



WE LOVE FIRST BECAUSE  
GOD FIRST LOVED US.

# FOCUS AT FIRST

Spring 2023 - Quarter One Newsletter

First Lutheran Church — Barron, WI [www.firstlutheran-barron.org](http://www.firstlutheran-barron.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**2023**

### April

24—Afternoon Singalong

26—Senior Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

### May

7—Affirmation Sunday

14- R Country Gals Mothers' Day Tribute

21—High School Graduate Recognition

### June

17-25—Nashville High School Mission Trip

### July

24-27—Journey High School Youth Gathering



Join Us for Worship - Sunday @ 9am

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

## Inside This Issue

Letter from the Bishop	2
WELCA News	4-5
Faith Formation	6-7
Outreach	8
Gifts & Memorials	9
Financials	10-11
Facilities & Future	12



An Easter Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

April 2023



Getting a phone call in the middle of the night is never a good thing. I remember the second time my father had open-heart surgery. It was a long procedure and a difficult one, and after it was done the doctor called us to his office and said, "There's been some bleeding. We'll let you know, but you should go home now and rest." And so going home that night, I listened for a phone call in the middle of the night and was awakened only to find out it was morning and it was birds singing, not the phone ringing. My father had made it through the night, and in fact he did recover from the surgery.

This is the joy we feel at Easter, but magnified. All of the hope that had been dashed on Good Friday, the terrible pressure of grief, the terrible pressure of knowing there was no future in the world, only on Sunday to be greeted not by the ringing of a telephone announcing death but the loud clear singing of alleluias. This is the joy we have, and it's a promise so strong that even when we do die, even when we do confront death, we have the hope and the assurance of eternal life.

Easter makes it possible for us, even at the grave, to sing alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Happy Easter, dear church.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# FIRST LUTHERAN NEWS

## ***Afternoon Singalong***

Afternoon singalong will resume on April 24th

Every 4th Monday of the month

1:30pm Monroe Manor

2:30pm Dove

All are welcome to join our group!



## ***Worship in the Park Team Needed!***

Please contact Pastor Ron if you are interested  
In helping organize this wonderful summer  
event.

Date and time are yet to be determined  
by the team.

*Happy Spring Everyone!*

First of all I would like to mention that all women who belong to First Lutheran Church are also members of First Lutheran's Women of the ELCA. Following are the members of the current First Lutheran's W/ELCA Board:

**Jan Kienbaum – President**

**Vice-President- Carolyn Verhulst**

**Secretary – Jan Barrett**

**Treasurer – Lynne Hanse**

**Stewardship- Barb Javener**

**Justice – Lynne Hanse**

**Discipleship - Bea Lundequam**

**Serving Group Coordinator – Ann Berg**

**Other members: Darla Weinert, Carol Romsos, Sharon Mullikin, Lori Wells, Julie Malone**

Here are the donations that W/ELCA has made this year to various missions and local organizations:

**Backpack for Kids - \$500**

**Comfort Care Closet - \$500**

**Barron Youth Sports - \$500**

**Phillip Knutson, Missionary - \$500**

**BAY Account - \$500**

**For Youth Mission Trip - \$200**

**Youth Easter Egg Hunt - \$100**



## WELCA NEWS (CONT.)

The women made 60 lap blankets and gave them to Monroe Manor residents for Christmas. W/ELCA also had a Christmas Tea for them. Currently, Lori Wells is making Easter cards for the residents. They will receive these for Easter along with a little bag of Easter treats.

For Monroe Manor's Valentine Tea W/ELCA furnished a cheese tray , Valentine Sugar Cookies and Valentine pretzel treats.`

So far the Quilters have finished 75 quilts and are currently making fleece blankets for the 2023 High School Graduates. Barb Javener is busy collecting items for the Lutheran World Relief mission kits (Baby Care Kits, Personal Care Kits and School Kits). Thank you to everyone who helped take apart some Global Health kits on Sunday, March 19th after church in order to use the items for Baby Care Kits and Personal Care kits.

In February there was a crew of ladies headed up by Lori Wells and Sharon Mullikin that cleaned the church kitchen. Thank you ladies.

### Senior Soup and Sandwich Luncheon:

This is being planned for Wednesday, April 26th from 11 to 1. This is for First Lutheran Senior Citizens and their friends/family. At 1 p.m. Pastor Ron has a Bible Study and all are welcome to attend that as well. There will be a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board by the main entrance or one can call the church office at 715-537-3575.

One more event coming up is the Women of the ELCA Gathering on September 21-24, 2023 in Phoenix, Arizona.

**I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter!**

May God bless you and be with you all.

