



WE LOVE FIRST BECAUSE
GOD FIRST LOVED US.

FOCUS AT FIRST

Fall 2021 - Quarter Three Newsletter

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2021

October

24th – Affirmation Sunday

31st – Celebration of over 70 years music ministry by June Edson

November

7th – All Saints Sunday

21st– Consecration Sunday

28th - Advent begins

December

Christmas service 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

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CONGREGATIONAL LIFE—MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



What is the purpose of the church? I posed this question to our students who are preparing to affirm their faith in Christ in a couple weeks. They stared blankly back at me. “What do you mean Pastor?” one of them asked. In typical fashion when other adults are around, I asked the kids if they would like to phone a friend from the kitchen. Their eyes lit up, “Yea, let’s ask grandpa” one student replied. “Let’s ask my mom” another answered. So we did. The adults came from their serving and cleaning positions and joined our discussion. “What does it mean to be church?” I asked them. Our conversation then unfolded as our Confirmands listened to their responses. What they shared I’m confident had a greater impact on them than anything I could have said. The lesson learned around that table was how the church is a community that gathers, supports, cares for, celebrates with, and reaches out to others. The lesson that was untaught is that the church is one of a few places where their involvement is 100% voluntary. No one can force you to go to church. No one can force you to be involved. We discussed how the church is a community with one simple rule: if no one does it, it doesn’t get done and if no one shows up, it doesn’t exist.

Why should you be involved in a church? And, how will you?

These are two other questions our Confirmands are wrestling with. They are now in High School and the demands of school, job, sports, and social calendar are extremely high. The busyness of their schedules shifts this question to: “where does your faith fit in?” This is a good question for all of us to reflect on.



FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED....

A primary way we live out our faith is through the church: worship, Bible Studies, service events, etc. As we are coming out of an 18 month cultural shift caused by Covid, you have probably found that what you use to do no longer speaks to your heart. I want you to know that is okay. Our lives are ever changing and evolving; the pandemic caused what would have been a slow change to happen overnight. As our lives constantly change, sometimes slower than others, how we live into our faith is also constantly changing as well.

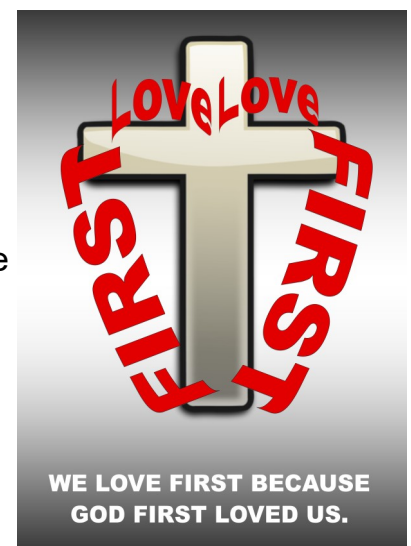
Let me give you a life example. Over thirteen years ago, when we had no children, I was heavily involved with Lutheran Disaster Response. I trained thousands of paraprofessional crisis-care volunteers and worked on-site to coordinate efforts following numerous disasters. Now, I have very little to do with LDR or disaster work. Now, my life is different. Having multiple children, my capacity is different. Where I live has influenced what I do as well. About a year ago, a person walked into my life and said “pastor I need your help to meet a growing need in our community.” Since then I have spent more effort in helping the migrants of our town. Starting this type of ministry work for me wasn’t possible thirteen years ago, or even three years ago. And now, here we are in mission to serve this growing demographic of our town.

How are you living into your faith? How has that changed over the years for you? How do we get (re)plugged into Church? The Church’s work is referred to as ministry; and the simplest description of “ministry” is where passion meets need. When one serves out of their passions, the work they are doing is life giving and draws them closer to others.

The church is not just the things we do. A church is a community of belonging. It is the place where you feel at home.

Where you come to be fed in the laughter of fun events as well as in the tears of support through the hard times. While we continue to seek new ways of being a church as we navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic, what it means for us to be a church has not changed. We continue to seek out ways to **Love Others First, Because God First Loved Us.** This mission would not be possible without the steadfast leadership of the dozens of members of FLC who lead our many ministries as well as the inspiring work of all our members who continue to seek out ways to live out their faith.

