



FOCUS AT FIRST

Volume 34 Issue #1 A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church — Barron, WI January 2020

happy new year



DON'T MISS IT!



You or someone you know not receiving the announcements or newsletters? Reach out to Sheila at Sheila@firstlutheran-barron.org to be sure you don't miss important FLC and community information or updates.



MISS CHURCH THIS WEEK? DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN WATCH ONLINE?

Our live stream service is provided by a company called Box Cast.

Users should go to: www.firstlutheran-barron.org website to access streaming for the worship service and video archives. Past services will be kept for 90 days.

For people who use Roku, Apple TV or FireTV please do the following :

Go to streaming box — Search for Boxcast — Download streaming for Barron First Lutheran Church

Watch on Facebook as well.

If you have streaming difficulties, contact the church office and leave their name, the devices they are trying to view the streaming on, their internet connection and what they were observing.

THE "KIDS" ARE COMING!!!

Members of FLC welcome the "R Country Kids" on Sunday, January 26th! This group of gals will share some great music as they lead our 9:00 a.m. worship service. The "R Country Kids" are four cousins, who carry-on a three-generation tradition of playing and singing country bluegrass music. Racquel Quinn, Jamie Edwards, Raylene Hoff, and Reisa Hilbert are daughters of "The R Country Gals" and great-granddaughters of "The Huset Brothers."

Great-Grandpa Lloyd Huset taught their mothers to play instruments, while Great-Grandma Gladys Huset taught them to sing. Lloyd and Gladys smile down from above as the "Kids" continue these great traditions in 2020. Today's "R Country Kids" love singing close harmonies and picking their instruments---while being their goofy selves. They look forward to sharing their music in a variety of ways today and for more many years to come.

Invite your friends, neighbors, and family members to join us at FLC for worship on Sunday, January 26th. A love offering will be taken to help support the ministry of "The R Country Kids." What a great way to welcome the new year! See you on January 26th!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Baptismal Remembrance

Sunday, January 12, 2020

You are invited to join us in worship at 9:00am as we remember the Baptism of our 3 year olds, and celebrate the beginnings of their faith instruction as a part of our Sunday School program!

Then at 10:15am, our Sunday School will learn all about baptism! Join us!



Please RSVP to Amity Mathews at amity@firstlutheran-barron.org or contact the church office at 715.537.3575.



BRING YOUR FAMILY AND "ROLL" ON OVER TO JOIN US FOR...

CHRISTIAN MUSIC SKATE AT SKATE CITY!

JANUARY 20TH FROM 4-6PM

AGE 3-5 IS \$4.75; AGE 6+ IS \$6.75; OR \$30 MAXIMUM ADMISSION PER FAMILY!
PRICE INCLUDES ADMISSION, SKATE/BLADE RENTAL & UPTOWN PLAYLAND (AGES 12 AND UNDER).



JOIN US ON SUNDAY
JANUARY 26TH
FROM 3:45-5:00PM!

CALLING ALL 3RD-5TH GRADERS!

IT'S GAME NIGHT! BRING A FRIEND AND C'MON DOWN FOR SOME GOOD OL' FASHIONED BOARD OR CARD GAMES!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT AMITY AT 715.418.4276 OR AMITY@FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG.

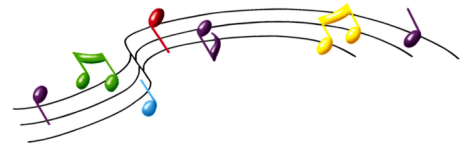




Thank you for everyone that helped setup and decorate the Christmas Tree!



The youth of FLC brightening up the season caroling during Youth Group.



HOME **WORSHIP** SERVICES ABOUT US GIVE BUILDING

Check it Out

Sunday Morning Ministers

Sundays @ 9:00am
Traditional, liturgical Lutheran worship.
Click here to learn more
Click here for Streaming
 Tune in to 97.7 FM to hear service live

- CANTORS
- Communion Assistants
- Coffee & Dessert Server
- Dessert Provider

Did you know you can sign up to help with worship and fellowship on the website? Online sign ups are available for Cantors, Communion Assistants, Dessert providers, and Coffee/dessert servers. To sign up click on the worship tab and then click on how you can help. Sign up for whatever day(s) work for you!

Online acolyte sign-ups are also available under the Ministries/Youth/Confirmation Tab.

The turkey dinner committee would like to thank the youth for all of their hard work at the 2019 dinner. The dinner was another successful year and the youth were an important part in making this happen.