*Jan Kienbaum*

President of First Lutheran WELCA



Scout Pack 6 Pinewood Derby 2023!



The annual Cub Scout Pack 6 Pinewood Derby was held at First Lutheran March 18th. With the help of adults, Scouts build their own unpowered miniature cars from a block of wood and race them on the day of the Derby. The Scouts get great satisfaction out of creating their own cars! Meetings are held Mondays 6pm at First Lutheran. For more information contact Lori Balts at 715.418.1035.



**Prepared. For Life.®**



## Baptism:

Congratulations to Dorothy Helen Cerney on her baptism on February 19th. Welcome to God's Family at First Lutheran!



## Youth Mental Health Training Course

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adolescents ages 12-18.

Training session will take place Friday, May 12, 9am to 3pm.

Please talk to Pastor Ron or sign up on the sheet in Luther Hall if you are interested.



## Newly Elected Leaders Installed:

Char Chermack	Carolyn Verhulst
Vonny Degerman	Terry Miller
Kristi Pederson	Lynn Haugen
Mark Lansin	Arlyn Colby
Shanda Harrington	Kelly Hover



## High School Youth Grades 8-12

*UW-River Falls ~ July 24-27  
Worship, Music, Service Projects,  
Valley Fair!!!  
Total Cost \$150*

*Contact Patrice or Pastor Ron*

# FIRST LUTHERAN NEWS



**"Christ Jam"  
Middle School Youth  
Gathering 2023**



## Thank You

We thank Doug Wiegrefe for his skilled craftsmanship creating the beautiful new display rack in our main entrance as well as Fran Felber for his donation of the wood.

We also want to thank Lori Wiegrefe from Kudos Awards for the beautiful banners throughout the church.





# GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

## *For Undesignated*

- \$20.00 In honor of Ron & Jan Barrett's  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
by Roger & Donna Jones
- \$250.00 In memory of Bob and Pam Oman  
by Matt Oman
- \$50.00 In memory of Alyce Paulson  
by Richard & Julie Lane
- \$25.00 In memory of Alyce Paulson  
by Suzanne Nehring
- \$100.00 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by Ann Hegstad
- \$154.13 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by Gary Blyton
- \$50.00 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by Billie Jerome
- \$25.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Betty Shipley
- \$25.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Terry & Carolyn Miller
- \$25.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Kristine Schaefer
- \$20.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Wayne & Val Gieseke
- \$15.00 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by Anonymous
- \$25.00 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by D & M Fredericks
- \$50.00 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by Nancy Bailey
- \$25.00 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by Terry & Carolyn Miller
- \$200.00 In memory of Marj Anderson  
by Leila Anderson

## *For Youth*

- \$20.00 In memory of Shirley Hover by Carolyn Verhulst
- \$20.00 In memory of Marj Anderson by Carolyn Verhulst
- \$20.00 In memory of Lois Schultz by Carolyn Verhulst

## *For Congregational Life*

- \$20.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Keith & Lynn Kolpack

## *For Building Fund*

- \$20.00 In memory of Shirley Hover by Roger Jones

## *For Quilters*

- \$40.00 In memory of Alyce Paulson  
by Anonymous
- \$40.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Anonymous
- \$10.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Pam Jacoby
- \$25.00 In memory of Lois Schultz  
by Joanne Miller
- \$25.00 In memory of Marian Schmitz:  
by Carol Romsos
- \$40.00 In memory Marian Schmitz:  
by Anonymous
- \$59.00 In memory of Marian Schmitz  
by Anonymous

## *For Gift From the Heart*

- \$25.00 In memory of Mike Stokke  
by David & Debra Olson

## *For W/ELCA*

- \$25.00 In memory of Alyce Paulson  
by Pamela Kirk
- \$10.00 In memory of Shirley Hover  
by Pam Jacoby
- \$10.00 In memory of Shirley Hover  
by Maxine Williams
- \$25.00 In memory of Shirley Hover  
by John & Barb Kirk

## *For Livestream*

- \$10.00 In memory of Marj Anderson by Pam Jacoby

## *For Building Fund*

- \$20.00 In memory of Shirley Hover by Roger Jones

## *Additional Gifts Received*

- \$2,447.00 *Thrivent Choice Dollars:*  
by Ron & Jan Barrett, Ruth Anderson, Lori Wiegrefe,  
John & Barbara Kirk, Wendell & Mary McDonough,  
Terry Miller, Del & Barb Goff, Dave & Linda Martinson,  
Rod & Carla Nordby, Carol Romsos, Agenes Prine,  
Daniel Mullikin, Ardis & Dale Thorsbakken,  
Norm & Nancy Thompson,

