



WE LOVE FIRST BECAUSE
GOD FIRST LOVED US.

FOCUS AT FIRST

Summer 2021 - Quarter Two Newsletter

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2021

July

25th—Terrific Tie Dye

25-30th —Duluth Mission Trip

August

8th—Church Cinema

22nd—Banana Splits and
Board Games

September

Rally Sunday information
coming soon



Join Us for Worship - Sunday @ 9am

Don't forget to join us online each Sunday via the website or FB@FLCBarron or in-person

Also be sure to join Sunday School each Sunday at 10:15am via Zoom

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PRESIDENTS'S POST

To all the Friends of First Lutheran:

Welcome to summer!! Sure does seem like it is flying by. I sincerely hope you are enjoying all it has to offer.



As you may or may not know, the congregational vote held on Sunday, May 16th, did indeed pass on a vote of 107 to 24. This enables the Facilities and Future committee to proceed with the planning and possible funding options in building a new church facility for FLC. This is a very big step forward and all involved are very excited to take the next steps. Currently, a cost/site analysis is being done on our current site, which was presented as the budgeted plan. Also, we are having 3 additional sites being looked at as potential building sites if the present site would not be suitable. These findings will be presented to both Church council and Facilities and Futures committee on July 14th. After that meeting, information will be passed on to the congregation for their approval. So stay tuned...We have a ways to go, but we would target a possible capital campaign late this fall. Exciting times!



In other news, it was brought to my attention, I have not shared our officers for the church council. So, here you go. Steve Haugen- President. Craig Nevin- Vice President, Jason Erb- Treasurer, BJ Williams- Secretary. Hope this helps. They are a great group to work with, Thank you for your service to FLC.

Due to the pandemic, there were many changes at FLC. Many committees or groups didn't meet, events didn't take place, which is the way it had to be to protect the health of the congregation and community. As we look to the fall, we are sincerely hoping that things will be different this year. However, that's where all of you play a part. The church leadership team has begun the discussion of Rethink, Reform, Revive. How do we get people re-engaged in the ministries of FLC. It will be a challenge to get things going again and committees active. If you have any ideas, comments, concerns, please share. We are encouraging everyone to take an active role in the life of First Lutheran. I hope you all share that vision.



See you in church. Hang in there, Love one another, God's peace and good health to you all.
Steve Haugen

FROM THE PASTOR

I recall in the mid-2000s every church doing any form of strategic planning was creating a “vision 2020” campaign. (A play on words of the vision test from the eye doctor of course.) We all wanted clear vision, 20/20 vision. And then 2020 happened, and every plan that was created fell to a grinding halt.

Before, organizations strived for clarity in their long-term visioning and they generally worked to create a 3, 5, and 10 year plan. Now, long-term strategic planning does not go much past 3 months as things continue to evolve as we move out of this pandemic. So, with no long-term plan where does that leave us? With hope.

We are the church.

More specifically, we are God’s Church.



We have been called, gathered, and sent into Barron, this nation, and all of creation to share the hope we have in the Gospel. Over the past couple months I had three amazing conversations with folks who have experienced just that. I did not ask to share their stories otherwise I’d be more specific so please excuse the vague blogging here. But I wanted to share with you how these conversations struck me as amazing for three reasons: 1) These people sought me out 2) None were members of FLC and 3) They all wanted to express to me how they saw members making a difference. Some of you were caught helping another person in need. Others were working to feed the hungry. And yet, still others, were busy struggling to make Barron a better place for all. Point is, people notice what you are doing. And their lives are being shaped by it.

John 17:10 reads: “All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.” God is glorified in the things you do. As we accept God’s call, we are sent into living our daily lives in God’s image – Imago Dei. This means how you live your life, reflects your faith. How you treat others reflects how FLC is perceived. Because you have been showing others love, people have noticed. And, to the point, their lives have been impacted by your actions.



What will the summer bring for FLC? What will September bring in concern for our faith community and programming? I can say with certainty that we will continue to strive to reach out to those in need with the love of God because God loved us first. Will it be in person? On-line? In large worship gatherings or small? With old friends or new members? However we are able to gather. However you are able to join together. That is how we will do it. We don’t have a 10 year plan laid out...yet. But we have clarity in the mission God has placed in our hearts to impact others with the hope and love of the Gospel.

We go, Loving Others First!

Pastor Ron



REFORM- RETHINK- REVIVE

Our mission is “Love Others First, Because God First Loved Us.”

In the wake of the pandemic our strategic plans have all be changed, if not completely undone. For this reason for 2021 we have shifted the vision of our church to

Reform. Rethink. Revive.



