



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 15, Issue 2

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Sept. 2025

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Sept-Oct.

SEPTEMBER 2025			
		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Week 1	Sept 7	BLC*	FLC*
Week 2	Sept 14	BLC	FLC
Week 3	Sept 21	BLC*	FLC*
Week 4	Sept 28	BLC	FLC

OCTOBER 2025			
		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Week 1	October 5	BLC*	FLC*
Week 2	October 12	BLC	FLC
Week 3	October 19	BLC*	FLC*
Week 4	October 26	BLC	FLC

* communion

The FOG Choir will sing during communion at the September 7 and 21 services at BLC and FLC. The opportunity is available for singing at either church.

Confirmation and Sunday School

Pastor Bruce will meet with confirmation parents and students Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at First in Lafayette. (Note time change from 7:00 p.m.)

This is a required meeting for both parents and students. If, for some reason, you cannot make it to this meeting, let Pastor Bruce know so another time to meet can be arranged. Classes will begin September 24.

Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 28.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- CONFIRMATION MEETING FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 6:30 P.M., FLC
- BLESSING OF THE HARVEST SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 8:30 A.M., BLC, 10:30 FLC
- FIRST WEEK OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 9:45 A.M. FLC
- RALLY SUNDAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 10:30 A.M. FLC
- FLC WELCA BINGO, LUNCH AND MORE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 10:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M., FLC

Worship time changes

With Swan Lake leaving the parish January 1, but starting to hold it's own services September 7—the FOG worship schedule has changed to the following.

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship at BLC
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship at BLC and FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School at FLC
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship at FLC

This schedule will be in place through 2025. Starting January 1, the location of the worship services will switch.



The '90 Club' at First

First Lutheran's four nonagenarians paused for a photo after the Sunday service August 17. They combine for 372 years. Carl Martens is 98, Joyce Reese 92 and Arden and Marilyn DeBoer are both 91 years old. Quite a group!

From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Bruce Bringle

One day St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) said to a few of his disciples, "Lads, let's go into town today and preach. It's market day, and we will see a good many people." So off they went, along the hot dusty road, with light hearts and bright spirits. Here and there they chatted with children, encouraged an elderly couple who were downcast, petted a few dogs, and lifted baskets of fruit and vegetables that were too heavy for farmers' wives to carry.

The day was quickly passing, noon-time came, and in the late afternoon as the brothers prepared to return to the monastery, one of them asked, "Father, you told us we were coming here to preach. When are we going to start?" "Son," answered Francis with a kind smile, "we've been preaching all day. Every step of the way, as we talked with people, encouraged them, spoke a kind word to children, cheered the disheartened, helped carry a few loads, brightened faces by our smiles—all this time we were preaching."

And so it was, and the younger brothers never forgot the lesson of practical kindness, encouragement, and helpfulness.

"Peripatetic" is a formidable word that comes to us from the Greek language. It means "walking about." There is such a thing as "peripatetic preaching," not so much by what we are saying but by what we are and what we are doing.

Every hour of every day as you walk about, you are preaching, reflecting your depth of faith. As a Christian, you are preaching every day. In your conversation at the coffee shop, your reaction to your family at home, reaching out to the downcast, the weak and wounded of the world, the stranded motorist, the people at work who get on your nerves, the pokey person ahead of you in the checkout line. May all of our "walking about" glorify God, exalt Jesus Christ as Savior, and be a true reflection of who we claim to be.

SERMONS WE SEE

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely 'point' the way.
The eye's a better pupil, and more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing but your example is always clear.
I can soon learn how to do it, if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hand in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true.
But I get my daily lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give;
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

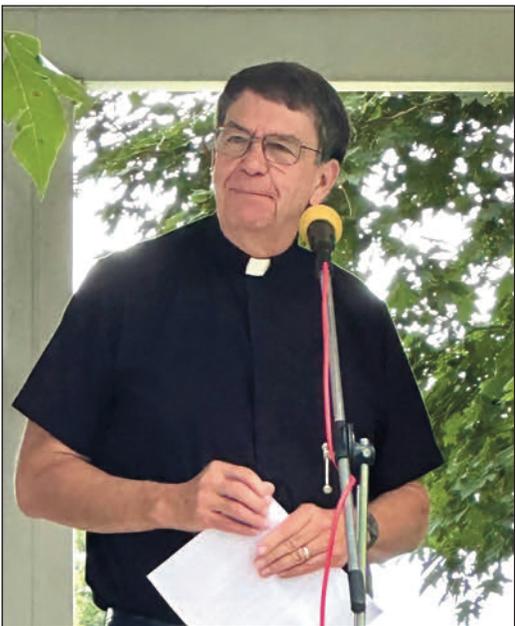
Edgar A. Guest, American poet and journalist

See you in church!

