



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 15, Issue 5

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Dec. 2025

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Dec.-Jan.

DECEMBER 2025			
		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Week 1	Dec. 7	BLC	FLC*
Week 2	Dec. 14	BLC	FLC
Week 3	Dec. 21	BLC	FLC
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	7:00 PM	FLC*
Christmas Day	Dec. 25	8:00 AM	BLC*
Week 4 - Joint Worship	Dec. 28	9:30 AM	FLC

JANUARY 2026			
		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Week 1	Jan. 4	FLC*	BLC*
Week 2	Jan. 11	FLC	BLC
Week 3	Jan. 18	FLC	BLC
Week 4	Jan. 25	FLC*	BLC Ann'l Mtg

*Communion

**FLC Annual Meeting will be held in January. Date TBD.

The FOG choir will sing at FLC during communion on Dec. 7 and 28, at the Dec. 14 Carol Sing, and at the Christmas Eve service. The choir will sing at BLC at the Christmas Day service. Choir practice will be Dec. 7 and 14 at 9:50 a.m. at FLC. Any schedule adjustments will be in the FOG weekly email.

Worship times

The FOG worship schedule through December:

- 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

Worship times will flip between the churches in January and SS will move to BLC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• ADVENT POTLUCK BRUNCH, BLC
SUN., NOV. 30, FOLLOWING 8:30 A.M. SERVICE

• COMMUNITY HYMN SING
SUN., DEC. 14, 7:00 P.M., FLC; REFRESHMENTS 6:30 P.M.

• FOG SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM
SUN., DEC. 21, 10:30 A.M. FLC; BBQ LUNCH FOLLOWS

• JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN., DEC. 28, 9:30 A.M., FLC

Confirmation schedule

The confirmation class will go caroling at the Lodge in Winthrop on December 3, meeting at FLC at 5:35 p.m. for rides. If students want to go directly to Winthrop, they should let Pastor Bruce know ahead of time.

After a regular class at FLC on December 10, the group will have a Surprise Supper during class time on December 17.

In a Surprise Supper, students pick numbered items off a menu without knowing what they are ordering. For instance, a person might order ice cream, bread, and a toothpick for one course without realizing it. Additional courses of surprise items follow.

Class will not meet December 24 and December 31.



Elliy Sondag, Zayla Reinhart, and Taylen Reinhart at the gathering.

Jr. High Youth Gathering

Three Fields of Grace confirmation students took part in the Strengthened by Faith Junior High Youth Gathering at the Best Western in Willmar Friday-Saturday, November 21-22. It looks like they had a great time. Check the next page for more photos.



From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Bruce Bringle

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of the people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1-5)

Dear friends in Christ,

This is St. John's story about Jesus' birth. We may read it and instinctively we may think, "Where are the shepherds? Where are the angels who sang praises to God? Where are the wise men and the manger? And, not to say the least, where are Mary and Joseph?"

All the traditional elements that we have come to associate with Christmas are missing except the two most important things—the Word, which is Christ, and God.

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, what do we overlook? In the midst of decorating, buying presents, going to social gatherings, and jamming our schedules with all sorts of events, the Advent theme of preparation to re-

ceive the Christ Child anew is often lost in the shuffle. That is why John's words are so striking. He could have chosen other ways to express our hope in God through Christ, but chose to describe this hope as the "Word (who) became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." Martin Luther himself, in the sermon on the Sacrament, said that God is everywhere, "...but He does not want you to reach for Him everywhere. But where He has given the Word, then reach for Him...He has given us a certain manner in which one should seek and find Him, namely the Word."

During these Advent and Christmas seasons, look to the Word. Look to God's Word which is the Bible, and look to God's Word, Christ, made visible in the love and care we give and share with those around us. Let the light of this Word, God Emmanuel, light up your path and your days now and in the days to come.

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May the celebration of Jesus' birth give special meaning to you in these days ahead. A blessed Advent, a merry Christmas, and a joyful New Year to all of you!

Pastor Bruce, Jennifer, Rachel, and Jacob Bringle

Lions raffle to help Sjostroms with expenses

The Lafayette Area Lions are doing a cash raffle to help Jacob and Lindsay Sjostrom with expenses incurred while three-year-old son Chet receives treatment for leukemia.

Tickets will be available in early December at Citizens Bank MN Lafayette branch, Community Insurance

Agency, Central United Coop in Winthrop, and from Joe Maidl, Mark Dick, Nick Klingler, Mark Haler, and Steve Sjostrom. Only 250 tickets will be sold at \$20.

The drawing for three \$500 and two \$250 prizes will be held Tuesday, December 30 at 7:00 p.m. at Dave's Place in Lafayette.



Jr. High Youth Gathering at Willmar

Gathering topics included accepting people for who they are, bullying, and LGBTQ. Elliy, Zayla, and Taylen especially enjoyed singer/speaker Agape, getting into his music and speeches.

DECEMBER 2025 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 7-Brad Woller, Jason Gjerde; 14-Brad DeBoer, Dwight DeBoer; 21-Myron Isaacson, Dennis Sjogren; 24-Jon Hartley, Charlie Hartley; 28-Bill Youngblom, Jim Carlson.

Altar: Jorja Langhoff, Wendy Hagberg.

Reader: Linda Youngblom.

