



WE LOVE FIRST BECAUSE
GOD FIRST LOVED US.

FOCUS AT FIRST

Spring 2022 - Quarter One Newsletter

First Lutheran Church — Barron, WI www.firstlutheran-barron.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2022

April

25—Afternoon Singalong

28—WELCA Baked Potato Fundraiser

May

1—Affirmation Sunday

22—High School Graduate Recognition

June

July

10-15—Duluth Middle School Mission Trip

25-27—High School Rebound Youth Gathering



Don't forget to join us in person each Sunday at 9am or on the radio at WAQE 97.7 You can also view us online anytime via the website or FB@FLCBarron

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Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

April 2022

2 Corinthians 5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!



Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! This is the good news of Easter. By God's power death is reversed and Christ is raised from the dead. Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything! Everything is made new.

Change is good news after two years of a pandemic, right? We are ready for a change. But are we really? Do we want everything to become new like we read in 2 Corinthians 5 or do we want the change to be a return to the old and familiar?

If Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything, then what has changed in your life? What difference does Jesus make in your life? What has Jesus made new?

- What difference does Jesus make to my 35 year old nephew whose brain tumor came back, faces radiation treatments and is struggling with his ex for visitation of their three year old son?
- What difference does Jesus mean to our siblings in Malawi who are often threatened by drought, flood and famine or to Ukrainians whose homes were destroyed by a Russian bomb?
- What difference does Jesus make to a stable congregation deciding what their next most faithful step might be or to a declining congregation wondering if their next most faithful step is to close?

As Lutherans we believe that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we go under the water as a sinner and we are resurrected with Christ, lifted out of the water, a saint. We are changed for sure and we are reborn children of God! Theologically that's beautiful, but in real life, what difference does Jesus make in your life?

As human beings, Christ's resurrection from the dead challenges us to live into that change. As broken sinful humans, whose lives are "messed or mangled" we live into Easter reality that Christ is present and daily working in our lives. Jesus challenges and changes us. Those of us who doubt our faith and question its relevance are challenged by Easter's promise to see and know God in the transformed lives around us.

Friends we know that Jesus changes our weeping into laughing, our mourning into dancing, our despair into hope, our winter into spring and our death into life. Jesus changes things and makes all things new. We are challenged to see the transformations around us and in us. We are challenged to be the change, evidence of the transformation, for the world to see and know God through us.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson
Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

FIRST LUTHERAN NEWS

Afternoon Singalong

Afternoon singalong will resume on April 25th

Every 4th Monday of the month

1:30pm Monroe Manor

2:30pm Dove

All are welcome to join our group!



The annual **Cantabile Workshop** at Mt. Carmel Camp, Alexandria, MN will be held June 9-12. This is an excellent workshop and worship experience for church musicians. The early signup deadline is May 1. The workshop fee is \$175. In addition, housing ranges from \$250-\$450 which includes meals. If any First Lutheran members are interested in attending please contact Ruth Anderson, Worship & Music Committee. We would love to send any members from our congregation and have funding available.

First Lutheran Church, Barron, WI is seeking a Church Office Administrator - Immediate Opening

Full Time Position-40 hours/week: Salary \$18/hr to include vacation, sick and holiday pay.

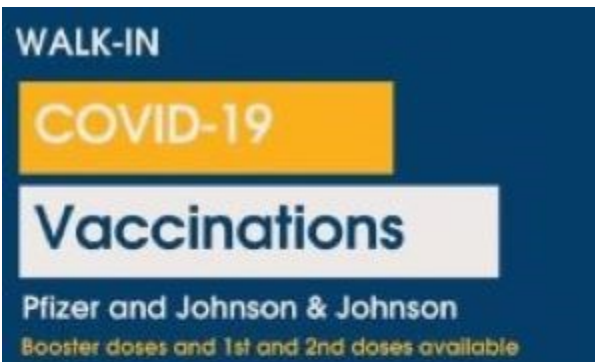
QUALIFICATIONS:

- *Experience/knowledge of technology applications as well as technology equipment.
- *Detail-oriented individual who can work independently
- *Good interpersonal and oral/written communication skills
- *Organized, self-starter with good follow-through
- *Ability to uphold confidentiality of sensitive information

If interested, please send a letter of application and resume to:

Pastor Ron Mathews at pastorron@firstlutheran-barron.org

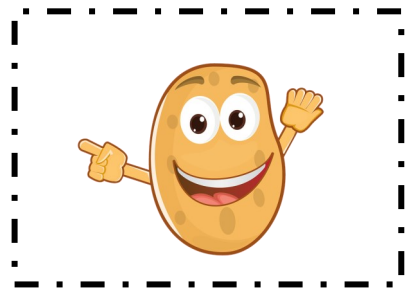
715-537-3575



Barron County is now offering 2nd boosters to those who qualify on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8:30-11:00am and 1:00-4:00pm. To see if a second booster is recommended for you visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-dose.htm>

Happy Spring Everyone!

