



WE LOVE FIRST BECAUSE  
GOD FIRST LOVED US.

# FOCUS AT FIRST

Summer 2023 - Quarter Two Newsletter

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2023

#### July

24—Afternoon Singalong

30—Polka Worship in the Park

#### August

2—Youth Pizza and Pool Party 4:30-7pm

6—Sunday 8:45 Hymn Sing

28—Afternoon Singalong

#### September

3—Sunday 8:45 Hymn Sing

6—WELCA Baked Potato Supper & Bake Sale

10—Celebrating 100 Years

13—K-WOW & Confirmation Kick-Off

25—Afternoon Singalong



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

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### 2023 is a year of celebration!



This fall, we will be celebrating two milestones in our faith. First, we will celebrate God's blessing that has been upon our congregation since 1884. Our congregation has a long history that reaches back to a mission station that was started in 1872 with Rev. C.J. Helsem. In 1884 this people of faith gathered as a church and called Rev. T.O. Juve as their pastor. The congregation was to be named First Norwegian Evangelical. They built

what would be their first building in 1890. A cyclone on June 12, 1899 lifted the newly completed edifice from its foundation and dashed it to the street. Only one timber remained. Church members began rebuilding at once. By 1906 (seven years after the first church was destroyed) the church steeple, bell, altar painting, and a furnace had been installed. The building was completed by 1920. On January 26, 1922 this small but brave congregation had to watch their church go up in flames. By June 22, 1922 they laid the cornerstone for their third church building. The new sanctuary was dedicated September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1923, and has since served as the central place for worship services for the past 100 years. We will be celebrating this centennial milestone of how God has called FLC to mission and ministry serving Barron and Beyond on Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our second celebration comes from John Newton, sea captain, Anglican clergyman, and song writer who through the trials and hardships of life wrote "Amazing Grace" in 1773. This song continues to speak to our pain, our suffering, and the comfort we find in God's love for us. FLC has gone through many hardships, yet through it all God's amazing grace has given us the strength to carry out the ministry, comfort for our despair, and love to share as a community of faith. Written 250 years ago, the hymn Amazing Grace has a deep and long history of inspiring God's Church through adversity. Join us as we celebrate God's Amazing Grace this fall!

*God's Blessings,*

*Pastor Ron*





## Welcome Pastor Tamra

We formally welcomed Pastor Tamra Harder Sunday June 11th with an “Eat and Greet” following worship. Pastor Tamra has begun her duties as our visitation pastor, working in collaboration with Pastor Ron to provide pastoral care to FLC homebound members.



## Wedding:

Congratulations to  
Kayla Hilbert and Andy Peterson  
who were united in marriage June 17, 2023.



## FROM THE BISHOP: STATEMENT ON ANTI-TRANSGENDER LEGISLATION



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

As we approach March 31, many people are preparing to recognize Transgender Day of Visibility, an international day to celebrate the contributions of transgender people and raise awareness about the deadly injustices they face.

As bishop of this church, I am concerned that the rights of transgender and nonbinary Americans have been targeted all over this nation. Nearly 400 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills were introduced across the United States in 2022, most of them targeting trans youth. That is twice the number from 2021 and almost eight times the total from 2020. The language in many of these bills attacks the humanity of trans and nonbinary people, often erasing the dignity that should be afforded to everyone.

While members of our church hold various convictions regarding gender, the teaching of our church supports legislation and policies to protect every person's human dignity and civil rights. (Human Sexuality, p. 19) As Christians we believe every human being is created in God's image, and we must honor and celebrate God's creation. Our church teaches that we affirm transgender and nonbinary siblings are God's children, who are loved unconditionally. Our social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* (2019) also declares that this church commits itself to "advocate for and support laws, policies, and practices that respect diverse bodies rather than discriminating against, objectifying, or devaluing them" (p. 60).

I urge us, as people of faith, to love our neighbors, care for the vulnerable and marginalized, and work for justice and equality. We may have differing opinions on "matters related to sexual orientation and gender identity," (FSJ, p. 61) but we must always uphold the dignity and humanity of everyone. These disagreements do not allow us to accept actions that dehumanize, discriminate against or objectify any individual or group.

We must stand together, dear church, faithfully advocating for the full humanity and dignity of all people. Let us recognize and affirm the humanity of our transgender and nonbinary siblings. Let us advocate for their dignity. Let us continue to be guided by God's love and compassion as we seek justice and equality for everyone.