Thank you and God Bless, Turkey Dinner Committee



For more than 20 years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has provided life-changing support to women dealing with substance abuse through our Women's Way programs. We are sad to share that these programs will close December 31st due to a lack of grant funding.

LSS will work with clients to coordinate care and provide necessary referrals to ensure their needs are met.



Thank you who helped make this years **Gift from the Heart** meaningful for all who received.



Confirmation Capstone Retreat

Saturday January 11th

9:00am – 5:00pm.

RSVP to Pastor Ron by January 8th

The Cemetery Board is seeking 2 new members for the January 2020 ballot and a new sexton for the cemetery on Hwy T. Please inquire at the church office for more info.



A Message from the Pastor

The purpose of the church, according to the Great Commission, is to form disciples who form disciples. So here is my challenge to you: **Worship Plus One**. My challenge is for every member of FLC (all 1,200 of you) to choose to attend **worship plus help with one thing every month**. How is God calling you to grow as a disciple this year? To use the gifts God gave you to benefit God's mission, God's people, God's church? How would our church, even our town, be transformed if our members took the challenge on? What kind of impact would that have on our church? On our town? On you!?

But here is the most important information – **the why?! Because God says so!** Okay, a little bit more. Disciples are producers. They are not consumers of religious goods, they don't just show up and receive what they want and then leave. Disciples stay to serve others. They look for opportunities to impact another person's life with the life-giving news of God's love. When we, the disciples, live out this mandate of God by ministering to others we too grow in our faith. By being challenged to think about what we believe in a Bible Study, to show kindness to one who is hurting, to demonstrate acceptance to one who is repenting, to give support to one who is grieving – these are the marks of a true church, a true community of faith.

So I am offering you this **Worship Plus One** challenge because I want you to grow in faith as a community of God. Accepting this challenge to be more engaged here at FLC will help you grow closer to the God you know, and to experience the power of God's love in new and life-giving ways this year. I want this for you because life is hard. Life is filled with challenges, struggles, pain, suffering, sadness, and grief. And the only weapon that can stand against the burden of this life is something that cannot be removed, not even by death itself – God's love. We are called, by the waters of our baptism, to not keep it for ourselves but to share it with others. To be disciples of God. To be God's church.

Loving others first, because God loved us first,

Pastor Ron



W/ELCA News

Happy New Year All from the W/ELCA Board!
We wish for you many blessings in the New Year.



There will be no January W/ELCA Meeting.

There will be a W/ELCA Meeting on Wednesday, February 5th at 1:30.

A Valentine's activity is being planned.

Help Wanted

We are in need of a vice-president for next year. I am hoping that one of our ladies would consider doing this. Contact Jan Kienbaum or Carolyn Verhulst if anyone could help.

W/ELCA Triennial Convention is July 14-16 In Phoenix, Arizona

Ladies, if you would like to get an idea of the larger W/ELCA Organization then you should attend the Triennial Convention.

If you are interested in going contact Jan Kienbaum (715-296-0658 or email finetree@charter.net). We have one lady interested in attending so far and she would love to have someone to travel with. You can go to this website for more information: welcatg.org.

Registrations are \$325 if one registers by January 6th and \$375 after January 6th.

January Missionary Correspondence – Faith Circle

January Altar Guild – Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan

Upcoming Events

January 19 – Board Meeting at 10:15 in Chapel

February 5 – W/ELCA Meeting at 1:30

April 18, 2020 – W/ELCA Synod Convention at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake

July 14-16, 2020 – W/ELCA Triennial Convention in Phoenix, Arizona

WELCA TEA





PARISH NURSE CORNER

Happy New Year! As we wind down from Christmas, some may be feeling a little tight around the waist from indulging in tasty foods and desserts. As we enter 2020, many will consider making lifestyle changes through a New Year's resolution. The word resolve, per Wikipedia, means to change an undesired trait or behavior; to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve his or her life. The most common resolutions include weight loss, exercise programs and smoking cessation. Per the American Medical Association, a resolution has its roots at the end of the Great Depression when approximately, 25% of American adults formed some type of New Year's resolution. Those that formed a resolution at that time, were 46% more likely to succeed than those who chose to make lifestyle changes at other times of the year.

New Year's resolutions also have religious origins. Per Open Bible. Info, the Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year, that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The tradition of New Year's resolution continued into the Medieval era and also involved other religious traditions, beliefs and practices.