Children's sermon at First Lutheran August 17



The kids listened intently when visiting pastor Dennis Frank brought a tiny table for the children's sermon and talked about having a place at the table.



Music with a Message at BLC

The third and final outdoor service at Bernadotte was held Sunday, August 10. Visiting Pastor Ted Kunze of St. Peter led the worship with Larry Mages providing the music.

Thank you to Trish Gieseke for taking pics



Summer outdoor services in the Bernadotte Church Park have been a tradition for many years and a welcome break to the summer schedule. Rain and bugs have occasionally driven the services indoors, but all three were outdoors this year.

SEPTEMBER 2025 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 7-open; 14-Kevin & Stacy Reinhart;
21-Brian & Mary Martens; 28-Jeff & Addison Donnay.

Altar: Laura Isaacson, Cheyanne VanDeest.

Reader: Sandy Hartley

Coffee: 7-open; 14-Stacy Reinhart & girls; 21-Wendy & Brad Woller; 28-open.

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Lori Fenske, Pam White

Ushers: John Nelson, Dave Nelson, Brad & Pam White, Ruth Klossner

Reader: 7-Tim Schulz; 14-Jim Bartels; 21-Rosanne Johnson; 28-Trish Gieseke.

Communion (Sept. 7 & 21): S-John Nelson; C-Elias Webster; U-Judy Ross.

Coffee: Volunteers needed.

New event at First Lutheran

The First Lutheran ladies are busy planning a new event.

An afternoon of bingo will be held Sunday, October 12, starting at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will be groceries, clothing, bakeware, toys, and household items.

Everyone is invited to join FOG participants at church at 10:30 a.m., with a lunch starting at 11:30 a.m.

Other things—possibly a bake sale—may be added.

FLC WELCA is meeting Sunday, September 14 during the coffee hour to make all the plans. Watch for the details in the October FOG newsletter.

The ladies are accepting donations of new toys, household items, or grocery items for bingo prizes, as noted in the photo below. The grocery cart is in the front entry at the church. If you have items to donate, just drop them in the cart.



Council Meeting Dates

- FLC Council—Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran
- BLC Council—Sunday, September 21

Blessing of the Harvest

During the September 21 services at both churches, a Blessing of the Harvest will take place.

So drive those tractors into the parking lot at Bernadotte for the 8:30 a.m. service that day. (Not really enough room at First to do so.)

We will ask God's blessings on the tractors, pick-ups, and families for the upcoming harvest at Bernadotte at 8:30 AND at the service at First at 10:30 am.

Rally Sunday

Fields of Grace Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 28 with Rally Sunday. Classes will be held at First, at 9:45 a.m., from September through December,

Sunday School students are asked to bring their school backpacks to church on September 28. Pastor Bruce will ask God's blessings on those backpacks, the students, and the school year during the 10:30 a.m. service at First.

Jr. High Youth Gathering

All youth in grades six through nine are invited to attend the Synod Jr. High Youth Gathering in Willmar from Friday, November 21 through Sunday, November 23.

Pastor Bruce is confident that there will be financial help available from the FOG Youth account. Parents will receive an email describing this in detail sometime soon.



FOG members at the county fairs



Youth and adults from Bernadotte and First Lutheran were involved in the county fairs in St. Peter and Arlington In August.

Hudson Kanuch listened intently as the 4-H shop judge checked over the shelf he made. Haley and London Kanuch waited to have their flowers judged. Will Dalquist earned a reserve championship with his sheep. Lane Dalquist took part in the 4-H Cloverbud sheep show. Trish Gieseke earned champion and reserve champion ribbons in open class craft classes.



The Kevin and Ron Johnson families turned out in force to accept a Century Farm plaque at the Sibley County Fair August 4. The plaque recognized that the Johnson farm has been in family ownership for more than 100 years.