In Christ,

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

*(This statement was issued on March 20, 2023.)*

COMING EVENT FOR MALAWI

# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Daylily Dig For Malawi, Africa

4 Days this year



**July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> & August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**9:00 am - 1:00 pm all four days**

**You select, we dig.**

Donations all go to  
support our Malawi  
companions



**Sundance Hill Farm**  
**5207 70th St.**  
**Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

Questions? E-mail to [daylilydig@gmail.com](mailto:daylilydig@gmail.com)



## ***Good things just keep happening at FLC!***

NEW and MUCH LIGHTER AND EASIER TO MOVE banquet tables and NEW MATCHING CUSHIONED CHAIRS have been purchased for use in the Education Wing and Luther Hall! 20 tables and 24 chairs were purchased with funds out of the Gladys Hansen Estate. The quilters decided to keep their tables because of their adjustable heights, but most of the heavy old tables and the oldest and most beat-up metal chairs have been sold to interested members.

Moving tables and chairs for the bazaar, funerals, special events, and meals will be so much easier for event organizers, and matching tables and chairs make events look and feel so much better.

In addition to the new tables and chairs, we are soon to have a new coffee bar installed in Luther Hall. This will provide a place to serve Sunday morning coffee and snacks and eliminate the need to bring coffee upstairs from the kitchen. It will be installed outside the Ministry Office in Luther Hall, replacing the coat rack that is currently located there. We will be utilizing a portable coat rack, which will be placed in Luther Hall where the Sunday morning snack table is currently located.

Many thanks to the Table and Coffee Bar Task Forces, who have been busy counting, moving, and selling old tables and chairs during the past two months as well as studying options and making design plans for the new coffee bar.

***FLC appreciates the generosity of the Gladys Hansen family for providing the memorial monies that made these purchases a reality!***

### ***Task Force Members:***

Patrice Akenson	Jay & Carol Frank	Rich Lundequam	Judy Rassbach
Ron & Jan Barrett	Lynn Haugen	Pastor Ron	Lori Wells
Steve & Char Chermack	Jan Kienbaum	Terry & Carolyn Miller	
Fran & Kolleen Felber	Lynn Kolpack	Kristi Pedersen	

## EPIC Awards

We had two confirmation students this year who were recognized for going above and beyond the expectations for our confirmation program. Lilliann Horvath and Eden Kisting received EPIC awards (as well as a treat from DQ) for their commitment and dedication to serving their church family! Well done! We are blessed to have you both!



## Scholarship Recipients:

The Barron Area Clergy Association awarded \$800 scholarships to three First Lutheran Seniors. Congratulations to Ashlynn Harmon, Taylor Johnson and Audra Rick.



*Happy Summer Everyone!*

WELCA held a "Senior Souper" in April, where some of our members who are not always able to get to church, were invited for lunch and fellowship. Family members were gracious in getting many of them to us and lunch was delivered to those who could not make it.



***April 2023 Senior Souper Luncheon***



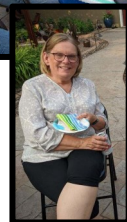
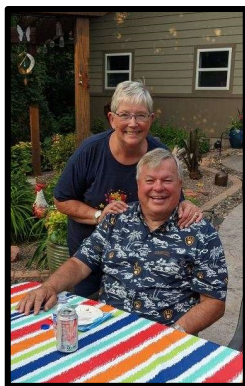


**Easter treats** were provided to Monroe Manor residents, much to their delight.



Several of our ladies attended the **Retreat at Luther Park**, where they enjoyed the awesome speaker and author, Gaye Lindfors.

Keith and Lynn Kolpack hosted a **Bazaar Appreciation picnic** and we thank them for that. It was great!



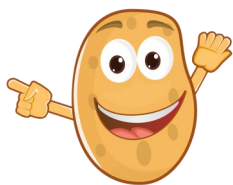
### **Coming Up:**

Watch the bulletins for another Senior Souper this Fall, a baked potato supper, and our Bazaar on November 6th.

All the ladies of First Lutheran are members of WELCA. We welcome your ideas and your participation. Enjoy the rest of your summer.