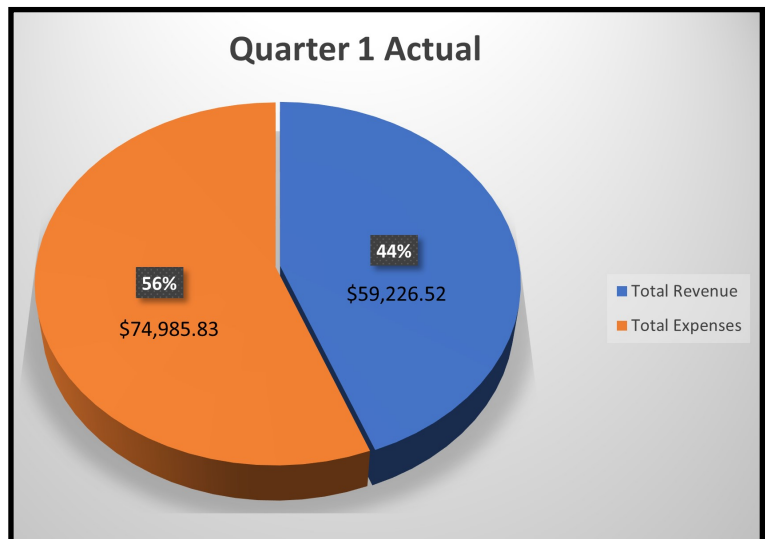
# FINANCIALS

Accounts	Quarter 1 2023	2023 Annual Budget
<b>Revenues</b>		
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 54,827.61	\$ 252,100.00
Total General Fund Other Offerings	\$ 4,398.91	\$ 31,450.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 59,226.52</b>	<b>\$ 283,550.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Total Pastoral Expenses	\$ 26,161.63	\$ 105,920.00
Total All Other Staff	\$ 15,614.68	\$ 64,559.00
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>\$ 41,776.31</b>	<b>\$ 170,479.00</b>
Total Property Committee Expenses	\$ 8,804.29	\$ 28,500.00
Total Finance - 5400	\$ 11,718.37	\$ 13,227.00
<b>Mission &amp; Ministry</b>		
Total Faith Formation Expenses -5500	\$ 1,457.07	\$ 29,700.00
Total Administration - 5900	\$ 7,085.18	\$ 12,950.00
Total Council Expenses	\$ 24.45	\$ 1,500.00
Total Congregation Life	\$ 29.92	\$ 1,700.00
Total Outreach Expenses - 5700	\$ 2,675.00	\$ 14,300.00
Total Personnel Expenses - 5300	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Total Member Care Expenses - 5600	\$ -	\$ 700.00
Total Worship Expenses	\$ 1,415.24	\$ 10,650.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 74,985.83</b>	<b>\$ 284,256.00</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ (15,759.51)</b>	<b>\$ (706.00)</b>

