



FOCUS AT FIRST

Winter 2020 - Quarterly Newsletter

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

A New Year—2021

January

Although we don't know what the future brings, please continue to watch the weekly announcements and website for the most up to date information.

February

Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins—February 17

March

April

Maundy Thursday—April 1

Good Friday—April 2

Easter—April 3



Annual Meeting

Watch for more information regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting.



Join Us for Worship - Sunday @ 9am

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

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

Inside this Issue

The new format of the Focus at First will replace much of the annual report. You will see various formats of year end reports from the ministry areas in this edition.

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FROM THE BALCONY

Greetings First Lutheran Friends,

What a year! As my final message I don't need to go into the challenge it's been for us all. I'm reminded of an article written in a Max Lucado book dealing with service.

We are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is part of that body. Romans 12:5



God has enlisted us in his navy and placed us on his ship. **The ship has one purpose – to carry us safely to the other shore.**

This is no cruise ship; it's a battleship. We aren't called to a life of leisure; we are called to a life of service. Each of us has a different task. Some, concerned with those who are drowning, are snatching people from the water. Others are occupied with the enemy, so they man the cannons of prayer and worship. Still others devote themselves to the crew, feeding and training the crew members.

Though different, we are the same. Each can tell of a personal encounter with the captain, for each has received a personal call.

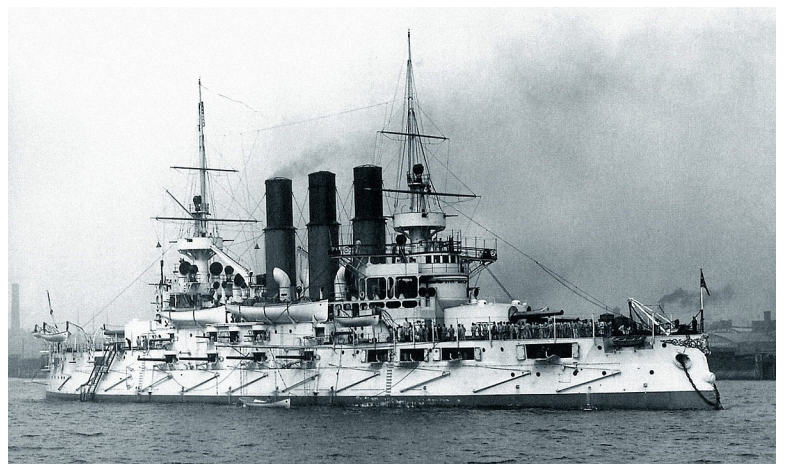
We each followed him across the gangplank of his grace onto the same boat. There is one captain and one destination. Though the battle is fierce, the ship is safe, for our captain is God. The ship will not sink. For that there is no concern.

The church still knows there is a different story about the world than the one you see in the news. A story where God still loves all of us and where that love will win in the end.

Stay strong and live bravely,

Mike Otto

Council President



FROM THE PASTOR

“Since they could not get [their paralyzed friend] to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.” (Mark 2:4)

Crowds! It’s hard to even conceive of the idea. Ball games with the stadiums filled. Concerts where every seat is sold out, and so many people standing on the floor they can’t move. Worship where the church was so full it was standing room only. We read scripture about events like this one where a group of friends had to fight a crowd to get their sick friend to see Jesus that they dug a hole in the roof. We long for those days again where we can gather with others to worship Jesus. The year of 2020, Easter was sparse and Christmas seemed to lack the vibrance of celebration. This was despite all the hard work and effort put forth by the many people who help make it happen. I’ll be honest, I had a blast working to put together the Advent “Friendly Beast” worship series – perhaps the most creative worship series I’ve done yet. But, no matter how well the recording was done, I think we all agree that there is just not a replacement for hearing the entire congregation lifted in song singing praises to our God.

While we lament not gathering for games, concerts or worship services we have seen the wisdom in not gathering for these events. As I write this article, the national daily death rate has hit over 4,000 for the second time, the first occurring just last week. These are numbers worth giving pause. The equivalent of our entire town is removed from existence every single day. We are thankful that the numbers have not been as high here in Barron County as they are in other areas around us, however it is still important that we give due diligence to safety precautions. Our faith calls us to do so out of care for others. Together we will over come this.

This pandemic has shaped a lot of how we do regular living. And I’m not talking about wearing a face mask in public places either. I’m talking about the way we engage life – the way we gather with others, the way we watch television shows, everything has changed. Our world was moving towards a digital age dynamic before COVID-19 happened, 2020 just threw us into it headfirst. For example, FLC has had a live stream service for several years now and in the last couple years had expanded onto Facebook. We went from pre-COVID-19 weekly worship viewership on Facebook of about 58 computers/profiles to 243. Another example is that I have never, until the pandemic, led a Bible study hosted on Facebook or another video source. Since the pandemic I have led several discussions and studies, and almost immediately have seen the benefits of this resource allowing others to engage in these events asynchronously which has greatly increased involvement.