**WELCA HONORED 2023 GRADUATES WITH A QUILT OF THEIR CHOICE**



**2023 WELCA Baked Potato Supper and Bake Sale**

**Attention all bakers, potential bakers, bakery goods and baked potato eaters!**

**WELCA is planning on having our Baked Potato supper and Bake Sale on Wednesday, September 6. The proceeds will be donated to several non-profit groups.**

**Find your best recipes and plan on making them for our sale. (Last year the bake sale made more money than the potatoes, so your baked goods are really important!)**

**WELCA truly appreciates all the support from our First Lutheran family.**

**Please plan to join us on September 6th!**

# FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH NEWS



Our First Lutheran High School Youth traveled to Nashville in June to serve the community and grow in their faith. We thank our First Lutheran family for supporting them in their fundraising efforts as well as keeping them in their prayers on their journey. Pictured above are: Brennen Hanson, Valeri Scheps, Brady Frandsen and Zoey Frandsen. Back row: Drew Scheps, Cassidy Herrman and Alanna Rosen.



## July 5th Pizza and Pool Party!



Join us  
**August 2nd 4:30-7pm**  
for more Pizza and Pool  
Fun!

**Bring Your Friends!**



## FLC's K-WOW

**Kids and the Word on Wednesdays**

**New Program Year Begins**

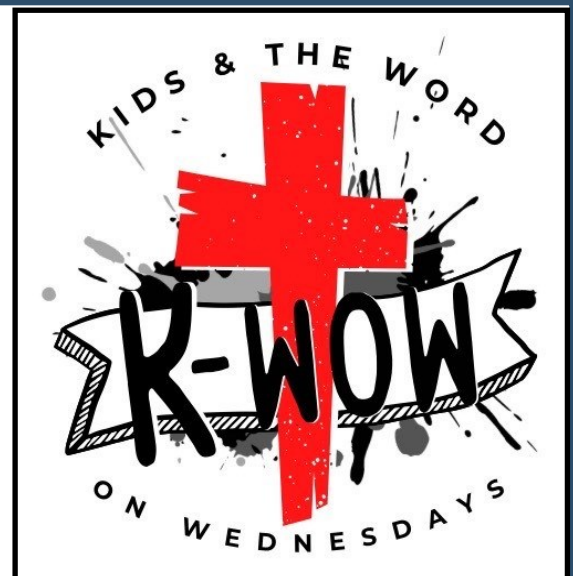
**September 13th!**

We're having fun while learning about God's love  
for all of us!

Kindergarten thru fourth grade kiddos can either be  
transported by parents or ride BASD school buses to FLC,  
and then enjoy a snack and visiting time followed by a few  
minutes of music, a Biblical story, and an activity or craft.

At 4:55 p.m. parents pick up their children and go home or stay for the 5:00 p.m. worship service and  
5:40 p.m. supper. Plan to join K-WOW!

Remember, **K-WOW is for our entire community---not just FLC families!**



# COMING EVENT!



**Something Fun for FLC Kiddos & Friends  
Littles thru 17 Year Olds  
Don't Miss FLC's Summer PIZZA & POOL Party!  
Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
At Barron's Outdoor Pool, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

Church funds will cover the cost of FLC kiddos **AND** their friends---who come **WITH** them to 2023 FLC Pizza and Pool Parties. **Look for Lynn Kolpack when you arrive! Parents are invited to stay; bring a comfy lawn chair; enjoy pizza, munchies, and lemonade; watch their kids swim from the deck of the pool area---with no fee; and visit with Lynn while their kids have fun in the pool. If parents/guardians won't be able to stay for the party, Lynn will need to know parent/guardian names; cell numbers where they may be contacted, if needed, during the party; and the name/s of children being dropped off. At 7:00 p.m. or earlier, when parents are getting ready to take their children home, they are asked to check in with Lynn so she knows who is leaving. Our #1 goal is for kids to have fun on pool party days, but we want them to be safe. Please help Lynn keep your children safe. Thank you!**

Party fun will begin with pizza, munchies, lemonade, chips, and sweet treats---at no cost---enjoyed from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. at picnic tables near the bathhouse. After eating, the fun moves into the pool! **FLC kids and their friends need to tell the lifeguard who's on duty at the front desk, "I'm here with the First Lutheran Pool Party," when they sign-up so their pool admissions will be paid for them. Kids with season swim passes DO NOT need to sign-up on the FLC Pool Party Sheet; they simply sign in with their pass numbers.**

**If parents plan to be in the water with their children and they don't have SEASON POOL PASSES, they will need to pay their own pool admissions of \$7.00.** There is no admission fee for children who are one year old or younger. Parents must stay with/supervise littles/toddlers/preschoolers who join us for parties. Water wings/life jackets are welcome, if needed. If you have questions, contact Lynn.

