



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 14, Issue 4

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Nov. 2024

## FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Nov.-Dec.

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

DECEMBER 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Dec. 1	SL*	BLC*
Week 2	Dec. 8	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	Dec. 15	SL*	FLC*
Week 4	Dec. 22	FLC	BLC
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. 29	Joint Worship	BLC*

\* communion



## Pastor Bruce and Jenny Bringle

Pastor Bruce and Jenny Bringle will move to Bernadotte in mid-November. With their arrival, Bernadotte's population will go from "four houses, four people, and four dogs" to "four houses, five dogs, and six people." The Bringles have two college age children who will sometimes be at the parsonage, too.



## Baptism at First Lutheran

Trenton Michael Klingler, the son of Nick and Morgan Klingler, was baptized by Pastor Mike Zaska at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette Sunday, October 6. His sponsors are Alexis ad Devin Klarenbeek. Trenton was born July 9, 2024.

## Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wed., Nov. 20, First Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—To be determined
- First Lutheran Council—Mon., Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.

## Good-bye and hello

Interim Pastor Mike Zaska will complete his work at Fields of Grace on November 15. Mike will be honored at farewell cake and coffee hours after the 9:30 a.m. services at Bernadotte Sunday, November 3 and at First Lutheran Sunday, November 10.

Pastor Bruce Bringle will begin his service at FOG on November 16. He will be installed at First Lutheran at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 17. That will be the only service that day.

Parishioners from all three churches are invited and asked to bring a dish to pass for a potluck following the service. It will be a chance to meet and greet Pastor Bringle and his wife Jenny.

**THE ANNUAL LAFAYETTE AREA COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT 7:00 P.M. AT SWAN LAKE. FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE AFTERWARDS.**

# ‘Never much good at goodbye’

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

*“All this could be just a dream so it seems.  
I was never much good at goodbye.”*

From a Night Ranger song of my youth



enced much graciousness and hospitality during my tenure in the FOG area—memories I will cherish the rest of my days.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the church leaders who have embraced me and made my life infinitely easier during my stay here. A special thanks to staff members Mark Haler, Trish Gieseke, and Ruth

Approximately one year ago, I was serving as an interim pastor at a congregation in Red Wing, MN. The call committee there had identified a “candidate of choice” for the open pastor position, which meant that it was time for Mikey Z to start getting his name out there for his next interim call. My hopes were to stay in the SE Minnesota Synod, where I had done all but one of my interim stints. Alas, the only open churches in the synod that needed an interim pastor at that time were all over two hours from my home, and that simply wasn’t going to work for me.

So, I admittedly began to get a bit worried. Could it be possible that the SW Minnesota Synod might have an interim pastor opening less than two hours away from where I live—or would I have to get used to incredibly long, boring car rides?

Well, I was in luck! It turns out that a little parish called “Fields of Grace” happened to be looking for an interim pastor. Coincidentally, FOG happened to be close to my original hometown of Gaylord.

But, as I always worry about when transitioning to a new call, how would it go at Fields of Grace...changing synods... three churches to oversee...having to stay overnight a few times per week in a parsonage...a whole new slew of names to learn...etc.? Admittedly, I was more than a bit nervous.

I shouldn’t have been. You people at Fields of Grace have truly blessed my life. I was warmly received and have experi-

Klossner who each helped me on a regular, weekly basis. I wish everyone could have the kind of joyful experience I have had at the places where they work.

My hope is that my interim ministry efforts at Fields of Grace will prove beneficial to the future of this parish when the time comes to welcome Pastor Bruce Bringle into your midst.

I am grateful to have witnessed and participated in FOG’s confirmation ministry. I am honored to have had so many opportunities to preach. My mediocre sermon jokes aside, I pray that my words helped the hearers to discover some new ways to engage and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

In closing, to quote the song above, in many ways my days at Fields of Grace have been like a dream—full of so much happiness! But the time has come that I must leave, and to quote the song again, I was never much good at goodbye.

Thankfully, being from Gaylord and still having many connections there likely means that I will almost certainly continue to see the many friends I have made at FOG. I will be praying for you all. Thank you for all that you have done for me!

In Christ, Pastor Mike Zaske

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## NOVEMBER 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 10-Brad Woller, Jamie Friedrichs; 17-Al Hagberg, Todd Nelson; 24-Jim Carlson, Kevin Isaacson

Reader: Cindy Youngblom Liturgist: (open)

Altar: Cindy Youngblom, Traci Abrahamson

Coffee: 10-Lori Brethorst, Aimee Altmann; 17-Kris Hagberg, Char Nelson; 24-Nancie Carlson

### Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Brent & Sarah Johnson

Ushers: Elias Webster, Jerome & Shaun Anderson, Brian Pettis, Steve & Mary Langhorst

Readers: 3-Laura Dalquist; 10-Tim Schulz; 24-Kyle Dalquist

Communion (Nov. 3): S-Elias Webster; C-Neil Rasmussen; U-Steve Radke

Coffee: 3-WELCA; 10 & 24-volunteers needed

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## News & Notes from all over

- Volunteers are needed from all FOG churches to form a FOG choir to provide special music at future events, including the Christmas Carol Sing. The choir will practice after the 9:30 a.m. service at Bernadotte Sunday, November 3.

- 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.

- A pair of prescription glasses was found at the First Lutheran Cemetery recently. To claim, contact Laura Isaacson at 507-276-0365 or at Citizens Bank.

- Scandian Grove Lutheran Church of Norseland will hold its annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner Saturday, November 2, serving from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Buffet or drive-thru. Cost is \$24 for adults; \$12 for ages 6-10; free for 5 and under.



## First Lutheran Fall Festival October 6



It takes a lot of volunteers to hold an event like First Lutheran's Fall Festival—and that work starts well ahead of time. Volunteers met to make meatballs and peel potatoes (top) to get ready.



The dinner served 323 meals. With a few expenses outstanding, FLC's WELCA reported an approximate \$8,500 profit from the meal, bake sale, raffle, and annual donations.

The WELCA ladies expressed thanks to all who worked and those who donated goods and raffle items, to the confirmation students that helped and to Tami Stadtherr and Nancie Carlson for their hard work.

Winner of the quilt raffle was Joe Maidl.



## Swan Lake Harvest Breakfast October 5



The guys at Swan Lake served 85 people and took in about \$1,550 in donations at their Harvest Breakfast Saturday, October 5.

Ham for the breakfast has been donated by Compart Family Farms for about five years and eggs by Charlie Kienlen for the last two. Nicollet County ADA donates dairy products and many others also contribute.

This year's proceeds went to the Shriners Children's Hospital. A representative of the Shriners, from Mankato, came to the breakfast after the photos were taken.

A harvest breakfast has been held at Swan Lake almost every year since the 1998 tornado, with proceeds going to individuals in need, or community causes.



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Prayer requests and announcements for the church bulletin should be sent to Administrative Assistant Trish Gieseke at [trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com](mailto:trish.fieldsofgrace@gmail.com) or phoned to her on the parish phone 507-766-3471. Newsletter items should be emailed or phoned to Ruth Klossner at [cowladyruth@gmail.com](mailto:cowladyruth@gmail.com) or 507-240-0048.

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The Bernadotte ladies—along with “recruits” from around the area—created a big pile of great quilts Monday and Tuesday, October 21-22.



## Two days of quilting at Bernadotte



The ladies have a great time, working together to make quilts for those less fortunate—and have fun doing it! The quilts were put on display in the back of church.





# Sunday School Pumpkin Painting

Sunday, October 27 at Bernadotte



To see more pics, go to the Fields of Grace MN Facebook page