Serving With You
Pastor Ron



Coming soon - a place to wiggle while we worship!

The needs of our church continue to evolve and change as we seek out ways to live into our mission to Love Others First. The Worship Committee and Church Council identified one way for us to be intentionally loving toward our families with young children is by making our worship space more welcoming to youth. Little ones love to move around. Unfortunately an hour long service in a pew is not conducive to them.

After discussion, the committee recommended, and the Church Council approved, that we will transform Hope Chapel into a Prayground. This will be an area where young children will be able to participate in worship services in ways that work for them. By providing a space designed for children, we hope to also create a space where parents will be able to worship as well. This is not a cry room nor a nursery/drop-off area. The intent of this space is for families to worship together in ways that work for all ages.

A Prayground is an area many churches are adding to their worship space where kids can (quietly-ish) be kids but still are in worship. This space might include non-messy art supplies, sensory items, age appropriate religious books, puzzles, blocks, etc. The space will be like a scaled down nursery, but within the worship space and the family stays together.

This location was selected by the Worship Committee and Church Council for the following reasons. First, the chapel has not been used as a worship space in several years primarily due to the room being too small for our needs. A Prayground will continue the intent of using this space for a small group to worship, just in a different way. Second, we considered location. Our first thought was to remove one or two pews and create space in the sanctuary. However it was felt that the removal of more pews would be too restrictive on our available seating.

If you would like to join the conversation of Prayground planning, please attend a planning session on Sunday, October 24th, at 6:30pm in Luther Hall. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Amity Mathews or the Worship and Music Committee.

The logo for 'Wiggle' is written in a blue, cursive, handwritten-style font. It is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page, partially overlapping a large, light blue cross graphic that serves as a background for the text.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is in the building! While our group is a bit smaller than it has been in the past, we are excited to be back to meeting in person, continuing to build the relationships that were grown over Zoom last year.

Sunday School is available to children ages 3 through completion of grade 5, with classes taking place Sundays from 10:15-11:15am. We currently have students split into two age groups, which has been working great! Lessons are taught using a curriculum called “Simply Loved,” which walks us through common stories of the Bible, showing us how God ALWAYS loves us and provides for us! Coming up in November, we are looking forward to celebrating our annual Bible Blessing, for children in Kindergarten and Grade 3.

We still have openings to work with our 1st through 5th grade youth as a teacher or sub. The lessons are clearly laid out and easy to follow without much outside preparation. We would love to have more folks join our team, working together as a congregation to fulfill the baptismal promise to support families as they raise up their children in the faith of the church.

YOUTH GROUP

After a hiatus, God’s 3:45 Youth Group has kicked back off, with a whole new look! Our group now meets one Wednesday a month, after school at the same time as the Confirmation program. So far, that change has been very helpful, as it allows students to use school transportation to get to the church! Students enjoy a snack, participate in an hour-long program, and finish by joining the Confirmands for a brief worship service of music and reflection.

In September, the group enjoyed getting to know each other, while reflecting on how our faith helps us keep going during the hardships of life. For October, Youth Group joined the Confirmands for an afternoon of service, partnering with Cupboard & Closet, LWR/WELCA, as doing some baking to bless members of our congregation. Everyone worked hard and had good attitudes, making for a great time together! Looking forward to November, students will dive into their Bible, helping to increase their ease in using this important tool of our faith!

Thanks to all volunteers who help to make this program a success!



FAITH FORMATION

On October 3rd the confirmands attended a confirmation retreat to write and reflect on their faith statements and faith journey, enjoy lunch, and finish the day with a stained glass project.



Thank you Terry & Carolyn Miller and Laretta Peterson for all you do!



Confirmation has been busy with Service projects including putting together Mission kits and treats for senior FLC members.