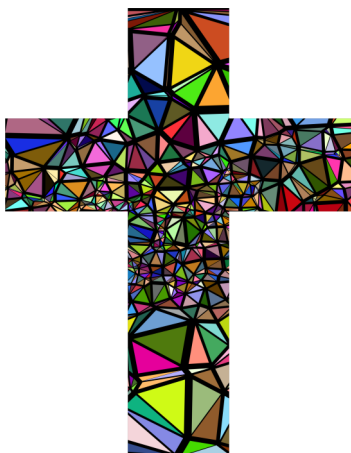
Crisis hits the fast forward to cultural change. For us at FLC some of those changes involved beloved members leaving to join other congregations, as well as new members joining. Shifting from worshipping in the pews to worshipping online. And more online things in general, including committee meetings, small groups, and Bible Studies. What shifts were symptomatic of the time and what changes are here to stay? And how will we respond?

Strategic planning for congregations is a tightrope walk. On the one hand we are God’s Church and what God designs will come about. However, we ask that we may be a part of it! So we seek ways we can use what God has given us. How can we reform old traditions to meet current needs? What practices do we need to rethink? Are there any beloved ministries that need to be revived in new ways?

One great example of how Reform. Rethink. Revive. has been put into practice is around our Prayer Chain. A ministry that has been around for decades but in the past couple years has struggled to engaged members. This ministry is being relaunched in September and we will hear a lot more this fall about how this ministry will be a blessing to our members in new ways.

There are a lot of exciting things happening around FLC!

If you are interested in joining these visioning discussions let Pastor Ron know.



**Faith Formation
Celebrations:**

**Congratulations to
Brenna Marie on her
baptism**



MEMBER CARE

Greetings! It has now been over 18 months since onset of the pandemic. Good news-as of July 4th, the Wisconsin the Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that 61.5% of Wisconsin residents have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Per county data reported in May, it was noted that 42% of Barron County residents had been vaccinated. The goal nationally, is 70% vaccination rate. The DHS is now recommending children 12 years of age and older, be vaccinated. Based on the vaccination rate, COVID 19 restrictions have been lifted for vaccinated individuals. As of May, fully vaccinated residents are no longer required to wear masks indoors or outdoors, socially distance and they may gather in groups of varied sizes. The DHS advised fully vaccinated individuals have a low risk of getting COVID 19 as well as a reduced risk of spreading the virus. The guidelines continue to recommend fully vaccinated individuals follow public health best practices in certain settings These include nursing homes, hospitals, planes, jails, homeless shelters, etc. For more information, visit WWW.barroncountlywi.gov

At this writing, summer is upon us! Hopefully, you are able to take advantage of the nice weather and spend time outdoors doing fun activities such as picnics, boating, or fishing. Although the sun feels warm and enjoyable this time of year, exposure to the sun does place us at risk for sunburn that is painful and can cause damage to our skin. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends people of all ages take measures to protect their skin against sunburn. The use of sunscreen protects the skin from sunburn, early aging and skin cancer. Choosing a sunscreen can be confusing however, consider a product that includes the following:

***Broad-spectrum protection (protection against UVA and UVB rays)**

***SPF of 30 or higher**

***Water resistant**



Remember to apply sunscreen at least 15 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours particularly, if swimming or sweating. Sunscreen alone cannot provide complete protection. In addition to use of sunscreen, dermatologists recommend taking the following steps to protect your skin.

- ◆ **Seek shade.** Remember, the sun's rays are the strongest between 10 am and 2 pm. If your shadow is shorter than you are, seek shade when appropriate.
- ◆ **Wear protective clothing.** Wear a long-sleeve shirt, pants, wide brimmed hat and sunglasses when appropriate.
- ◆ **Use extra caution when near water, snow or sand** as they reflect the damaging rays of the sun, that can increase your chance of sunburn.
- ◆ **Get vitamin D safely** through a healthy diet that may include supplements. Avoid using the sun as a source.
- ◆ **Avoid use of tanning beds.** Ultraviolet light from the sun and tanning beds can cause skin cancer and wrinkling. If you wish to have a tan, consider a self-tanning product however, use sunscreen with it.
- ◆ **If You notice any changes in your skin, itching, or bleeding, seek evaluation by a board-certified dermatologist.** REMEMBER, SKIN CANCER IS HIGHLY TREATABLE WHEN CAUGHT EARLY.

Have a safe, fun summer!

Blessings,

Carol A Matthys, Parish Nurse



Join us for.....

Family Fun with Friends at First!