The question then calls: what will happen when we can gather again in person? Of all that has changed in our lives, what will remain and what will go back to “the way it was”? Before the pandemic our streaming service was geared towards an audience who watched what we were doing. Now, they are directly engaged in the service. Before the pandemic the only Bible Studies offered were for those gathered in person and when I led a study there would never be more than 20 people in attendance. Now, each series I have offered we had over 100 people view the study each week. This observation leads me to wonder about the future of God’s Church and specifically about the future of FLC. How is God leading us into the future? What things that have been curated over the past year will remain and what will go “back to that way it was”? How will we grow as a church community?

As we are able to look towards the end of this COVID-19 pandemic these are the questions I, Council, and the ministry committees will be asking. As we shape the ministries of 2021, we as a congregation will be answering – together.

Serving God’s Church With You
Pastor Ron

FAITH FORMATION

Let me ask you something.
If someone prays for
patience,
you think God gives them patience?
Or does he give them the
opportunity to be patient?

If he prayed for
courage,
does God give him courage,
or does he give him opportunities
to be courageous?

If someone prayed for
the family to be **closer,**
do you think God zaps them
with warm fuzzy feelings,
or does he give them
opportunities to

love each other?
*Morgan Freeman
in Evan Almighty*

SPARK Bible. God is still sharing His Word, even when we are away from each other!

In October, our new 6th grade students finally were able to meet a major faith milestone that they had waited so patiently for – First Communion! Ten students and their families joined together in the church building to learn about communion and eat at the Lord’s Table together!

During December, Advent devotion and craft kits were provided to families to use at home, and Sunday School met over Zoom to learn about the four candles of Advent. So many families shared with me that they enjoyed taking the time to make the provided ornament crafts and have meaningful discussion at home. I am encouraged by the many families building time for faith discussion into their busy weeks!

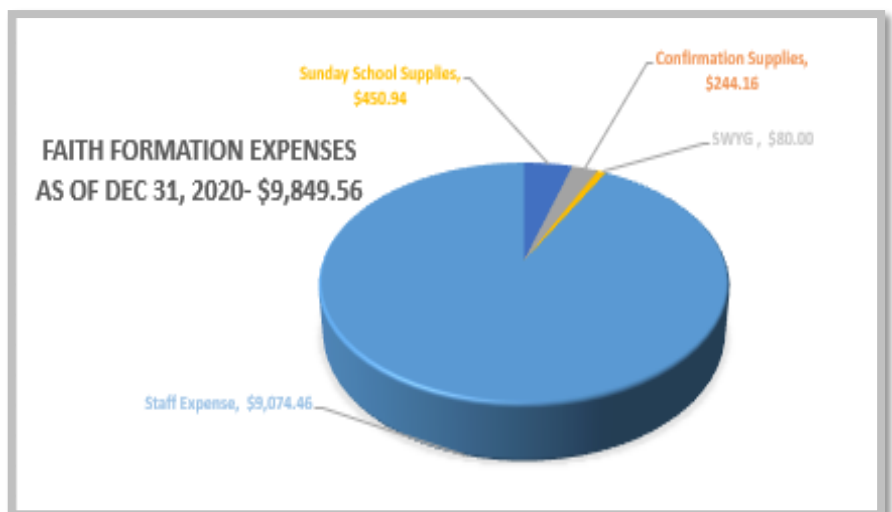
When going through difficult times, the question often comes – what is God trying to teach me through this? From my viewpoint, I would say that God is giving our youth opportunities to learn in faith with their families, build friendships with their Sunday School peers, get into God’s Word, and learn the importance of community. God is still working in Sunday School – even from 6 feet away!

When planning Sunday School for this fall, I created my plans with the hopes that we would be joining back together sooner than later. Many months later, we are still distance-learning. While it would be easy to remain discouraged by this, I am choosing to find joy in the milestones we have celebrated, and the connections that we have been able to creatively maintain!

In September, we celebrated our students’ “Returning to Learning” with a virtual backpack blessing and a gift to remind students that their church loves them. Over 40 kits were prayed over and shared with our families.

Mid-month, we kicked off a congregation-wide learning opportunity based on the Beatitudes. Materials were provided to over 25 families, so that they could grow in their faith together based on the weekly devotions and discussions. Weekly Sunday School was provided using Zoom, and on average we have 5 families joining together each week for discussion and music. The opportunity to learn together and check in with these kids each week has been such a blessing to me, personally. I’m glad we are still able to build relationships as God’s family!

Later that month we celebrated our annual Bible Blessing, and through the wonder of Zoom we were even able to hold our new-Bible classes! We had six kindergarteners receive their SPARK Story Bibles, and ten 3rd grade students receive their traditional



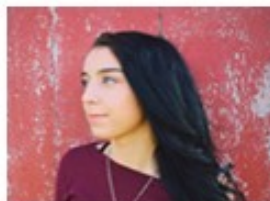
FAITH FORMATION—YOUTH MINISTRY

Affirmation of Faith: Our Confirmation program served 22 youth in the 2019-20 school year, with a group of nine students who chose to affirm their faith in October of 2020. They each spent many hours meeting with their Capstone Mentors who helped them to compose testimonies of their faith. The Faith Testimonies were read for their families and faith community during Affirmation Sunday. This proved to be a memorable and meaningful experience for all involved.