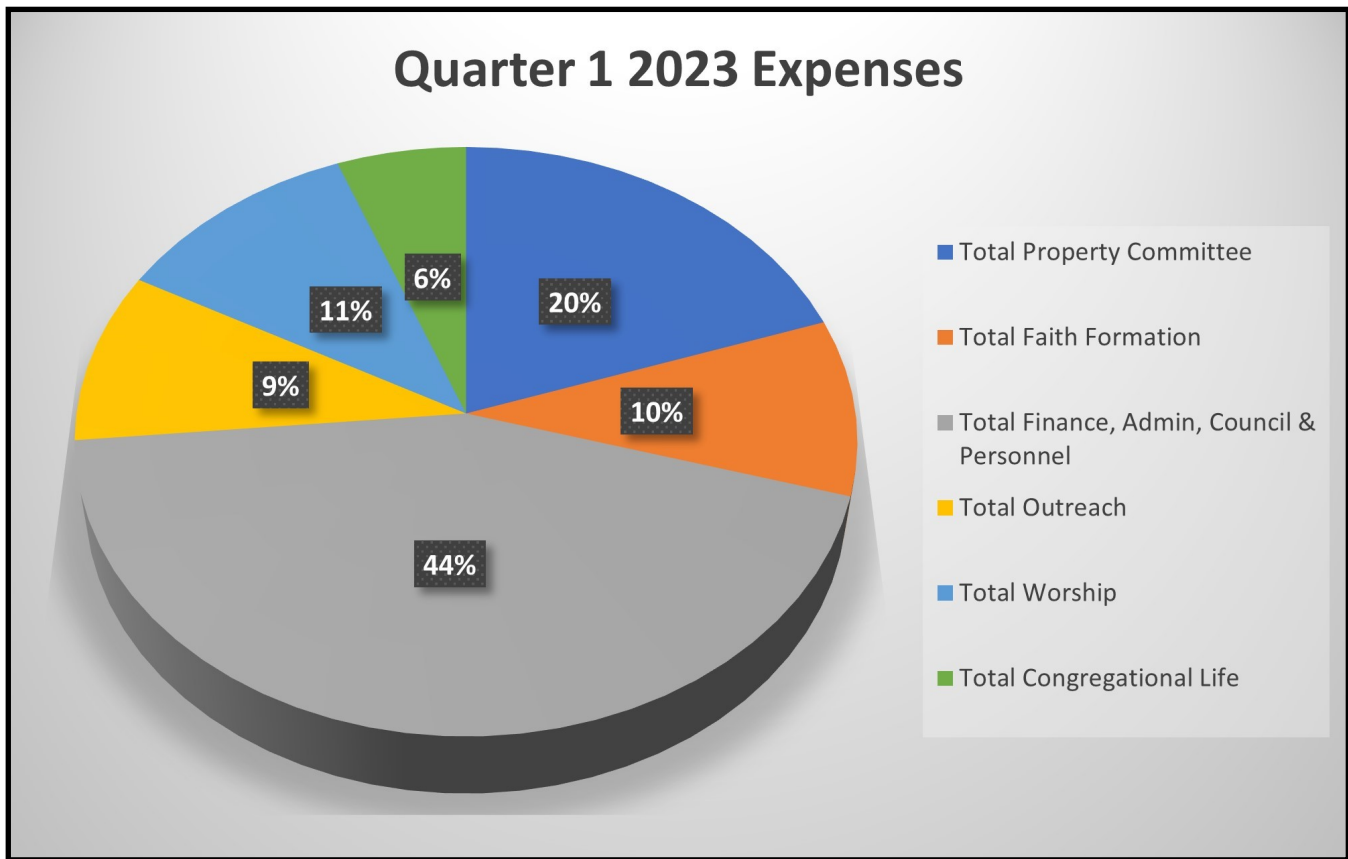
*Explanation for the above chart:*

- Column 1 is the actual quarter 1 donations and expenses. Several large annual expenses are paid in the first quarter, leading to a large negative net total.
- Column 2 is the total annual budget.

For questions or clarification of the above expense report or to receive a detailed financial report of expenses please contact the church office.



# FINANCIALS



*We are able to provide the ministries we have at FLC in large part thanks to the efforts of our amazing staff and team of dedicated volunteers. Because staff enable programming to happen by equipping volunteers, here is a pie chart of our total ministry expenses to help us understand the true cost of what it takes for our ministries to happen. For simplicity in calculations, Pastor Ron's salary is distributed evenly over all the ministry areas. Some expenses are paid in lump sums but allocated quarterly for reporting purposes.*

Thank you for your financial support in God's mission here at First Lutheran Church. Your financial gifts enable us to fulfill our mission to reach out to others with the love of Christ. If you've been thinking about signing up for automated electronic giving, now is a great time to do so. Just go to our website at [www.firstlutheran-barron.org](http://www.firstlutheran-barron.org). And click on the "Give" button at the top right. If you have any questions about the process or need help please don't hesitate to call the church office.

### **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](http://firstlutheran-barron.org/give) to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

# FIRST LUTHERAN—FACILITIES & FUTURE



**Hello from the facilities and future committee. We have an amazing Master Plan for our new building concept that meets the needs of our congregation. We shared the design at the Annual Meeting and the congregation voted and approved for us to pursue a capitol campaign.**

**Since then we have had several meetings with our campaign consultant, the Harrison Financial group, and our architects, VanMan. We have also gained financial advice from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. They shared a lot of guiding information to us and it is exciting to see our concepts take shape as we get closer and closer to a more concrete plan.**

**We look forward to sharing our campaign plan, where we will need FLC members to support, and most importantly we are excited to continue to share how the new facility will enable us to fulfill our mission to**  
***Love Others First because God First Loved Us.***



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

[www.firstlutheran-barron.org](http://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](mailto:PastorRon@firstlutheran-barron.org)**  
**Office Manager - Patrice Akenson - [Office@firstlutheran-barron.org](mailto:Office@firstlutheran-barron.org)**  
**Treasurer- Jason Erb**  
**Bookkeeper - Andrea Cox - [Andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org](mailto:Andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org)**  
**Financial Secretary - Shirley Hakari**  
**Choir Director - John Krull**  
**Cleaner - Sharon Mullikin**

