



# Fields of Grace Newsletter

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

Vol. 15, Issue 6

Bernadotte and First Lutheran Churches

Jan. 2026

## FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Jan.-Feb.

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 Ann'l Mtg	BLC
Week 4	Jan. 25	FLC*	BLC Ann'l Mtg
*Communion			
FEBRUARY 2026			
		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Week 1	Feb. 1	FLC*	BLC*
Week 2	Feb. 8	FLC	BLC
Week 3	Feb. 15	FLC	BLC
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 18	7:00 PM	BLC*
Week 4	Feb. 22	FLC*	BLC
Lenten Week 1	Feb. 25	7:00 PM	BLC

\* Communion

*There will be no scheduled practices for the FOG Choir in January. The choir will continue to sing hymns during communion. All are welcome.*

## FOG Worship Schedule January-April

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

**Note that Worship times have flipped between the churches and that Sunday School is at Bernadotte.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

• **CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME**  
WED., JAN. 7, FIRST LUTHERAN, USUAL TIME

• **WELCA BRUNCH**  
SAT., JAN. 10, NEW ULM COUNTRY CLUB, 9:30 A.M.

• **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES, 9:45 A.M.**  
SUN., JAN. 11, BERNADOTTE LUTHERAN

• **ANNUAL MEETING DATES**  
First Lutheran, Sun., Jan. 18  
Bernadotte, Sun., Jan. 25  
Following brief morning services

## WELCA Brunch

Bernadotte WELCA will host a ladies brunch Saturday, January 10 at the New Ulm Country Club at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$15.00. All FOG ladies are welcome. Bring a friend. Sign up at the back of Bernadotte church or call or text Rosanne at 507-276-8251. Please RSVP by Sunday, January 4.

## Council Meeting Dates

- BLC Council—Sun., Jan. 11, 7:00 p.m.
- FLC Council—Tues., Jan. 13, 6:00 p.m.
- FOG Council—Wed., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., FLC



## Caroling at The Lodge



The Fields of Grace confirmation students spent their Wednesday evening class time December 3 caroling at The Lodge in Winthrop. Afterwards, they enjoyed pizza at Corner Pizza in Winthrop.

# From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Bruce Bringle

The wrapping paper is crumpled in the corner. The gifts are all exchanged, oohed and aahed over, and set aside for the moment. The star shining over the tree has faded into a warm, burned-in image behind the eyes. This Christmas morning is over and it's time to rest, with the baby sleeping peacefully, wrapped up in the manger.

In Luke's story of Jesus' birth, after shepherds had visited and angels had sung, there is a palpable sigh—a moment's peace. Little Mary, an unwed teenage mother, has given birth in a barn, unattended by parents or relatives or doctors or nurses—just an equally scared, equally unprepared soon-to-be husband. Scruffy shepherds straight from the hillsides came as houseguests while she was still sore. They exclaimed over the baby and now are gone, and there is a moment of peace, of stillness, of divine silence.

What is left after Christmas? What remains after wrapping paper and tinsel, family and cards, carols and Christmas cheer?

We are left with after images, burned into our souls. "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart," Luke tells us (2:19).

When we've seen the Christmas drama unfold, new once again, it lingers in our hearts in words and images and feel-

ings. We treasure them and, hopefully, ponder them into the new year.

But we are not Jesus' parents, who get to stay behind and nurture the Christ child. That job is for someone else's. We are company, not family, and our time with Jesus and his tired parents is short. We are more like the shepherds, who have heard astounding stories, who have looked in the manger, and now have to leave to go back to "real" life.

And just like the shepherds, our job is a simple one: "They made known what had been told them about his child. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen" (2:17,20).

We've been to the manger. We've peeked in at the sleeping child and sung him lullabies. We've listened in awe to the heavenly armies, singing praise to the newborn King. We've shared memories and affection with friends and family.

Now what? Do we treasure these memories, wrapped up in our thoughts in the cold corner of a barn? Or do we return to life, glorifying and praising God, telling and showing what we have learned about this child? Now what? What is left after Christmas?

God's peace to you in this new year,

Pastor Bruce



## 53rd annual Lafayette Community Carol Sing

More than five decades of tradition was embraced when the community gathered at First Lutheran for the annual carol sing Sunday evening, December 14. The evening began with cookies and refreshments in the church basement.

Along with congregational singing, the Fields of Grace choir, accompanied by Laurie Larson, sang a number of familiar hymns. Charlie Hartley retold the Christmas story and Jim Van Maasdam sang Kris Kristoferson's "Why Me, Lord?"



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# JANUARY 2026 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 4-open; 11-Bill Youngblom; 18-Brian Martens;  
25-Addison Donnay, Jeff Donnay  
Altar: Laura Isaacson, Traci Abrahamson  
Reader: Cindy Youngblom.  
Coffee: 4-open; 11-Wendy Hagberg, Linda Youngblom;  
18-Mary Martens; 25-open  
Reminder Calls: Susie Wendorff

## Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Mia Ross, Dwayne Ross  
Ushers: Judy & Dwayne Ross, Kyle Dalquist, Jim & Carol Young  
Readers: 4-Jim Bartels; 11-Rosanne Johnson; 18-Laura Dalquist; 25-Kyle Dalquist  
Communion (Jan. 4): S-Judy Ross; C-Steve Radke; U-Brent Johnson  
Coffee: 4-, 11-, 18-, and 25-volunteers needed

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## FOG News & Notes

- 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.

## Thank yous

Thank you to everyone for your Christmas cards and remembrances. We truly appreciate it!  
Pastor Bruce, Jennifer, Rachel, & Jacob Bringle

Thank you to First Lutheran Church for the Christmas card and the gift card for fuel. It is appreciated. Laurie Larson

## Lions Waffle Breakfast January 11

The Lafayette Area Lions Club is holding a Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday, January 11 at the Lafayette Community Center. See poster on page 5 for all the details.

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'Catch Up Bibles' given to FOG kids



Checking it out right away.



Children's Bibles were presented to kids up to first grade Sunday, November 30. At FLC, Jason and Lola Gronewald, Ashtyn, Trevor and Trenton Klingler, and Korbin Broste got Bibles. At BLC: Owen Sjostrom, Abigail Kline, Chet Sjostrom, Hazel Harris-Peterson, and Wesley Kline.



Sunday School kids presented 'The Night Heaven Touched Earth'



The FOG Sunday School presented its Christmas program during the December 21 morning service at FLC. Taking part were, top, front from left: Ashtyn Klingler, Ryan Benson, Trevor Klingler, Owen Sjostrom, and Chet Sjostrom. Back: Lane Dalquist (far left), Apple Gronewold, Isabelle Harris-Peterson, Lola Gronewald, Jason Gronewold, and William Dalquist.



Thank you to Laura and Kyle Dalquist, Trish Gieseke, pianist Laurie Larson and others who assisted with the program.



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



THE LAFAYETTE AREA LIONS INVITE YOU TO

**Dad's All-You-Can Eat**

**BELGIAN WAFFLES**

**Breakfast**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

**9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**AT THE LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY CENTER**

*540 7th St, Lafayette*

**Adults: \$11 Advance/\$13 Door**

**Ages 6-12: \$6.00; 5 & Under: Free**

**Tickets Available from Lions Members,  
Citizens Bank in Lafayette and at the Door**



Serving Waffles, Flavored Syrups,  
Strawberries & Whipped Cream,  
Sausage and Beverages.

Take Out Meals Available