Mission Trips, Etc.: Many of our normal fellowship and service opportunities, including Luther Park Recharge, Godstock and summer mission trips, were canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are looking forward with faith to being able to resume these activities in future years.

2020 High School Graduates: Our class of 2020 high school graduates were recognized and accomplishments celebrated virtually at worship in May.



This past year has presented many challenges for the Health Ministry. As the COVID pandemic impacted our region, in-person visits to local hospitals, homes, nursing homes and assisted living facilities were placed on pause. Since that time, member communication has continued through follow up phone calls, emails, text messages as well as cards/notes. Members who are confined, have expressed appreciation for the continued connection with our First Lutheran family.



The plan in 2021 is to continue with current format, with the hope of resuming in-person visits, pending the pandemic coming under control.

Looking forward to the day we can all be together as a congregation as well!

Stay well, stay safe.

Blessings,

Carol A Matthys

Parish Nurse



Stay strong, because things will get better. It might be stormy now, but it can't rain forever.

TECHNOLOGY



The streaming project at First Lutheran started about 8 years ago. At that time not many churches were streaming their worship services, and no one really had any idea if it would be something that we would find useful. Little did anyone foresee that the streaming technology would be essential as a means to keep First Lutheran members connected and provide a meaningful worship service during a pandemic that has kept people from gathering at the church.

Viewing church services can be done two different ways using various devices such as TVs, computers, tablets and phones. Either from our streaming provider Boxcast which includes our web page, Boxcast TV, Roku, and Fire TV, or by Facebook. It is far more difficult to discern how many people join us each week for worship as there are no “heads” to count in the pews. In order to accommodate individuals and families alike, to assist us with understanding how many people are engaged in our worship services we estimated that there are about 2.5 viewers per device.

Of the views from Boxcast, about 80% of the views are from our web page and the remaining 20% from Boxcast TV, Roku and Fire TV. Due to Boxcast available analytics at this time we are only able to see the previous 4 Sundays which shows an average of about 50 devices per week logged on to watch our worship service. Multiply that times the estimated 2.5 viewers per device makes it so we could conservatively estimate at **least 125 people viewed the service each week** from Boxcast.

On Facebook over the past 27 weeks, not counting special mid-week worship services or Christmas-Eve or Christmas Day, we have on average 243 profiles view worship each week. Multiply 243 by 2.5 viewers watch per profile/device would give us **about 600 viewers on Facebook each week**. For a perspective on how things have changed, prior to the pandemic, we had on average 58 profiles view worship on Facebook each week – that is an increase of 185 more devices viewing worship every week!

Since Facebook gets the same stream as Boxcast, this means that our streaming ministry accounts for **293 devices or about 725 people that view services each week**. Further, WAQE gets audio from our streaming which has significantly improved the quality of the radio broadcast and would account for many more people who hear First Lutheran services.

As you can see from these numbers, our streaming ministry is playing a vital role in the worship ministry of the church and we are fortunate that we had this in place when the pandemic hit.

What we should get from this is that the generosity of the members of First Lutheran has provided the technology to make all this happen. But it is not the technology that is important, it is the message that is delivered by the technology. It is the message from Pastor Ron and all the people who share their talents with music, readings, and other contributions that makes a difference.

Another development in using technology is that in the past, residents at Monroe Manor have also participated in worship services in their theater room. Since residents can no longer meet in large groups at Monroe Manor, they have been missing out on the services. The good news is that a system has been installed as a First Lutheran Church Outreach project to allow residents to view services on the TVs in their rooms. Anything that can be displayed on a computer can be broadcasted throughout most of the building, for example high school events broadcasted on Facebook.

Much of the technology for streaming available today did not exist 8 years ago when we first started. It continues to change rapidly. In the past we have made a minimal investment in audio and video equipment to get a good quality production. It is now time to make some upgrades. With a generous donation that will fund much of the upgrades, we plan to purchase some new and better-quality cameras and improve the lighting in the church. If anyone would like to be involved in the planning and installing of these upgrades, please let Pastor Ron know. To keep up the technology part of the church ministry, it will be essential to tap into the talents of FLC members who can provide fresh ideas, are willing to learn about this technology, and can help maintain and operate the equipment.

WORSHIP

It has been a long time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Since March we have looked to ways we can gather safely, support one another, and continue to be a voice of Hope in the midst of all that is happening around us. We have not gathered in large numbers for worship since March and we deeply miss the fellowship of one another. We long for the days when we will be able to gather as we desire once again.