There are over 60 bible verses addressing New Year's resolutions. Hence, as you consider making changes in 2019, you may find the bible helpful as a spiritual resource as well.

One such verse is Colossians 3:14-15: "And above all these, put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

Blessings, Carol A Matthys

Parish Nurse

WELCA TEA



Facilities & Future

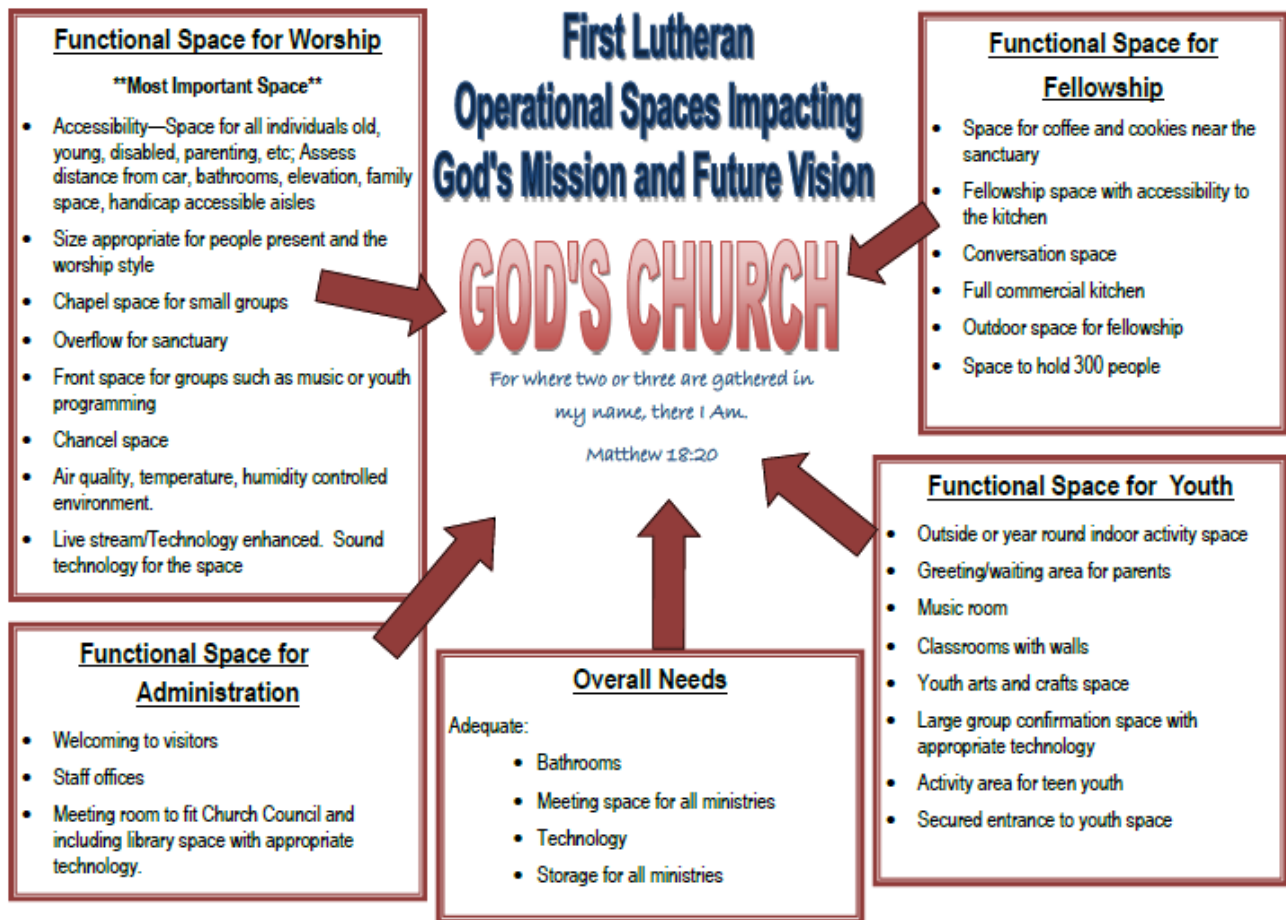
The Facilities and Future Team was assembled in 2018 at the direction of Church Council to begin looking at the needs of our facility. What we have discovered is that the main focus areas of our congregation are the same as the survey results from five years ago.