FAITH FORMATION



Congratulations to Rosealynn April Jean Burke on her baptism on Sept 12th



Congratulations to Miles Eckleman on his baptism on July 17th



Congratulations Aaron and Helene Mickelson! Married August 28th



Congratulations to Kenny and Machalia! Married August 14th



Congratulations to Isabelle and Austin Williams! Married September 25th

WHAT'S GOING ON AT FLC

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. [Psalm 37:4](#)
 Creator God, You've made me in Your image.
 Help me to know and embrace my calling that I might better love and serve You.

Prayer Warriors

Prayers can be requested by stopping at Prayer Warrior display (at the top of the ramp) or email requests at prayerwarriors@firstlutheran-barron.org.



Welcome to John Krull FLC Choir Director!



We are super excited to hear the beautiful sounds of the First Lutheran Choir Again!
 It has been far too long!



The end of summer brought fires and fun...



Thank you to all that helped get the church ready for people again!

JOIN THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY SUNDAYS AT 10AM IN THE CATACOMBS



WORSHIP DINNER FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is welcome!

October 25
 5:00 P.M. worship begins
 dinner and fellowship following

First Lutheran Church
 4 W LaSalle Ave
 Barron, WI 54812



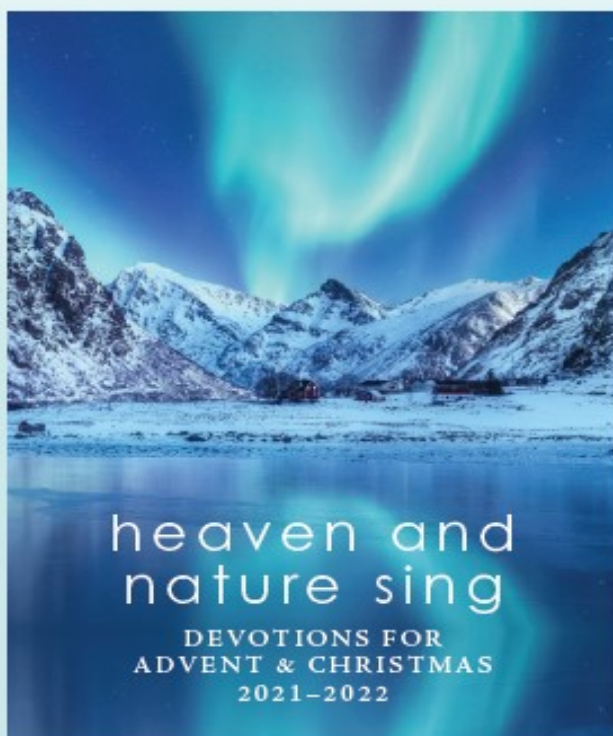
ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28TH

This years Devotional and theme is **“Heaven and Nature Sing”**

Watch for more information in early November.

heaven and nature sing

DEVOTIONS FOR
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
2021-2022



ISBN: 978-1-5064-8056-5

with the news that Elizabeth and Zechariah, despite their old age, will have a son who will prepare people for the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. This is a prelude to the singing that follows from Elizabeth and Zechariah; Jesus' mother, Mary; the prophets Simeon and Anna; and even an angel choir!

This beautiful, full-color Advent devotional highlights readings from the Gospel of Luke with 40 entries, one for each day from the beginning of Advent through Epiphany. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Advent journey.

The story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Luke is filled with song. Luke begins

Happy Fall Ladies!

Thank you all for your donations of time, money and materials for our mission kits. Because of you all 130 quilts, 144 school kits and 599 bandages were sent to Lutheran World Relief on October 9th.

Thanks also to Lisa and Scott Schultz who came with their trailer, loaded all the boxes and took them to Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake to the LWR trucks.

We also have 59 hospice kits and 235 bandages ready to send to Global Health Ministries. We also will be assembling some baby care kits and personal care kits for Global Health Ministries.