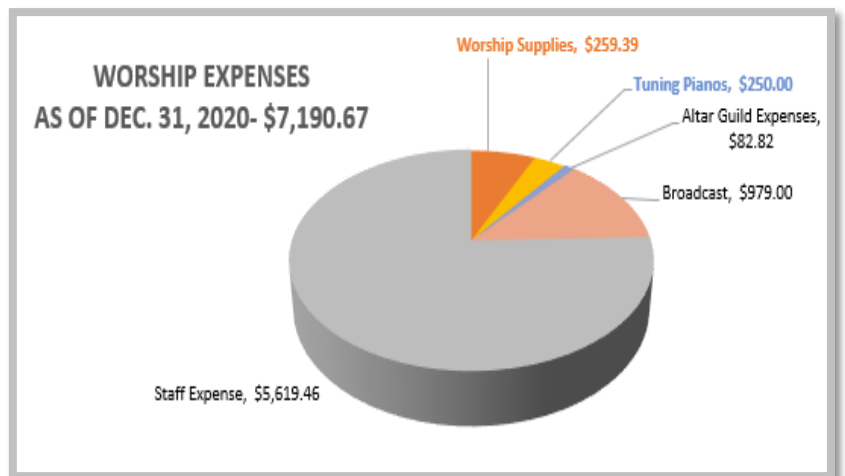
The Congregation Council, Worship Committee, and Pastor Ron met at the beginning of the pandemic and decided that our guiding principles will be first and foremost to put the health and safety of our members first. We also agreed that we will look towards our local, state, and national leaders for guidance on safety precautions. We continue to look towards their guidance in seeking ways we can gather for worship and encourage one another.



Our primary means of gathering for worship and other church events has been primarily done on Facebook and Zoom. We gathered for in person worship service weekly in the church parking lot throughout the summer until beginning of October when it got too cold to continue. We continue to look at creative ways we can gather that will meet the needs of our members and at the same time not be exposed to unnecessary risk.

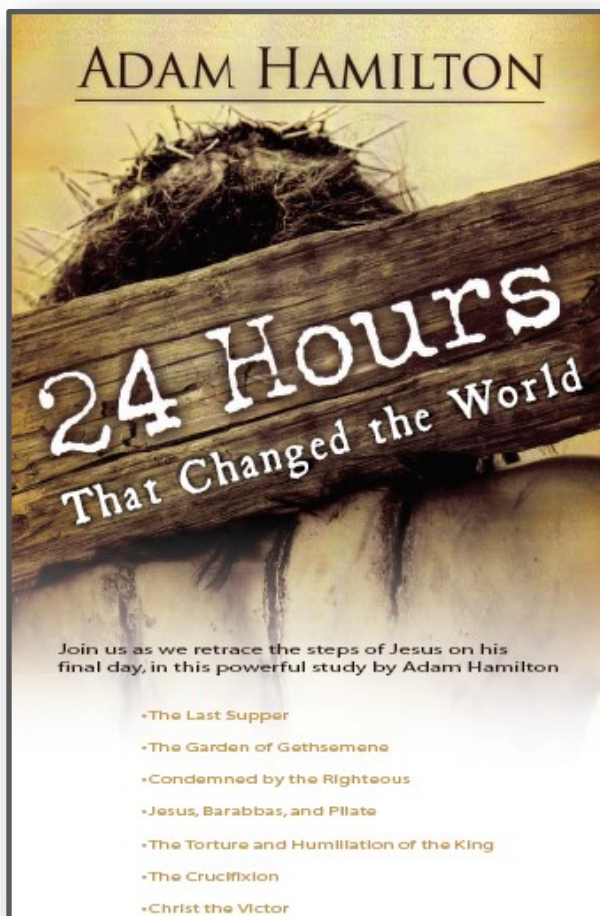
We have a thriving digital worship presence and a solid radio ministry that broadcasts our services every week for those without internet. However, we also recognize that for many of our members who do not have internet church functions are a major part of their social life and human connection. For this reason, we are looking at ways we can have an in-person gathering around worship that will continue to keep the risk of virus exposure to a minimum. We are hoping to announce this worship option in the month of February.

These are trying times for us all. But we are encouraged by the faith which we have in our Lord. Ps 121 begins “I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” Let us continue to hold onto the hope we have in Christ, may He give us the strength we need to sustain us.



24 Hours That Changed the World

By Pastor Adam Hamilton



No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this study, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. Each session is designed to help participants experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way they may never have before, whether they are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion.

Walk with Jesus on his final day.

Sit beside him at the Last Supper.

Pray with him in Gethsemane.

Follow him to the cross.

Desert him. Deny him.

Experience the Resurrection.

Join us this Lenten season for worship and discussion about the last 24 hours of Jesus life.

Sundays at 9:00am worship

Wednesdays at 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer

Thursdays at 6:30pm Bible Study and discussion

Daily devotion videos posted on Facebook

Due to the amount of engagement for this series and to navigate copywrite laws, all Lenten events will be held on a special Facebook Group. You can find this group through our FB Page or the link on our website. All are welcome to join!