- Improve main entrance
- Improvement to existing bathrooms/addition of new bathrooms
- Creation of a youth space
- Creation of greater fellowship space
- Improved energy efficiency

Based on the focus of the church mission and for ease of future visioning, we have broken the focus areas into five categories. Described in the “Operational Space Impact” document, it was concluded that this is the foundation that First Lutheran needs to focus on to continue to carry out God's mission and continue to grow and thrive as a church of the future.

The committee will be visiting sites and meeting with church leadership for places that have undergone new build, remodels, and/or repurpose of space. We will have several more congregational conversations about each step along the way. We invite you to provide feedback and input to assist in developing the Master Plan.

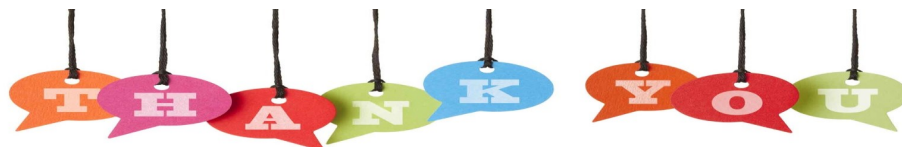
Unable to make the meetings? Offer feedback via the website (Building Tab along the top) or via the following website: <https://www.firstlutheran-barron.org/building.html>



FACILITIES & FUTURE → GOAL: A building that fits God's Mission in Barron and the surrounding communities

Thank you to the following radio broadcast sponsors:

January 5 Available
January 12 In honor of LaVern's birthday from Marilyn Strop
January 19 In honor of Dick and Lois Schultz 67th Anniversary
January 26 Available



Thank you to the following Live Stream broadcast sponsors:

January 5 In honor of Clare's birthday by Mary & Wendell McDonough
January 12 In honor of Marj Anderson's 98th birthday by Boyd & Ann McEwen
January 19 In memory of Roger Ormson by Marilynn Ormson and family
January 26 In memory of Roger Ormson by Marilynn Ormson and family

Gifts & Memorials

\$100 in honor of Terry & Carolyn Miller's 50th Wedding Anniversary by Bill & Diane Gusa

\$500 for WELCA in memory of Roger Ormson by Marilynn Ormson and family

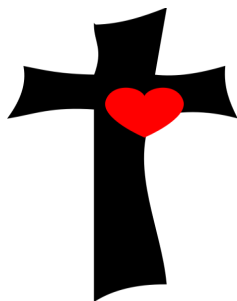
\$125 for Cemetery Fund in memory of Roger Ormson by Marilynn Ormson and family

\$940 Live Streaming in memory of Roger Ormson by Marilynn Ormson and family

\$25 in memory of Roger Ormson by Sharon Nelson

\$30 in memory of Roger Ormson, my friend and golf partner, by Sally Steine.

\$1000 to Youth from Turkey Dinner



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 18, 2019**

Council 10 Present ✓			
Jason Erb	✓	Steve Haugen	✓
Andrew Harrington	✓	Jason Riebe	✓
Ann Knutson	✓	Mike Otto	✓
Jan Kienbaum	✓	Pastor Ron	✓
Rod Nordby	✓	Sue Olson	✓

Others Attending: None

I. The November 18, 2019 meeting of the First Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Andrew Harrington.

II. Pastor Ron led the opening devotion.

III. There was a call to amend and/or supplement the agenda for this November 18, 2019 meeting. Hence, a motion was made by Jason Erb to add an additional category of B. Internship Site to Pastor's Report on the Agenda. Jan Kienbaum seconded; motion carried.

IV. A motion was made by Jan to accept the agenda with the above addition; Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. The minutes from the Monday, October 21, 2019 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Steve to approve the minutes as amended; this was seconded by Jan. Motion carried.

VI. Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Sue and seconded by Jason R. to accept the treasurer's report as given with additional discussion. Motion carried.

VII. Pastor's Report:

a. Pastor Ron's pastoral duties were reported in terms of marriages, baptisms and funerals. There were two new members received this month, Kay and Rita Ploetz. Sue made the motion to accept the pastor's report; Mike seconded. Motion carried.

b. FLC as an internship site. Discussion ensued regarding whether this were a possibility; there was a deadline given of 12/1/19 regarding this. The decision was made that a restricted internship site may be a possibility for academic year 2020/2021. A motion was made by Rod and seconded by Steve to approve same; motion carried.