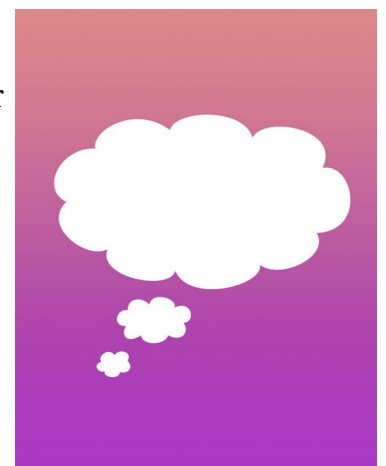


The WELCA Board met Sunday, October 3rd at 10:15. Unfortunately, our Bazaar was cancelled, but we are hoping to have a brunch around Valentine's Day.



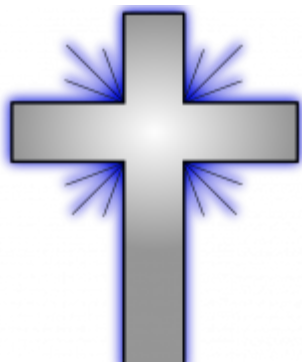
Our next WELCA Board meeting is Sunday, November 7 at 10:15. It would be nice to have two more ladies on our board. If anyone would be interested, contact Jan Kienbaum (715-537-3063 or finetree@charter.net)

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 Youth Furniture

\$1005 by Sharon Nelson

For Undesignated

\$500 In memory of Floyd VanNatta by Betty VanNatta

\$20,000 Given by the estate of Gladys Hansen

\$25.00 In memory of Millie Sevals by Howard & Suzanne Nehring

\$50.00 In memory of Raymond Kolb by Shirley Whiteford

\$25.00 In memory of Verl Verhulst by Steve & Lynn Haugen

\$400 In memory of Donald Johnson by Michelle & Tom Holland



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!

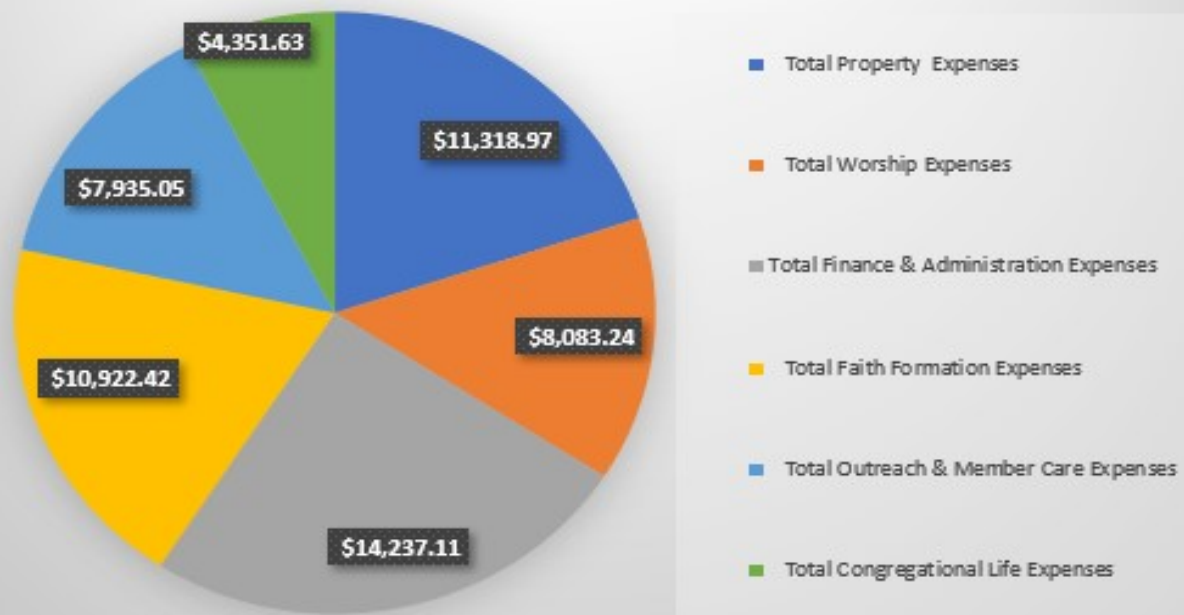
Accounts	Quarter 3 Actual	YTD Actual
Revenues		
Total Designated Fund Offerings	\$ 28,268.80	\$ 44,356.87
Expenses		
Total Designated Fund Expenses	\$ 19,307.23	\$ 29,042.52
Net Total	\$ 8,961.57	\$ 15,314.35

Thank you Roger Jones for the gift of copy paper. It is definitely appreciated as we print limited bulletins once again!