**If the weather looks threatening on either pool party day, call Lynn at 715-418-0057 AFTER 3:30 p.m. to see if our pool date will be rescheduled.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**FLC FAMILIES & FRIENDS WILL FIND POOL PARTY INFORMATION ON THE FIRST LUTHERAN WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE & INSIDE FLC'S WEST MAIN DOOR VESTIBULE---BY THE CHURCH OFFICE.  
BRING YOUR FRIENDS! SEE YOU AT THE POOL!**

## Confirmation & K-WOW End of Year Games and Picnic



## Confirmation May 3rd, 2023 Public Witness Event



Our Confirmands came together for a meal with family before sharing their Faith Testimonies with family and sponsors at our annual "Public Witness Event".





First Lutheran Church Confirmation  
Class of 2023

***Congratulations to our Confirmands***

May 7, 2023

Braiden Eraquam, Cassidy Herrman, Madison Harrington, Zoey Frandsen, Kaylee Jackson, Brady Frandsen, Emmett Manor, Brennen Hanson, Alexis Halverson, Pastor Ron, Noah Marvin, Aidan Rick





*High School Class of 2023*

Honored May 21st

Annika Moe, Ashlynn Harmon, Taylor Johnson,  
Audra Rick, Jayden Eraquam, Trey Johnson



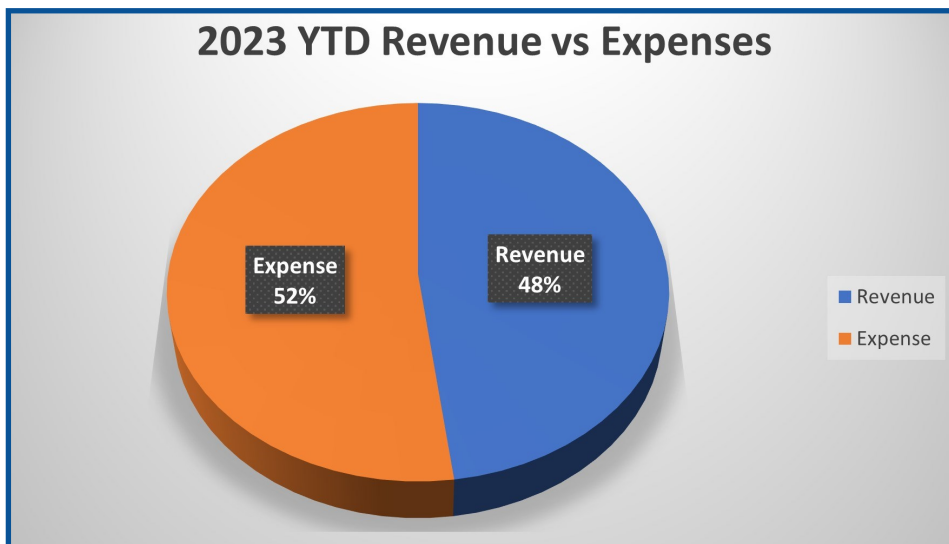
# FINANCIALS

Accounts	Actual Quarter 2	Actual YTD	Annual Budget 2023
<b>Revenues</b>			
General Fund Offerings:			
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 62,251.07	\$ 117,078.68	\$ 252,100.00
Total General Fund Other Offerings	\$ 5,083.69	\$ 9,482.60	\$ 31,450.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 67,334.76</b>	<b>\$ 126,561.28</b>	<b>\$ 283,550.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Total Pastoral Expenses	\$ 26,112.01	\$ 52,373.64	\$ 105,920.00
Total All Other Staff	\$ 14,278.23	\$ 29,892.91	\$ 64,559.00
Total Property Committee Expenses	\$ 9,201.99	\$ 18,006.28	\$ 28,500.00
Total Finance - 5400	\$ 540.07	\$ 12,258.44	\$ 13,277.00
Total Faith Formation Expenses -5500	\$ 1,364.30	\$ 2,821.37	\$ 29,700.00
Total Administration - 5900	\$ 3,398.76	\$ 10,483.94	\$ 12,950.00
Total Council Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 124.45	\$ 1,500.00
Total Outreach Expenses - 5700	\$ 4,375.00	\$ 7,050.00	\$ 14,300.00
Total Personnel Expenses - 5300	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 500.00
Total Member Care Expenses - 5600	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 700.00
Total Worship Expenses	\$ 2,647.55	\$ 4,062.79	\$ 10,650.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 62,632.71</b>	<b>\$ 137,618.54</b>	<b>\$ 284,256.00</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,702.05</b>	<b>\$ (11,057.26)</b>	<b>\$ (706.00)</b>