VIII. New/Old Business:

a. Bi-monthly Discussion regarding Mission/Visioning: Operational/Functional Spaces of the church. Following discussion regarding the mission of the church, it was determined that we would change same from "Welcoming all to build relevant faith" to "We love first because God first loved us". "First love, love first" has become the current functional language and more closely embodies the messages in our recent church services and activities. Ann made a motion that we adopt this language as the mission of First Lutheran Church; Jan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Secondly, we reviewed the conceptual piece which clearly shows the need for discussion regarding the functional space within the church to carry out ministry needs in the building itself. It was agreed that it should be sent to members at an estimated cost of up to \$200 for postage and meetings would follow church services regarding same. Further, a total of \$1000 was approved through Thrivent funds for travel and other associated costs for evaluation of this functional space issue. Jason E. made the motion to approve said dollars for postage and evaluative costs; Jan seconded. Motion carried.

b. Property committee report: In particular, problems areas were discussed as it pertains to the moisture leaking through the bricks and mortar in the 1922 building, specifically affecting the sanctuary. This discussion supported the above motion for evaluation costs.

c. There was no formal report from the Personnel Committee.

IX. With no other business, Mike made a motion to adjourn; Jan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

X. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Olson, Council Secretary



Birthdays of the Month

Doug Clausen 1/02
 Michael Marvin 1/02
 Jordan Haag 1/02
 Linda Hackett 1/02
 Andrew Smith 1/03
 Kay Zabka 1/03
 Betty Lambert 1/03
 Deb Dietrich 1/03
 Verne Hanson 1/03
 Chuck Kirkwood 1/04
 Jackie Fladten 1/04
 Robert Huiras 1/05
 Melissa Weiten 1/05
 Josh Moe 1/05
 Matt Johnson 1/05
 Connie Steen 1/06
 Cole Severson 1/07
 Amanda Olson 1/07
 Kimberly Ness 1/07
 Victorea Lyons 1/07
 Maverick Horvath 1/08
 Allison Rick 1/09
 Oscar Stephens 1/09
 Andrea Severson 1/10
 Danette Picknell 1/10
 Jami Stodola 1/10
 Lenore Berg 1/10
 Luann LaLiberty 1/10
 Steven Hakari 1/11
 Jodi Sinclair 1/11
 B.J. Williams 1/11
 Braden Lipke 1/12
 Marvin Amundson 1/12
 LaVern Strop 1/12
 Jay Halvorson 1/12
 Rachel Hanson 1/12
 Kyle Bedrava 1/12

Taryn Frandsen 1/12
 Jeffrey Lindstedt 1/12
 Lois Schultz 1/13
 Karianne Mau 1/13
 Margy Thompson 1/14
 Brenda Haag 1/14
 Lorri Odash 1/15
 Diane Sloan 1/16
 Betty Van Natta 1/16
 Isabella Lyste 1/16
 David Wieneri 1/19
 Lori Schmitz 1/19
 Vonny Degerman 1/20
 Angie Harmon 1/20
 David Sloan 1/21
 Lehn Hanson 1/21
 David Olsen 1/23
 Steve Haugen 1/24
 Michele Boe 1/25
 Travis Swenby 1/25
 Lonny Yeakey 1/26
 Doug Ormson 1/26
 Sara Williams 1/26
 Chad Marvin 1/27
 Billie Jerome 1/27
 Wyatt Boe 1/27
 Bode Peters 1/27
 Laurette Peterson 1/28
 Ann McEwen 1/28
 Pat Olson 1/29
 Todd Mandel 1/29
 Tod Bates 1/29
 Randall LaLiberty 1/29
 Timothy Perry 1/29
 Bryan Weghorn 1/29
 Edna Organ 1/30
 Carsten Ellison 1/30
 Emily Swenby 1/30
 Mary Etlicher 1/31
 Jolene Lansin 1/31
 Jace Paulson 1/31

Happy Birthday!



Is your name missing from our January list? Is the date incorrect? Do you know of someone who should be on our list? If so, please call the church office (715-537-3575) so that we may update our records!

Please note that any omissions are not intentional. Thank You for your help!