We can't wait to get our First Lutheran families back together again! Please join us for some FREE summer fun! All events are from 5:00-7:00pm and are open to First families (and friends!) of all ages! Unless noted, all events will take place at First Lutheran Church.

Terrific Tie Dye - July 25

Making a mess is what summer is all about! Supplies will be provided to tie dye a pillow case! You're welcome to bring one additional item of your own to tie dye as well.



Church Cinema - August 8

Join us in the parking lot of First for an outdoor showing on the "big screen." Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. ** Note the time change for this event - 8:00pm **



Banana Splits and Board Games - August 22

Bring your appetite for banana splits and ice cream sundaes - yum! We'll have board games available, or bring your favorite to share with some friends!



Questions? Contact Amity Mathews at amity@firstlutheran-barron.org or 715.418.4276.

FAITH FORMATION



Class of 2021 We celebrated the milestone of high school graduation with our seniors on Sunday, May 16th. Our high school seniors pictured are Jacob Hagen, Aaron Williams, Vanessa Odash and Eithan Donica, Not pictured, Hailey Cox, Phoebe Jerome, Carter LaLiberty, Aryn Lipke, Haylee Peterson and Hunter Schultz. We also celebrated the memory of Corbin Wick, a member of the class of 2021, who passed in 2012. We will hold these young people in our prayers and cherish the memories of our time with them.



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 2021: Affirmation Sunday is being planned for **Sunday, October 24th.** Please mark this date on your calendar as we plan to worship together in celebration of our youth affirming their faith in Christ.



Summer Mission Trip: We have eight youth and three adults who are making plans to travel to **Duluth July 25-30th** where we will serve local Boys and Girls Clubs, food pantries and nursing homes. The group planning to travel together includes Abbie Coss, Rayna Hauck, Emma Thompson, Bronson Halverson, Brennen Hanson, Noah Marvin, Drew Scheps and Glendon Thompson, along with adult chaperones, Staci Marvin, Valeri Scheps and Jean Wick. Please plan to send them off in pray at **9am worship on Sunday, July 25th.**

Confirmation: Our confirmation year wrapped up with a springtime day of hard work and holy play at Luther Park!



WELCA

First of all, I will give you some updates.

- Carolyn Verhulst had to step down from being your WELCA President; so because I was past president I became president again.
- There is no new WELCA Booklet for 2021, as we were not able to meet in the fall or winter.
- WELCA did have a bizarre Bazaar by asking the women to donate the amount of money they would have spent to make things for the Bazaar that we could not have. The response to this was amazing! So because of your generosity ladies, our First Lutheran WELCA was able to send many kits to Lutheran World Relief as well as give donations to help support our community. Following are the donations that were made:

Missionary, Philip Knutson - \$1,000

Backpack Program - \$500

Comfort Closet - \$125

BAY Account at BHS - \$125

Meals on Wheels - \$1,000

Day Development in honor of Mike Mullikin - \$250

Troy Johnson - \$500

Rayann Tallman - \$500

CASA - \$1,500

Mentor, Department of Human Resources - \$250

So, Thank You, Thank You all so very much!

- ◆ The WELCA Board had their first meeting on March 18, 2021. Then we met again on May 13th. Our next board meeting will be on July 15th at 3:15 p.m. to start planning for fall.
- ◆ The Quilters began meeting the end of February on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m.
- ◆ We could use a few more ladies to help with the quilts if any of you have time. If anyone would like fabric to use at home to make quilt tops, call Marian Schmitz (715-637-3964).
- ◆ Pledge Circle has been meeting via Zoom, which is just wonderful! Faith Circle has not met, but may start meeting again in September.

WELCA BAZAAR

The WELCA BAZAAR will be held on Saturday, November 6th. WELCA is asking crafters, do-it your selfers and others to help us by donating your goods.

BAZAAR Appreciation Night

This will be at 6 p.m. at Lynn & Keith Kolpack's home(786 Pine Street, Barron). This is for anyone who helped with any of the past BAZAARS in any way.

Fun Night for Women in Our Community

Towards the end of September we are hoping to have a gathering of women in our community for fun and fellowship. Watch for more on this in September.

Last of all, if anyone has some ideas of fun and interesting things for us to offer for folks this next year, contact me.

May God bless you and be with you all.

