day.

Thank you for flowers, cards, phone calls, memorials, food, cakes, music, and gifts.

Thank you to any of you who spent time visiting or volunteering at the Lodge and Ecumen and for treats on special holidays, Christmas treats, etc.

We can't say it enough! Thank you, thank you, thank you to each and every one!

Duane & Sherryl Petterson & families

Minnesota Valley Conference Women of the ELCA  
Fall Gathering

**Katie Luther**

"Woman of Faith-Woman in Mission"

Guest Speaker

Pastor Heather Culuris

"For you are my rock and my fortress.."  
Psalm 31:3a

Saturday, October 12, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church Arlington, Minnesota

Registration at 11:30 with lunch at 12:00

Registration cost \$12.00

Please call Lorraine Mielke (952-992-0740)  
with your registration count by October 4, 2024

(Or contact Rosanne Johnson at 507-276-8251 to sign up)

# Fall Festival

First Lutheran Church, Lafayette

## October 6th



## Farmer's Market & Bake Sale

OUTSIDE 10:30A.M.-1P.M.

Meal  
10:30a-1p **\$15**

## Quilt Raffle

DRAWING AT 1P.M.

HAM, MEATBALL, MASHED  
POTATO, GRAVY, CORN,  
COLESLAW, BUN, PUMPKIN BAR

SWAN LAKE CHURCH  
Presents....

# FALL HARVEST

## *Breakfast*

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 5

SWAN LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
51420 FORT RD NEW ULM, MN 56073

FROM 6:00AM - 9:30 AM

*This years proceeds will be donated to  
Shriners Children's Hospital*

**MENU: COMPART HAM, PANCAKES,  
SCRAMBLED EGGS, COFFEE, MILK, JUICE**

*If you would like to mail a donation:*

Checks can be made payable to:  
Shriners Children's  
c/o Darwin Gieseke 329 Hazelwood Ave  
New Ulm, MN 56073

**\*\*Take outs also available\*\***

**FREE  
WILL  
DONATION**