FINANCIALS

First Lutheran Total Expenses July-September 2021



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 3 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget 2021
Revenues			
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 47,715.45	\$ 185,757.07	\$ 225,787.50
Total Revenues	\$ 47,715.45	\$ 185,757.07	\$ 225,787.50
Expenses			
Total Pastoral Expense	\$27,738.16	\$90,773.41	\$ 91,962.37
Total All Other Staff Expense	\$16,318.81	\$46,283.90	\$ 72,053.46
Total Staff Expense	\$ 44,056.97	\$ 137,057.31	\$ 164,015.83
Total Property Committee Expense	\$ 6,826.06	\$ 20,439.92	\$ 27,675.00
Total Worship Expense	\$ 1,442.58	\$ 7,111.85	\$ 6,975.00
Total Personnel Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375.03
Total Council Expense	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,125.00
Total Finance Expense	\$ 2,797.43	\$ 10,581.39	\$ 9,975.06
Total Faith Formation Expense	\$ 1,442.73	\$ 2,556.82	\$ 7,275.15
Total Member Care Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225.00
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 3,758.42	\$ 10,433.42	\$ 10,725.03
Total Congregational Life Expense	\$ 175.00	\$ 231.97	\$ 375.03
Total Administration Expense	\$ 2,556.16	\$ 6,200.86	\$ 8,512.47
Total Expenses	\$ 82,362.58	\$ 223,716.06	\$ 237,253.60
Net Total	\$ (34,647.13)	\$ (37,958.99)	\$ (11,466.10)

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 year to date donations and expenses.
- Column 3 is the year to date annual budget.



BOY SCOUT NEWS

Scouts BSA Troop 6 and Cub Scout Pack 6

Where has the summer gone? Can you believe that it's September already and the kids are back in school? This is a long overdue update on Scouting.

Let me start by saying thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you for donating to our food drive. We were able to take the Scouts to the food pantry where they learned how the pantry helps those in need in our community. Thank you for your continued support of our programs and allowing us to hold our Cub Scout meetings and activities at the Church.

The kids had fun at our annual pinewood derby. We ate pizza at our Blue/Gold banquet. We learned about knife safety and tying knots. We ended the year with a carnival of games that the kids really enjoyed. We also participated in the Memorial Day parade and the ceremony that followed at Wayside Cemetery.

We had a couple of Cub Scouts attend sleep away camp in early July. Later in July, three of our Scouts BSA Scouts (Troop) attended a week of summer camp. Both camps are in Haugen at the L.E. Philips Scout Reservation, a 1500 acre beautiful camp.

At our Blue Hills District dinner, I received a District Award of Merit. It was such an honor (and a surprise). In August, myself and one other leader attended a 3 day, very intense training at Camp Philips. We return to the camp September 11-12th for the second weekend of this training. When we complete all the requirements of this training in the 18-month time frame we will have the distinct honor of receiving our Wood Badge beads.

We have a lot of fun things planned for the upcoming year. We start by having our Join Scouting party at the Pioneer Village Museum on September 15th at 5 pm. The Scouts will again be selling popcorn, the sale of which begins October 2nd. We have plans to visit the fire department and the Rice Lake Regional Airport. Hoping to have a visit with a couple of the K9 officers. We're planning a holiday party in December, Scout Sunday in February, our Blue/Gold Banquet also in February, Pinewood derby in March and a visit with a local dirt track racer. All this fun plus our meetings during which the Scouts work on the badge requirements.



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 staffed limited hours due to COVID-19

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

Office Manager/Bookkeeper - Andrea Cox - Andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org

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

Financial Secretary - Shirley Hakari

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

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

Maintenance—Brett Gevens