Jan Kienbaum, President of First Lutheran WELCA

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

For Building Fund

- \$20.00 In memory of Floyd VanNatta by Terry & Carolyn Miller
\$25.00 In memory of Dorothy Jacobson by Roger Jones

For Quilters

- \$110.00 In memory of Carol Juve by Marjorie Peterson

For Undesignated

- \$10.00 In memory of Mary Ferguson by Brent & Sarah Ferguson
\$50.00 In memory of Dorothy Jacobson by Mary O. Hanson
\$250.00 In memory of Clark & Russel Tabor and Roni Olsen
\$50.00 In memory of Floyd VanNatta by Roger & Donna Jones
\$20.00 In memory of Floyd VanNatta by Glenn Kolb
\$10.00 In memory of Floyd VanNatta by Harold & Rita Thorson
\$25.00 In memory of Floyd VanNatta by James and Bev Wichart

For Live streaming and Radio Ministry

- \$50.00 In memory of Ken Vergin by Darlene Vergin
\$25.00 In honor of Ruth Anderson by Roger Jones

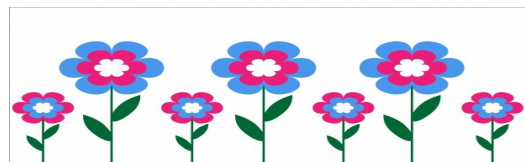
Thank you to all who have donated to these designated (and undesignated) funds, we appreciate your love and support of the ministries of First Lutheran Church!

Thank You

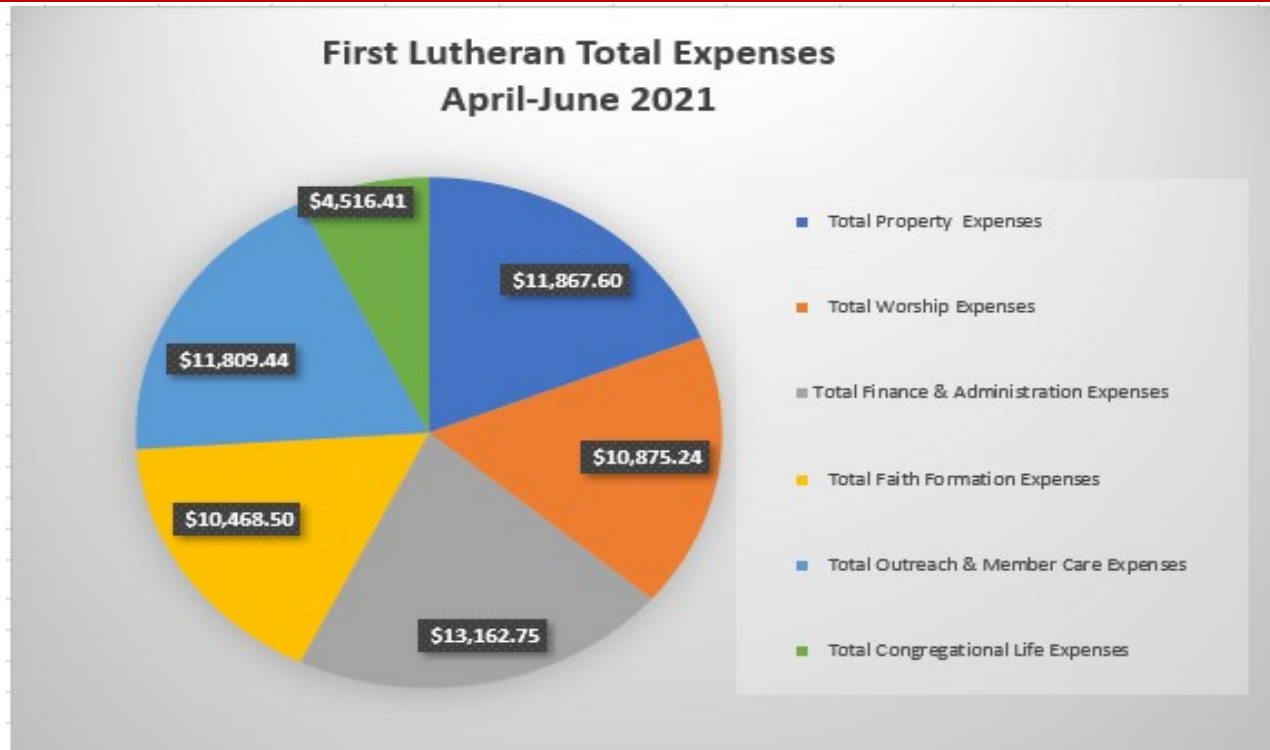
for your Kindness

First Lutheran Congregation
Thank you for your
check for \$150.00 to The
Barron Food Pantry. Cash
donations go a long way
in purchasing food from
Feed My People to stock
our shelves.
Mary Jo Doesen
Treasurer

Thank you Jan Kienbaum for
helping weed the flower garden
by the church sign.
It looks beautiful!