Coffee: 7-Wendy Woller, Apple Gjerde; 14-Sue Helget, Carrie Nelson; 21-no coffee; 28-Linda Youngblom, Nancie Carlson.

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Ruth Klossner, Konnie Bartels.

Ushers: Tim Anderson, Wendy & Tim Schultz, Elias Webster.
Readers: 7-Steve Sjostrom; 14-Sarah Johnson; 21-Tim Schulz

Communion (Dec. 7 & 25): S-Tim Anderson; C-Steve Sjostrom; U-Neil Rasmussen.

Coffee: 7-Donna Webster, Adrienne Sjostrom; 14 and 21-volunteers needed.

SS plans and program

Sunday School will not be held Sunday, November 30. Class will be held at First Lutheran December 7 and 14, starting at 9:45 a.m.

The Sunday School Christmas program will be December 21 during the 10:30 a.m. service at First Lutheran. A BBQ lunch for all will follow. (There will be no coffee hour before church that day.)

FOG News & Notes

- Bernadotte Lutheran will hold its annual Advent potluck after the 8:30 a.m. service Sunday, November 30. Renee Rasmussen and Romi White will head the meal with M-Z helping in the kitchen.

- Christmas Tree decorating will be done at FLC Friday, November 29, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There will be sit-down jobs, like fluffing branches, and more active jobs, like assembling and decorating the tree. Come to help and visit. Call Linda Youngblom at 507-766-6749 with any questions.

- Bernadotte WELCA is making committee nominations and assigning servers for 2026. 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 will also be available in church.

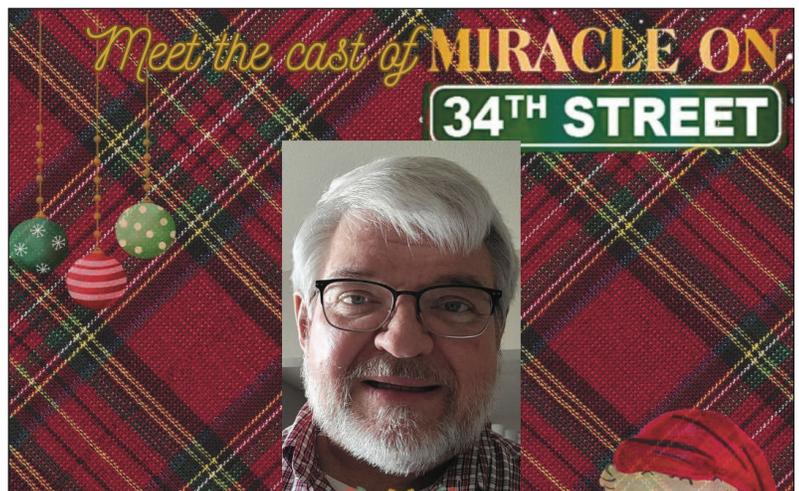
- First Lutheran is looking for volunteers for ushering, reading, serving coffee, and other tasks for 2026. Sign-up sheets are in the entryway at church. Please sign up—if spots are not filled, names will be added.

- Scholarship applications for the Roman Fischer and John S. Johnson scholarships for members of First Lutheran are now being accepted. Applications are available in the church entry on the east side of the front door. Applications are due December 28, 2025; they can be placed in the offering plate at First Lutheran or in the night drop box at Citizens Bank, Lafayette Branch, attention Laura. To receive scholarship payment, grades for the first semester must be turned in.



Miracle on 34th Street

State Street Theater in New Ulm will present *Miracle on 34th Street* Friday, and Saturday, December 5 and 6 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets (\$20 advance, \$25 at the door) can be purchased at statestreetnewulm.org, at the theater box office (door #7 at the rear or the theater) Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling 507-359-9990, or at the door.



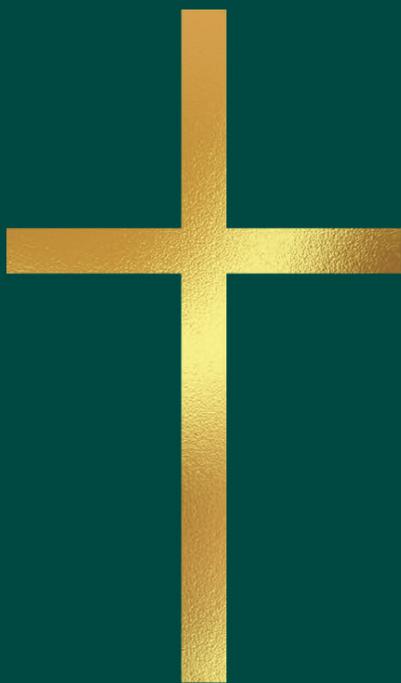
Bruce Bringle
Kris Kringle

State Street Theater: Debut.

Bruce is excited to be a part of this production. Over the years, where he has previously lived, he has appeared as Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*; Grandfather in *Heidi*; Monsieur Rondeau in *Beauty and the Beast*; the Pastor in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (not much of a stretch, since that's what he does for a living!); Ezekiel Foster and Snoring Man in *White Christmas*; and Charlie the Mailman in *On Golden Pond*. In his free time, Bruce enjoys singing and spending time with his family. "Santa's" Christmas gift to his wife will be a clean shaven face after the final production!

Annual Community Christmas
SING A LONG

First Lutheran Church of Lafayette
Refreshments begin at 6:30p.m.



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14
7 P.M.



All are welcome!