W/ELCA is having a Community Baked Potato Supper & Bake Sale on April 28th from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be in person dining and also take out. The cost is as follows: Adults - \$10.00, Children - \$5.00, Children under 5 are free. Proceeds will be donated to Daybreak, the Backpack Food for Kids, BAY account (Barron Students Comfort Care Closet BHS), Barron Youth Sports and food and supplies for homeless students in the Barron School District.



Plan to come and bring along your friends!

Bakers!!!

Please consider donating one of your specialties for our bake sale. Baked goods can be brought to the church the afternoon of Wednesday, April 27th or any time on Thursday, April 28th before 4:30 p.m.

Below I have listed the dates that we need helpers for. There is a sign- up sheet on the W/ELCA bulletin board in Luther Hall or you can contact Jan Kienbaum at 715-537-3063 or finetree@charter.net.

Wednesday, April 27th

Set up tables, buffet table, and bake sale area.

Prep potato add ons and wash the potatoes

Thursday, April 28th

1 p.m. – season potatoes and bake them

3:30-7:30 – Ticket Sales, serve, assist with take out orders and clean up

WELCA NEWS (CONT.)

W/ELCA Summer Retreat

There will be a ELCA Women's Retreat on Wednesday, June 8th and Thursday, June 9th. This year the Heart of the North Conference and Chippewa Valley Conference is having the retreat together. The presenter at the retreat will be Sallie Ankerfelt, an ordained Lutheran Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For the past 15 years she served a congregation in south Minneapolis where she guided the faith community in its vision to become a trauma-informed congregation.

There will be music with Dottie Hayden and the King's Way Bookstore will be there with an assortment of Bibles, gifts, etc.

There will be a free will offering with ½ going to W/ELCA and ¼ to Feed My People, and ¼ to Partnerships for Permanence (a non-profit that works with former foster and adopted youth).

SWO Mini Convention

Then on June 9th at 3 p.m. after the retreat is over a SWO Mini Convention will be held at the camp. What is going to be done at the "mini convention"? finally, the election of your new SWO Executive Officers and Conference Representatives, election of the 2023 Triennial voting members and approval of the 2022 budget. So mark your calendars, talk it up at your unit meetings and appoint a voting member. See you in June.

Registration Forms: I have put some registration forms on the W/ELCA Bulletin Board in Luther Hall. Please feel free to take one.

Other W/ELCA Events to watch for

We are hoping to have a Ladies Night Out in July or August. The Annual Bazaar will be on Saturday, November 5th.

May God bless you and be with you all.

Jan Kienbaum

President of First Lutheran WELCA

FAITH FORMATION

New Members:

Welcome to First Lutheran Beckendorf Family

Aaron, Amy, Zach & Sam Beckendorf

Our family lives in Barron. We have worked for the Barron Area School District for 24 years. Zach and Sam are 2020 BHS grads. Sam will soon graduate from CVTC with an associates degree in HVAC. Zach attends UW-Platteville working towards a degree in Environmental Sciences and Conservation. Our family is looking forward to learning more about First Lutheran and finding ways to serve.



First Communion:

Congratulations to our youth on celebrating their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship. Pictured are: Kennedy Harrington, Pastor Ron, Zander Elliott. Not pictured: Morgan Herrman.



Summer 2022 Mission Trip Planned: Our middle school youth are planning to travel to Duluth July 10-15th where we will serve local Boys and Girls Clubs, nursing homes, and local food pantries.

Luther Park News

Leadership programs:

PAL'S Grades 8-12
& Counselor-in-Training

Sign-up online at
lutherpark.org.



High School Graduates:

We are in the process of planning to honor our High School Class of 2022 graduates on Sunday, May 22nd.

Sunday School:

April 24th - last day of Sunday School
Join us for activities and a lesson as a family!