FINANCIALS



We are able to provide the ministries we have at FLC in large part thanks to the efforts of our amazing staff team. 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.

These days we aren't gathering in the building like we use to. GivePlus is an easy way to consistently give financially to support FLC's mission using their autopay feature. You can enroll using either a credit card or bank account. Once you sign-up, you can check your giving records as well. You just need to simply go to our website, click on "Donate" in the menu options to sign-up. If you need assistance or have questions, 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 to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

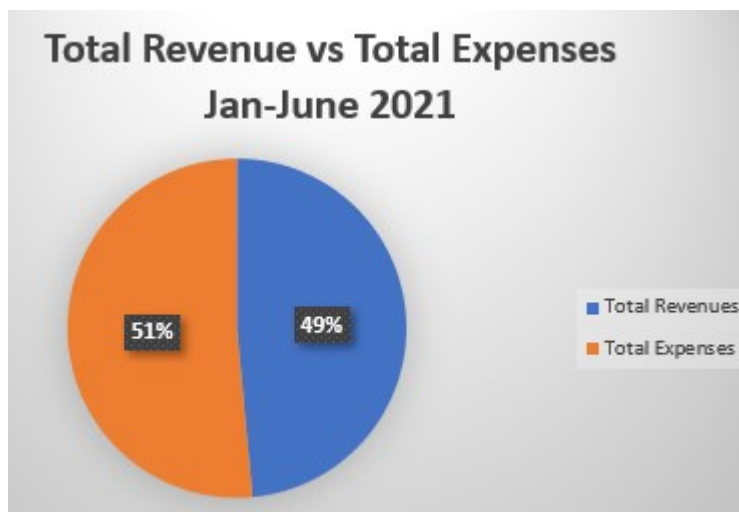
FINANCIALS

Accounts	Quarter 2 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget 2021
Revenues			
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 55,960.59	\$ 123,041.62	\$ 150,525.00
Total Designated Fund Offerings	\$ 1,066.68	\$ 1,066.68	\$ 2,820.00
Total Revenues	\$ 57,027.27	\$ 124,108.30	\$ 153,345.00
Expenses			
Total Pastoral Expense	\$ 29,717.86	\$ 63,035.25	\$ 61,641.58
Total All Other Staff Expense	\$ 14,349.30	\$ 29,965.09	\$ 48,035.64
Total Staff Expense	\$ 44,067.16	\$ 93,000.34	\$ 109,677.22
Total Property Committee Expense	\$ 6,620.19	\$ 13,613.86	\$ 18,450.00
Total Worship Expense	\$ 3,602.77	\$ 5,669.27	\$ 4,650.00
Total Personnel Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.02
Total Council Expense	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 750.00
Total Finance Expense	\$ 2,641.76	\$ 7,783.96	\$ 6,650.04
Total Faith Formation Expense	\$ 706.00	\$ 1,114.09	\$ 4,850.10
Total Member Care Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 6,675.00	\$ 7,150.02
Total Congregational Life Expense	\$ 56.97	\$ 56.97	\$ 250.02
Total Administration Expense	\$ 1,724.66	\$ 3,644.70	\$ 5,674.98
Total Designated Fund Expenses	\$ -		
Total Expenses	\$ 63,124.51	\$ 131,618.19	\$ 158,502.40
Net Total	\$ (6,097.24)	\$ (7,509.89)	\$ (5,157.40)

Explanation for the above chart:

- Column 1 is the actual quarter donations and expenses. This averages out the annual contributions over four quarters.
- Column 2 is the quarterly budget.
- Column 3 is the year to date donations and expenses.
- Column 4 is the 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.





2020 was a challenging year to say the least. In response to working towards meeting the challenges that our community was facing, I chose to not use my vacation or continuing education time. As we prepared for 2021, the Council met and decided to gift me extra vacation time this year. The extra weeks for renewal are a true blessing. I greatly appreciate their support and concern for my family. In conversation with Church Council, we agreed that I will be gone June 14 through July 5 and again July 26

through August 8. I want to thank the Council and FLC members for their encouragement and for this gift to spend extra time with my family for rest and renewal.

This action is just one more way members of FLC continue to put our mission to work. May your summer travels, vacations, and get-aways be filled with wonder and excitement as you encounter the amazing creation of our Lord.

We go, Loving Others First
Pastor Ron



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

www.firstlutheran-barron.org

Sunday Worship @ 9am on Facebook @FLCBarron

Church Office Hours: Please call—Building closed due to COVID-19

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

Bookkeeper - 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

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

Maintenance—Brett Gevens

