



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 14, Issue 5

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Jan. 2025

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Jan.-Feb.

| JANUARY 2025 | | | |
|--------------|---------|--------------|---------------|
| | | 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM |
| Week 1 | Jan. 5 | SL* | BLC* |
| Week 2 | Jan. 12 | BLC | FLC* |
| Week 3 | Jan. 19 | SL Ann'l Mtg | FLC Ann'l Mtg |
| Week 4 | Jan. 26 | FLC | BLC Ann'l Mtg |

| FEBRUARY 2025 | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM |
| Week 1 | Feb. 2 | SL* | BLC* |
| Week 2 | Feb. 9 | BLC | FLC* |
| Week 3 | Feb. 16 | SL* | FLC* |
| Week 4 | Feb. 23 | FLC | BLC |

* communion

Council Meeting Dates

- First Lutheran Council—**Tues.**, Jan. 7. 6:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—**Sun.**, Jan. 19, 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—**Wed.**, Jan. 15, FLC., 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BERNADOTTE WELCA BRUNCH, SAT., JAN. 11

9:30 a.m. at Hahn's, Winthrop; all FOG ladies invited

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION

Confirmation resumes Wed., Jan. 8, at 6:45 p.m.
Sunday School resumes Jan. 12 at 10:45 a.m. at First

ANNUAL MEETING DATES

Swan Lake, Sunday, January 19
First Lutheran, Sunday, January 19
Bernadotte, Sunday, January 26
All following brief morning 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 consecutive 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 15.



First Lutheran—along with Bernadotte and Swan Lake—was all decked out for the holidays.

From the Pastor

by Pastor Bruce Bringle

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Here's one of my favorite "quotable quotes" when it comes to greeting the new calendar year.

"What's the difference between an Optimist and a Pessimist? Answer: The Optimist stays up until midnight on New Year's Eve to celebrate the arrival of the new year; the Pessimist stays up until midnight to be sure that the old year goes away."

Are you an Optimist or a Pessimist?

Regardless of how we mark the passing of one year into the next, as Christians we know that the Lord will be traveling with us on our journey. This means that we can enter 2025, and every new year, with hope.

Looking back on 2024, it may or may not have been an especially good year for you, for a variety of reasons. But we can all look forward to the blessings of God's presence among us in 2025, because that is His promise to us at all times, every day of every year.

In Matthew's account of the Christmas story, "Emmanuel," "God-with-us," is one of the prophetic names for the Christ-



child, a name which represents hope for the entire world. It is the hope which rises up out of our faith in God's love, the hope which assures us that because He is our ruler and redeemer, His plan for this world will ultimately be accomplished.

So then—whether we are Optimists or Pessimists, we can all enter this New Year with hope—especially for a more peaceful world—because Emmanuel, "God-with-us," has entered into our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you and yours with all the gifts of His Spirit throughout the year ahead.

Pastor Bruce

Thank you!

*Thank you to everyone for your
Christmas cards and remembrances.*

We truly appreciate it!

Pastor Bruce, Jennifer, Rachel, & Jacob Bringle

FOG, FLC and BLC Notes

- Confirmation classes are on hold until Wednesday, January 8 when Pastor Bringle will meet with students AND parents at 6:45 p.m. at First Lutheran to go over the confirmation program and expectations. Anyone knowing that they cannot attend this required meeting is asked to contact Pastor Bringle to make other arrangements.

- First Lutheran WELCA is doing a stewardship drive to help with the church's anticipated budget needs for 2025. WELCA will do a quarterly match of funds raised from donations given above and beyond individuals' normal church offerings. Each quarter, the ladies will do a max of \$2,500 for a total donation of \$10,000 during the year. Those giving extra are asked to note "Stewardship Drive" on their extra donations so WELCA can track the donations for the match.

- The 2024 BLC WELCA New Year's brunch will be Saturday, January 11, at 9:30 a.m. at Hahn's Dining in

Winthrop. Cost is \$10.00. All FOG ladies are invited. Bring a friend. Call or text Rosanne at 507-276-8251 to RSVP, or sign up in the back of church.

- Bernadotte WELCA is making committee nominations and assigning servers for 2025. Those who would like to be on a specific committee or serve at a specific time are asked to contact either Rosanne Johnson or Shaun Anderson. A sign-up sheet is in the back of church.

- The FOG choir will sing at the 9:30 a.m. communion services January 5 at BLC and January 12 at FLC. All FOG members are invited to participate. Songs are selected from the hymnal, so all music is easy to sing.

- 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.

Thank yous

Thank you to the members of Swan Lake for the Christmas card and gift card from Kwik Trip. It is greatly appreciated.

Laurie Larson

Thank you to First Lutheran Church for the Christmas card and gift card from HyVee. It is appreciated.