Explanation for the above chart:

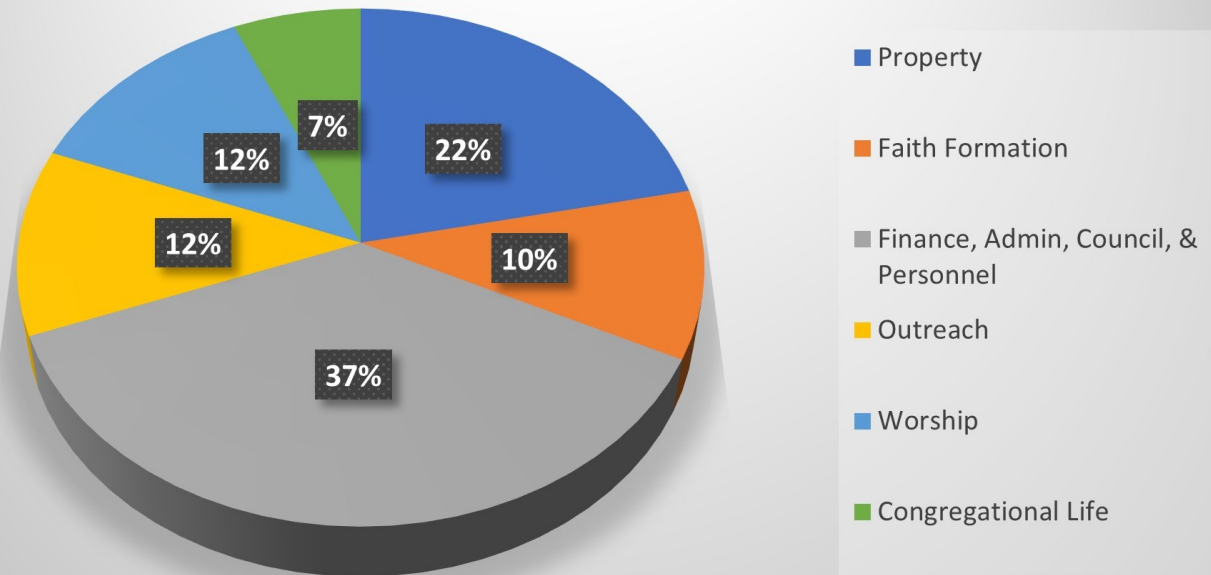
- Column 1 is the actual quarter 2 donations and expenses.
- Column 2 is the year to date donations and expenses.
- Column 3 is the total annual budget.

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



# FINANCIALS

## 2023 YTD Expense Totals



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.

*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, shown above 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.*

### 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—GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

## *For Music Fund/Worship and Music*

\$25.00 In memory of Ilene Monier by Judy Folstad

\$30.00 In memory of Ilene Monier by Barb & John Kirk

## *For Undesignated*

\$10.00 In memory of Kurt Lambert by Wayne & Val Gieseke

\$25.00 In memory of Kurt Lambert by David & Debra Olsen

## *For First Lutheran Cemetery*

\$25.00 In memory of Elliot Wold by Phyllis Johnson

## *For Quilters*

\$25.00 In memory of Lois Schultz by Joanne Miller

## *For WELCA*

\$25.00 In memory of Kurt Lambert by Ruselyn Steffen

## *Thrivent Choice Dollars:*

\$1,825.00 Carolyn Beckwith, Kristine Beckwith, Betty Blihovde, Amy Hanson, Tim Hanson, Steve Haugen, Julie Malone, Curt Marten, Amity Mathews, Ron Mathews, Pamella Mathews, Roger Mathews, John Mayala, Larry McDonald, Lilian Nevin, Donna Severude, Bruce Severude, Tamy Severude, Dallas Sloan, Dean Springer, Darleen Vergin, Carole Edson, Harold Thorson, Reda Thorson



## Thank You

To the Congregation of First Lutheran Church:

The family of Ilene Monier thanks you for all of your kind thoughts, prayers, cards and memorials these past weeks. We celebrate a life well-lived and appreciate all of you.

Ruth & Craig Anderson



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 - 4:00pm**

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

**Visitation Pastor - Tamra Harder** - PastorTamra@firstlutheran-barron.org

**Office Administrator - Patrice Akenson** - Office@firstlutheran-barron.org

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

**Financial Secretary - Shirley Hakari**

**Choir Director - John Krull**

**Cleaner - Sharon Mullikin**