FAITH FORMATION

Baptism:

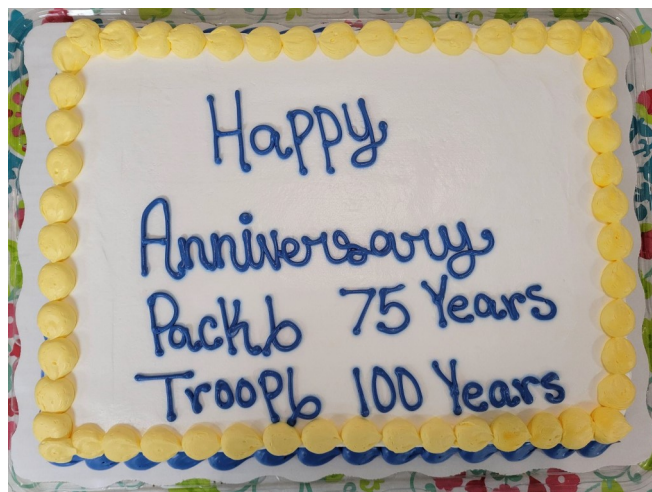
Congratulations to Laykin Jane Jacobson on her baptism on February 13th. Welcome to God's Family at First Lutheran!



High School Youth Grades 9-12
UW-River Falls ~ July 25-27
Worship, Music, Service Projects, Valley Fair!!!
Total Cost \$150 ~ Contact Patrice

Scout Troop 6 News!

As our Scouting year starts winding down, we would like to take this opportunity to thank First Lutheran for your continued support of the Scouting program. In February, we all gathered for our Blue/Gold Banquet. It was a celebration of Scouting's birthday, the Pack's 75th Anniversary, and the Troop's 100th Anniversary.



Fleece Blanket Drive

"Do not pass by a man in need, for you may be the hand of God to him." Proverbs 3:27

In February Confirmation students helped tie fleece blankets for our Community Outreach program. We were able to complete 11 fleece blankets in one after school gathering with several more blankets finished at a later date. We've already used several of these blankets to help welcome Filipino families to the Barron area!

Many thanks to the Confirmation students, members of the Outreach Committee and help from WELCA members for making this happen!

The Outreach committee will be holding a **FLEECE DRIVE** during the month of May! Our goal is to raise 200 yards of fleece! That's enough to make 40 blankets. It takes 5 yards to make one blanket, 2 ½ yards for the top and 2 ½ yards for the back! There are 3 ways for you to help with this project.

- You can donate monetarily and any amount is welcome! Please put the donation in an envelope marked FLEECE DRIVE and put it in the office drop box!
- You can donate yards of fleece in either 2 ½ yard or 5 yard pieces and drop them off in the office or box found in the entry way!
- When we have reached our goal, we will be having an AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE FLEECE TYING EXTRAVEGANZA using your many hands to help in this endeavor! There will be snacks and fellowship for all ages and a wonderful feeling of accomplishment!!

These blankets will be used to welcome new families to our area or for families in need. We will have updates on our 200 yard goal that you can follow in Luther Hall!

"Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love." Mother Teresa



GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

For Youth Missions

\$45.00 by Betty Blihovde

For WELCA

\$30.00 In memory of Ginny Marten by Michelle Klefstad
\$10.00 In memory of Ginny Marten by Wayne & Val Gieseke
\$20.00 In memory of Ginny Marten by Jim Williams
\$25.00 In memory of Ginny Marten by Betty Blihovde
\$50.00 In memory of Ginny Marten by Glenn Kolb

For Undesignated

\$25.00 In memory of Richard Schultz by Stuart & Kristine Schaefer
\$100.00 In honor of Laykin Jane's Baptism by Robert & Janie Jacobson

For First Lutheran Cemetery

\$50.00 In memory of Arline Swanson by Lynn & Sonja Johnson

For General Fund

\$25.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Dan & Valeri Scheps

For Youth Mission Trip

\$350.00 by Marilyn Strop

Additional Gifts Received

\$1,710 Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to all who have donated to these designated (and undesignated) funds, we appreciate your love and support of the ministries of First Lutheran Church!

Thank You

to all the members of First Lutheran who have supported me on my breast cancer journey with your prayers and kind words of support as well as your cards, visits and generous gifts. I am truly blessed to belong to such a caring church family. Because of your love I can gratefully say that today I am cancer free! God Bless!