If you would like to purchase a copy of the 24 Hours That Change the World, the cost is \$10. Books will be placed in the church entryway first week of February.

OUTREACH

Gift From the Heart Program 2020

We served 141 children from 51 families with gifts of clothes and toys this last Christmas. The families also received bags of new/gently used books for the children and stuffed animals donated from Kohl's through Thrivent. First Lutheran church members also donated stuffed animals for the children. We were able to provide coats, snow pants, hats and mittens and some boots to 30 children this fall and winter.

Food boxes filled with everything needed for a Christmas dinner was organized by Marge Colby and her family and given out to each of the 51 families. Because we had many generous donations this year, we were also able to include coupons from Kwik Trip for milk and eggs and a coupon for Almena Meats. Each family received a bag of household goods that included toothbrushes, toothpaste, a bar of soap, shampoo, and dish soap.

We organized our annual packing and distribution days quite differently this year because of COVID. We had fewer volunteers helping on each of those days and had the families remain in their vehicles while we checked IDs and loaded their cars! It all went very smoothly thanks to the many volunteers from Salem Lutheran Church, St. Joe's Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Four Square Gospel Church and our own First Lutheran Church!

Our committee had many conversations over zoom meetings and emails discussing how to make it work despite the COVID pandemic. We never met in person but everything from printing posters and putting them together, hanging up the posters and sending them out to schools, putting the ads in the paper, printing labels and mailing out letters to organizations and businesses, organizing the lists of families and children, handling the virtual hearts, keeping track of the finances, organizing the bags of books, organizing and packing the gifts from First Lutheran, filling the household bags, putting together the food boxes, calling each of the 51 families, filling the coat and snow pants requests, setting up for packing and distribution days, sending out Thank Yous, to the culmination of loading the family's cars full of such wonderful gifts from the Barron Area communities, was accomplished by these amazing volunteers with smiles on their faces!

All this to give the children and families in the Barron Area School District not just a happier Christmas or warm winter clothing, but to give them hope for tomorrow, joy for today and most of all the knowledge that someone cares!

Bless all of you who so generously gave monetarily, gave of your time and supported this program with your prayers!

Kristi Pedersen—GFTH Chair



Gift from the Heart 2020	
Beginning Balance 1-2-2020	6496.13
Income	
Donations & Memorials	\$ 7,852.37
Interest from checking	\$ 2.29
Total Income	\$ 7,854.66
Expenses	
Supplies (postage, envelopes, etc)	\$ 34.44
Food baskets	\$ 2,300.00
Gifts	\$ 1,984.79
Ads	\$ 162.18
Aldi gift cards	\$ 480.00
Almena Meat/Kwik Trip card	\$ 1,865.00
Total Expense	\$ 6,826.41
Ending Balance	\$ 7,524.38



OUTREACH—CASA



I need Hope

Mission Statement
 CASA of Western Wisconsin serves as the voice for abused and/or neglected children through high quality advocacy delivered by community based volunteers.

Your generosity provides HOPE
 CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate

Every \$1,200 received allows us to train and assign another CASA advocate to a child in desperate need of a safe and loving home and a future filled with hope.

CASA advocates are highly trained and sworn into the court. They spend one hour a week building strong relationships with a child who has typically been removed from their home due to abuse and/or neglect. The CASA gets to know all aspects of their life (education, psychological, medical, etc.) and becomes their voice in court and in life to ensure their child has everything he/she needs to not just survive, but to thrive!

CASA advocates are often the only consistent, reliable adult in the life of a child whose world has been turned upside down due to abuse and/or neglect.

CASA of Western Wisconsin believes that with YOUR partnership, we can break the cycle of abuse and the addiction that so often causes it, to make our community and future generations stronger and healthier...one child at a time! *Thank You!*

\$1,200 SUPPORTS ONE CHILD

Approximately 100 children are currently waiting for a CASA in Barron County

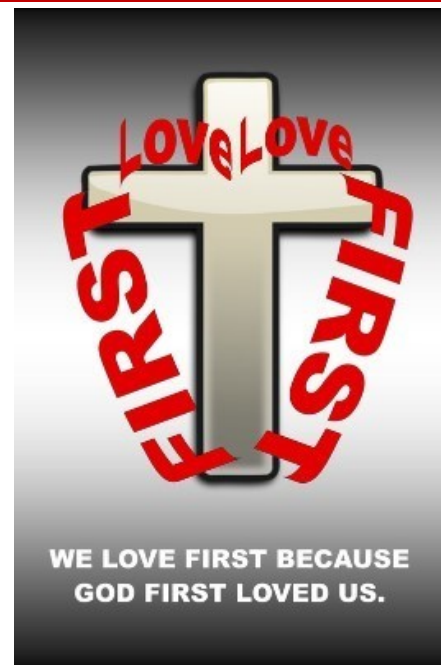
CASA of Western Wisconsin is a non-profit 501C3 Funded 100% on donations

We are fiscally responsible. As the only 5 county CASA in WI, we spend less on payroll - one ED salary split 5 ways - and more on our children!