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday January 5					
Musician:		Reader:		Coffee	
Cantor:	Mary Shearer	Reader:	Andrew Harrington	Prep:	Lloyd Campbell
Greeters:	Carol & Travis Brown	PowerPoint:	Patrice Akenson	Food/Bev	
Ushers:	Randy & Rhonda Severson	Communion		Service:	Judy Rassbach
		Assistants:	Lynn Kolpack	Food/Bev	
Media:	Mark Hornung, Mark Pedersen			Provider:	Judy Rassbach, TBD
Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan			Acolytes	Emma Church, Jada Horstman
Sunday January 12					
Musician:		Reader:		Coffee	
Cantor:	Ruth Anderson	Reader:	Tesha Horvath	Prep:	Lloyd Campbell
Greeters:	Terry & Carolyn Miller	PowerPoint:	Lynn Kolpack	Food/Bev	
Ushers:	Dallas, Diane, Hannah Sloan	Communion		Service:	TBD
		Assistants:	TBD,	Food/Bev	
Media:	Mark Hornung, Mark Pedersen			Provider:	TBD
Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan			Acolytes	Emma Church, Jada Horstman
Sunday January 19					
Musician		Reader:		Coffee	
Cantor:	Jubilee Team/Judy Folstad	Reader:	Drew Scheps	Prep:	Lloyd Campbell
Greeters:	Emma Church, Alivia Rick	PowerPoint:	Terry Miller	Food/Bev	
Ushers:	Rayna Hauck, Ella Mathews	Communion		Service:	Jada Horstman, Rayna Hauck
		Assistants:	Ann Knutson	Food/Bev	
Media:	Mark Hornung, Mark Pedersen			Provider:	Youth
Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan			Acolytes	Emma & Glendon Thompson
Sunday January 26					
Musician:		Reader:		Coffee	
Cantor:	R Country Kids	Reader:	Susan Babler	Prep:	Lloyd Campbell
Greeters:	Jan & Ron Barrett	PowerPoint:	Rod Nordby	Food/Bev	
Ushers:	Val & Wayne Gieske	Communion		Service:	TBD
		Assistants:	TBD	Food/Bev	
Media:	Mark Hornung, Mark Pedersen			Provider:	TBD
Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan			Acolytes	Jada Horstman, Rayna Hauck

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed	2 9:30a AA Meeting	3 6:30p AA Meeting	4 9:30a AA Meeting
5 9a Worship 10:15a Blood Pressure Check 10:15a Sunday School	6 6pm Girl Scouts	7 9:30a AA Meeting 2:30 & 3:30 p Jail Ministry	8 12p Worship 3:45p SWYG 7p Pledge Circle	9 9:30a AA Meeting 1p Quilting	10 6:30p AA Meeting	11 9:30a AA Meeting
12 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School	13 5p Finance 5:30p Worship & Music 6:30p Property 7p Personnel	14 9:30a AA Meeting 2p Faith Circle 2:30 & 3:30 p Jail Ministry	15 12p Worship 3:45p Confirmation	16 9:30a AA Meeting 1p Quilting	17 6:30p AA Meeting	18 9:30a AA Meeting
19 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 10:15a WELCA Borad Meeting	20 6p Council 6pm Girl Scouts	21 9:30a AA Meeting 2:30 & 3:30 p Jail Ministry 6pm Cub Scouts	22 23 FOCUS ARTICLE DUE 12p Worship 3:45p Confirmation	23 9:30a AA Meeting 1p Quilting	24 6:30p AA Meeting	25 9:30a AA Meeting
26 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 3:45p Youth Group	27 12:30p Nursing Homes 6pm Cub Scouts	28 9:30a AA Meeting 2:30 & 3:30 p Jail Ministry	29 12p Worship 3:45p Confirmation	30 9:30a AA Meeting 1p Quilting	31 6:30p AA Meeting	

First Lutheran Church

4 W. LaSalle Ave.
Barron, WI 54812-1307

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



First Lutheran Church
4 W La Salle. Ave • Barron, WI 54812
Church Phone: 715-537-3575
Email: office@firstlutheran-barron.org
www.firstlutheran-barron.org
Sunday Worship @ 9am with Holy Communion
Wednesday Worship @ Noon
with Holy Communion



Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Pastor - Ron Mathews
PastorRon@firstlutheran-barron.org

Dir. Church Business - Andrea Cox
Andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org

Executive Assistant - Sheila Erb
Sheila@firstlutheran-barron.org

Financial Secretary - Shirley Hakari

Parish Nurse - Carol Matthys
Carol@firstlutheran-barron.org

Children's Ministry - Amity Mathews
Amity@firstlutheran-barron.org

Youth Ministry - Patrice Akenson
Patrice@firstlutheran-barron.org

Maintenance - Brett Gevens
Brett@firstlutheran-barron.org