Patrice Akenson



FINANCIALS

Accounts	Q1 2022 Donations	Q1 2022 Expenses
Restricted Net Assets		
3002 Undesignated	\$ 125.00	\$ -
Designated Funds		
3005 Cemetary Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ -
3010 Parish Nurse Fund	\$ -	\$ -
3012 Lutheran Camp Scholarships	\$ -	\$ -
3020 Pastor's Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ -
3025 Youth - unrestricted for Conf & HS youth	\$ 405.35	\$ -
3026 MS Youth Mission	\$ 325.00	\$ -
3027 HS Youth Mission	\$ 500.00	\$ 150.00
3028 Lenten Meals	\$ 37.00	\$ 184.59
3029 Guest Speakers	\$ -	\$ -
3031 Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 1,614.00	\$ -
3040 Repair & Debt Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ -
3045 Malawi	\$ 2,995.00	\$ 325.00
3050 Jail Ministry	\$ -	\$ -
3055 BeFrienders	\$ -	\$ -
3060 Altar Guild	\$ 385.00	\$ -
3061 Youth Missions	\$ -	\$ -
3070 WELCA	\$ 160.00	\$ -
3074 Sunday School	\$ 52.04	\$ -
3075 VBS	\$ -	\$ -
3084 Technology	\$ 1,868.20	\$ 1,868.20
3086 Live Streaming Broadcast	\$ -	\$ -
3105 Building Repairs/Needs	\$ 60.00	\$ -
3113 Support for Patrice	\$ 154.13	\$ 5,239.01
3115 Gift from the Heart	\$ 595.00	\$ 203.00
3130 Helping FLC Members	\$ -	\$ 42.18
3150 Choir	\$ 25.00	\$ -
3300 Facilities & Future	\$ 65.00	\$ -
3800 Congregational Life	\$ -	\$ -
Total Designated Funds	\$ 9,340.72	\$ 8,011.98
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$ 9,465.72	\$ 8,011.98

FINANCIALS

Accounts	Quarter 1 2022	2022 Annual Budget
Revenues		
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 55,743.19	\$ 280,000.00
Total General Fund Other Offerings	\$ 3,770.78	\$ 14,650.00
Total Revenues	\$ 59,513.97	\$ 294,650.00
Expenses		
Total Pastoral Expenses	\$ 25,270.36	\$ 102,472.00
Total All Other Staff	\$ 18,669.09	\$ 89,324.00
Total Staff	\$ 43,939.45	\$ 191,796.00
Total Property Committee Expenses	\$ 8,745.25	\$ 38,900.00
Total Finance - 5400	\$ 10,421.49	\$ 13,600.00
Mission & Ministry		
Total Faith Formation Expenses -5500	\$ 283.84	\$ 9,700.00
Total Administration - 5900	\$ 2,518.21	\$ 13,150.00
Total Council Expenses	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,500.00
Total Outreach Expenses - 5700	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 14,300.00
Total Personnel Expenses - 5300	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Total Member Care Expenses - 5600	\$ -	\$ 700.00
Total Worship Expenses	\$ 1,659.32	\$ 10,950.00
Total Mission & Ministry	\$ 8,166.37	\$ 50,800.00
Total Expenses	\$ 71,272.56	\$ 295,096.00
Net Total	\$ (11,758.59)	\$ (446.00)



Ways to Give Electronically

Your financial gifts make all that we do here at FLC possible.

Give+ Text: Set up a one time or recurring donation by texting the amount you wish to give to 715-496-6473

Give+ Mobile App: Download the 'GivePlus Church' app to set one-time or recurring donations. You can also manage and view your giving from the convenience of your smartphone.

Give+ Online: Visit firstlutheran-barron.org/give to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

FIRST LUTHERAN—FACILITIES & FUTURE

New Building Work Groups

Altar, Church Bell, Organ, Stained Glass Windows

Tasked to determine how to connect our church history into our new building, these groups will:

- 1) determine cost to remove, store, and install item into the new building
- 2) consider other options and updates that will further advance our mission
- 3) make a recommendation to Facility and Future Committee on how to incorporate into new building.

When the work groups have completed their task, Facilities & Future will hold a congregational information meeting to discuss their findings.

A list of work group members is as follows:

Altar: Ruth Anderson, Valeri Scheps, Carolyn Verhulst, Terry Jergenson

Church Bell: Ruth Anderson, Cathy Anderson, Jay Frank, Carolyn Verhulst, Mike Otto

Organ: Ruth Anderson, Jean Wick, Sue Olson, Carolyn Verhulst, June Edson, Nan Carlsen

Stained Glass Windows: Ruth Anderson, Jay Frank, Sue Olson, Carolyn Verhulst,
Nan Carlsen, Terry Miller

Contact Rod Nordby with questions or to join a work group.



4 W LaSalle Ave., Barron, WI 54812
715-537-3575

www.firstlutheran-barron.org

Sunday Worship @ 9am on Facebook @FLCBarron

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00am - 4:30pm

Pastor - Ron Mathews - PastorRon@firstlutheran-barron.org

Interim Office Manager/Youth Ministry - Patrice Akenson - Office@firstlutheran-barron.org

Bookkeeper - Andrea Cox - Andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org

Financial Secretary - Shirley Hakari

Choir Director - John Krull

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

Maintenance - Brett Gevens