CASA of Western Wisconsin is part of a nationwide network that began in 1977 by a judge

Your donation supports children in Barron County

BSiverling@CASAWesternWisconsin.org 715 972-4800



Voices For Children



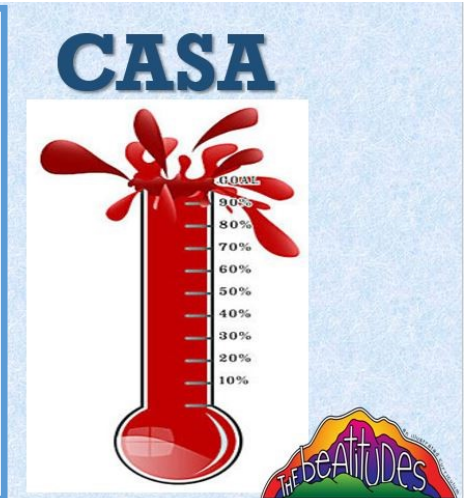
CASA
 Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



Your generosity was AMAZING!!! Our original goal was to raise \$1,200 to sponsor one child. We met that goal within a week so we increased it to two. Together we sponsored five children!

CASA Total
\$6279.19!!

Thank You!!!! Together we have did it!



Scouts BSA Troop 6 and Cub Scout Pack 6

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our Scout Troops and Cub Scout Pack. We have experienced a very trying year due to CoVid, but are sticking together and making it through.

Our Girls Troop has grown to three Scouts. Linsey Balts, our 7th grader, was able to participate in two merit badge clinics and summer camp this past year. She moved up in rank by earning her Tenderfoot. She also earned the Aviation, Genealogy, Climbing, and Photography merit badges. Our other two girls, both 6th graders, joined us this past fall and haven't had an opportunity to earn any badges as of yet.

Our Boys Troop is struggling for Scouts, however, we are proud to announce that Grant Stabenow, a high school senior, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouts BSA.

So far on the Troop's 2021 calendar of activities we have a merit badge clinic in February, a merit badge clinic in March, winter camp at the end of March, and a week of summer camp in July.

Our Cub Scout Pack has had a busy fall as well. We made pudgy pies in October, visited the Barron/Maple Grove Fire Department in November and learned how to put up a tent in December. Along with several den meetings in between where the Scouts learn life long skills.

The Pack also has a couple of really busy months coming up. A taxidermy demonstration, and Scout Council activity in January. The Blue/Gold Banquet and hopefully Scout Sunday in February. In March we will be holding our Pinewood Derby with a few Scouts attending the District Race at the end of March.

Financial Report for Troop 6

Checking

Beginning Balance 01-01-2020	\$2,964.62
Dividends for the year	\$ 3.73
Deposits	\$ 60.00
Ending Balance 11-30-2020	\$3,028.35

Savings

Beginning Balance 01-01-2020	\$ 612.02
Dividends for the year	\$ 1.74
Ending Balance 11-30-2020	\$ 613.76



Scouts BSA Troop 6 and Cub Scout Pack 6



More
Information



**Interested in learning
more about the Boy
Scouts?**

**Email Lori Balts:
baltslori@gmail.com**



PROPERTY

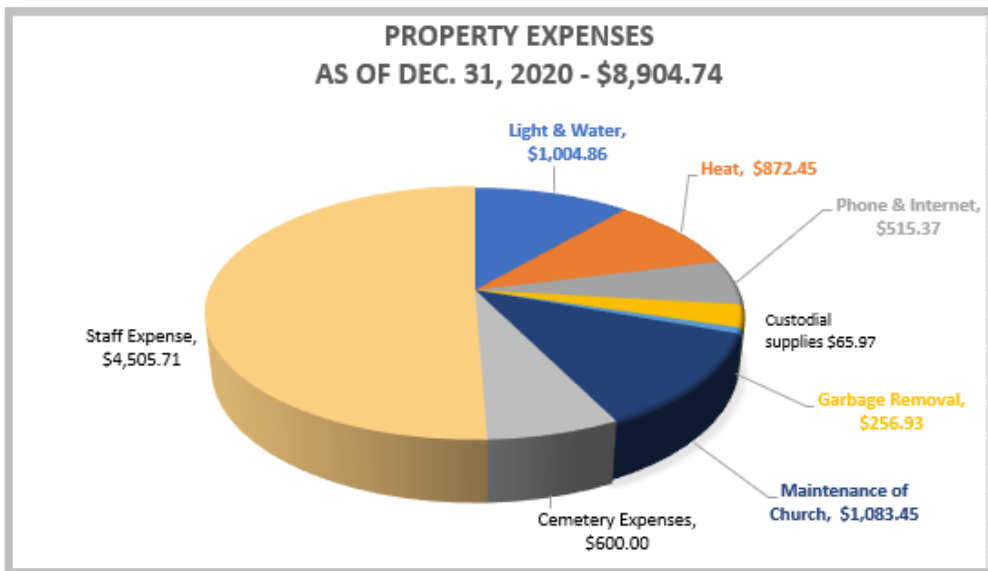


As we wrap up 2020, we continue to recollect that this is God's Church and God's Mission. We continue to discuss the main focus areas of this congregation:

- Improve main entrance
- Improvement to existing bathrooms/addition of new bathrooms
- Creation of a youth space
- Creation of greater fellowship space
- Improved energy efficiency

Has COVID changed the way we look at the future? This is one of the many questions we continue to ask ourselves, but what we do know is that We Love Because God First Loved Us.