Laurie Larson



JANUARY 2025 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 12-Jay Hagberg, Matt Hagberg; 19-Kevin & Laura Isaacson; 26-Myron Isaacson, Jeff Donnay

Altar: Cindy Youngblom, Traci Abrahamson

Reader: Cindy Youngblom

Coffee: 12-Wendy Hagberg, Emily Hagberg; 19-Sandy Burger, open; 26-Sue Helget, Carrie Nelson

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Mia Ross, Dwayne Ross

Ushers: Judy Ross, Dwayne Ross, Kyle Dalquist, Jim & Carol Young

Readers: 5-Laura Dalquist; 12-Sarah Johnson; 26-Kyle Dalquist

Communion (Jan. 5): S-Judy Ross; C-Steve Radke; U-Brent Johnson

Coffee: 5-, 12-, & 26-, volunteers needed.

Called to their heavenly home

First Lutheran member Kenneth Block, 84, of Mankato passed away December 11 at his home after a four-month battle with acute leukemia. Services were December 17 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mankato. Burial was in the Lafayette Cemetery with full military honors.



Ken is survived by Eileen, his wife of 61 years; children Michael Block, Bill (Kris), Kristina (Jeff) Rose, Jonathan Block, Jennifer VanHorn, and Kenny Block; 16 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and other relatives.

He served in the US Marine Corps from 1958-1961. He worked with the Department of Natural Resources in New Ulm, as the regional business manager, for 30 years.

Ken was president of the church council, was youth adviser for Luther league, taught Sunday school, and sang in the choir.

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Bernadotte member Brian Petterson, 64, passed away December 14 at the Mankato hospital. Funeral service was December 23 at Bernadotte with burial in the church cemetery.



The third child of Delores and Gerald "Junior" Petterson, Brian was born with cerebral palsy and spastic quadriplegia.

Despite facing numerous challenges, Brian approached life with unwavering determination and a joyful spirit. Growing up on the family farm, Brian developed a lifelong love for tractors, hayrides, lawn mowers, four-wheelers, and harvest time. He cherished riding along with his dad and neighbors.

Brian's personality left a lasting impression on everyone he met. He had an extraordinary memory for names and faces and treasured the friendships he built with caregivers, nurses, neighbors, church family, and staff members

He is survived by his brother Duane (Sherryl) Petterson and numerous nieces and nephews and other family members.

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Former First Lutheran member Darlene Ulrich, 85, passed away November 27 at Divine Providence Care Center in Sleepy Eye. Her funeral was December 5 at Minnesota Valley Funeral Home-South, with burial in New Ulm City Cemetery.



She is survived by daughters Wanda (Doug) Bastian and Linda Ulrich-Geronime; sons David Ulrich and Bradley Ulrich; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Darlene worked at Good Samaritan Society in Lafayette before her retirement in 2013.

We express our sympathy to the families. May God continue to strengthen and comfort you.

End of the year finances

With it being the end of 2024, 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, MN 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.

Upcoming community events

- The Lafayette Area Lions Club is holding a Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday, January 12 at the Lafayette Community Center. Advance tickets are available from Lions members or at Citizens Bank. See poster on page 6 for all the details.

- The City of Lafayette will celebrate its 125th anniversary with special events July 23-27, 2025. Many different events are being planned. The 125th anniversary committee will next meet Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lafayette City Office. Anyone interested in helping to plan anniversary events is encouraged to attend.

Sunday
School
and
confirmation
kids
presented
'There's
a Star
in the Sky'
December 15



Thank you to
Laura and
Kyle Dalquist,
the FOG choir,
organist Laurie
Larson and
others who as-
sisted with the
Christmas
program.



And, thank you to those who served the BBQ lunch
and donated to the lunch and/or the kids' treat bags.

Prayer requests and announcements for the church bulletin should be sent to
Administrative Assistant Trish Gieseke at 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 or 507-240-0048.



Community Carol Sing Sunday, December 8 at First Lutheran



A soup supper preceded the annual hymn sing. The FOG choir and several individuals shared songs and readings.



Bernadotte's annual Advent Potluck

As has been the tradition for as long as people can remember, Bernadotte held it's annual first Sunday of Advent potluck dinner Sunday, December 1. There's always a lot of great food to choose from—BLC has good cooks!



Trish and Rosanne made sure that everything was hot and ready for the meal.

And, "by tradition," the men sat at one table and the women at another. It's just the way it's been!



THE LAFAYETTE AREA LIONS INVITE YOU TO

Dad's All-You-Can-Eat

BELGIAN WAFFLES

Breakfast

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY CENTER

Adults: \$10.00 in advance; \$12.00 at the door

Ages 6-12: \$6.00; Kids 5 & under free

Serving Waffles, Sausage, Flavored Syrups,
Strawberries, and Beverages

Take-Outs Available



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
LIONS MEMBERS AND
CITIZENS BANK-LAFAYETTE