Continue to watch for more information from the Facilities and Future Committee.



A big thank you to Brett Gevens and others that volunteer to help with snow removal and other upkeep around the church!

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

For Gift from the Heart

- \$25.00 In memory of Mary Ferguson by Roger and Donna Jones
\$75.00 In memory of Pam Oman by Jay and Carol Frank
\$25.00 In memory of Dave Cusick by Mark and Kristi Pedersen
\$250.00 In memory of Cheryl Johnson by Brooks Group



For Music

- \$50.00 In memory of Pam Oman by Wendell and Mary McDonough

For Undesignated

In memory of Pam Oman

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$30.00 by Carl and Barb Wehman | \$50.00 by Sandra Peterson | \$25.00 by Roger Jones |
| \$20.00 by Lee and Kay Zabka | \$50.00 by Jerry and Billie Jerome | \$20.00 by Rod and Linda Wieneri |
| \$100.00 by Steve and Lynn Haugen | \$225.00 by Waller, Volkman, & Zwart | \$25.00 by Terry and Carolyn Miller |
| \$25.00 by James and Bev Wichart | \$20.00 by Mike and Kathy Weghorn | \$100.00 by Terry Jergenson |

In memory of Gladys Hansen

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| \$5.00 by Annette Mason and Judy Keilholtz | \$10.00 by Darlene McGiffin | \$20.00 by Darlene Carr |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|

In memory of Judy Amundson

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| \$10.00 by Evelyn Peterson | \$25.00 by Jeff Amundson |
| \$50.00 by Jerry and Billie Jerome | \$20.00 by Rod and Linda Wieneri |
| \$200.00 In memory of Mary Ferguson by Brent and Sarah Ferguson | |

For Live streaming and Radio Ministry

- \$170.00 In memory of Bob & Pam Oman and Marv & Judy Amundson by Keith & Lynn Kolpack
\$200.00 In memory of Joe and Clarice Fall by Marcia Fall and Kathy Jo Egans

In memory of Gladys Hansen

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| \$20.00 by James and Jean Wick | \$10.00 by Jay and Carol Frank | \$20.00 by Gary and Carol Matthys |
| \$20.00 by Barb Landstrom and Mark Erickson | \$25.00 by Roger & Donna Jones | \$50.00 by Monroe Manor |

For WELCA

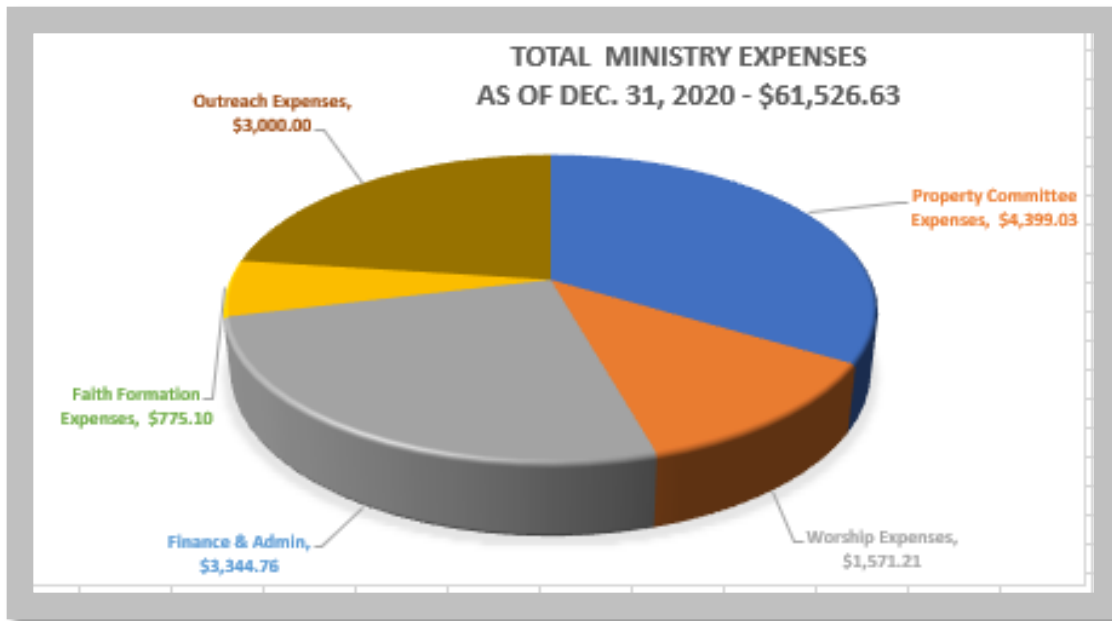
- \$300.00 In memory of June Hilson by Dave and Linda Martinson
\$20.00 In memory of Gladys Hansen by DeAnn Anderson and Cary and Michael

CASA

- \$25.00 In memory of Judy Amundson by Roger Jones
\$50.00 In memory of Pam Oman by Mark and Kristi Pedersen

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!

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 programing 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

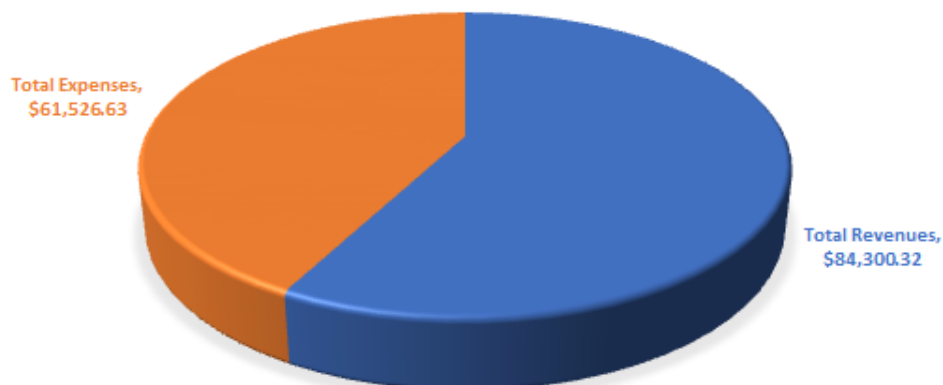
Accounts	Actual - Quarter 4	Budget - Quarter 4	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Revenues				
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 83,773.88	\$ 94,673.91	\$ 290,223.34	\$ 309,600.00
Total Non-General Fund Offerings	\$ 526.44	\$ 499.97	\$ 2,105.99	\$ 2,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 84,300.32	\$ 95,173.88	\$ 292,329.33	\$ 311,600.00
Expenses				
Total Pastoral Expense	\$ 29,396.20	\$ 29,193.04	\$ 115,632.89	\$ 117,771.77
Total All Other Staff Expense	\$ 19,040.33	\$ 25,755.16	\$ 84,644.45	\$ 102,521.00
Total Staff Expense	\$ 48,436.53	\$ 54,948.20	\$ 200,277.34	\$ 220,292.77
Total Property Committee Expense	\$ 4,399.03	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 25,263.59	\$ 34,800.00
Total Worship Expense	\$ 1,571.21	\$ 1,762.50	\$ 6,903.58	\$ 7,050.00
Total Personnel Expense	\$ -	\$ 124.97	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Total Council Expense	\$ -	\$ 375.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,500.00
Total Finance Expense	\$ 1,161.40	\$ 3,502.53	\$ 13,135.11	\$ 14,710.00
Total Faith Formation Expense	\$ 775.10	\$ 2,360.00	\$ 4,393.19	\$ 10,100.00
Total Member Care Expense	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 44.30	\$ 300.00
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,124.97	\$ 13,800.00	\$ 14,300.00
Total Congregational Life Expense	\$ -	\$ 49.97	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Total Administration Expense	\$ 2,183.36	\$ 2,627.53	\$ 10,648.26	\$ 10,510.00
Total Expenses	\$ 61,526.63	\$ 77,650.67	\$ 274,765.37	\$ 314,462.77
Net Total	\$ 22,773.69	\$ 17,523.21	\$ 17,563.96	\$ (2,862.77)

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 year to date 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.

TOTAL REVENUE VS TOTAL EXPENSES



FIRST LUTHERAN NEWS

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICAL REPORT 2020

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership, December 31, 2019:	1182	687
<u>Membership received during 2020:</u>		
By baptism (children 15 yrs. & under)	2	0
Baptized youth who were confirmed	9	9
By transfer from other churches	0	0
Total members received in 2020	11	9
<u>Members removed during 2020</u>		
By death	19	19
By release (transfer)	1	1
Total members removed in 2020	20	20
Membership as of December 31, 2020	1163	667

BAPTISMS

Reed Cerney Mayzie Burdick

CONFIRMATIONS

Ethan Amundson	Abigail Coss	Ashlee Jilek
Jacob Becker	Hailee Halverson	Emma Thomspson
Ema Church	Rayna Hauck	Weston Verhulst

0 MARRIAGES OFFICIATED BY PASTORS IN 2020

FUNERALS OFFICIATED BY PASTORS IN 2020

Cheryl Johnson	Gladys Hansen	Joe Fall
Marv Amundson	LaVern Strop	Craig Haag
Bruce Harmon		



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

