



WE LOVE FIRST BECAUSE
GOD FIRST LOVED US.

FOCUS AT FIRST

Winter 2022 - Quarter Four Newsletter

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2023

January

- 22—Facilities & Future Listening Session
- 23—Afternoon Singalong
- 26—Facilities & Future Zoom Listening Session

February

- 5--8:45 Hymn Sing
- 12—Annual Meeting
- 22—Ash Wednesday 6:15 Worship
- 27—Afternoon Singalong

March

- 5--8:45 Hymn Sing
- 18--BSA Pack 6 Pinewood Derby
- 27--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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PASTOR RON'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2023! A New Year, a New You, but the Same Jesus.

As we continue to live out of the impacts of the Covid Pandemic we must first ask how we, as First Lutheran Church, plan to change and grow into the new year. Weird, I know, but as we start this new year, we need to first consider how we want to change and then make a plan for it.

Some changes happen without our desires, some changes happen if we want them to or not. Covid pandemic and its effects on the way we live is a good example of this. Another is to note that we are living into a new year no matter how much we may want to deny it. So what will this new year bring? How is it going to shape you with new experiences?

If you continue to do the same things you did last year, you are going to continue to get the same results. If you truly want a new you this new year what is going to change to make that happen? These are the questions we have been asking the past several months here at FLC. We started our reflection with Council and that led to conversation and surveys with congregation. Our latest survey was looking at identifying and naming our core values. Here are the results from that survey.

Keeping in mind that all the other values listed are important to who we are, but this list are the ones the majority felt were the most important. According to the poll we took of our congregation, our top five Core Values are:

- 1) Caring for one another
- 2) Worship
- 3) Children
- 4) Scripture
- 5) Prayer

To help us be intentional in developing a mission plan for the new year, we are taking these Core Values and reflecting on them at the committee levels to help us identify ways we need to shape our ministries to better align our values and mission. For example: how do we [Love Others First] by [Caring for one another]? How do we [Love Others First] by [worship].

As you can see values are in themselves not actionable. We need a plan to do that. So here is the plan. In the coming months every committee is going to identify and reflect on the ministries they do. Do they line up with our top Core Values? In this process each committee is then going to

PASTOR RON'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

create short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals to help guide how we are developing our ministries toward desired outcomes.

We are church together, gathered together around our common mission to Love Others First. How are we going to live out this mission in 2023? *Together.*

Church is a community where we gather together to encourage one another and support one another. Jesus is the same this year as last year. The Gospel promise has not changed. God's love for you is immutable. But how we experience God's love and how we serve the Kingdom is changing.

What will the new year bring?

Change. For that is certain. Some of the changes we have no control over. Others are going to happen to us if we want them to or not, but we have the opportunity to influence how we are going to be changed. But, through it all one thing is certain. We will experience it and navigate the coming changes of 2023 together.

Loving Others First, Because God First Loved Us.

Together,

Pastor Ron



Happy Birthday!

We helped
Pastor Ron
celebrate his
40th birthday
in December!



FIRST LUTHERAN—FACILITIES & FUTURE

Facilities and Future Listening Sessions

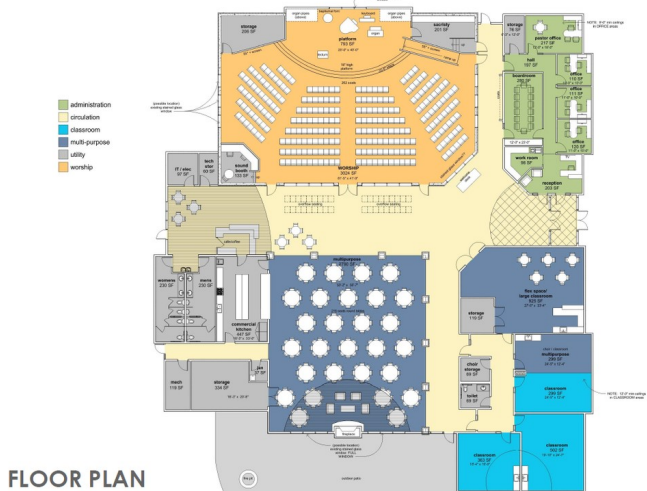
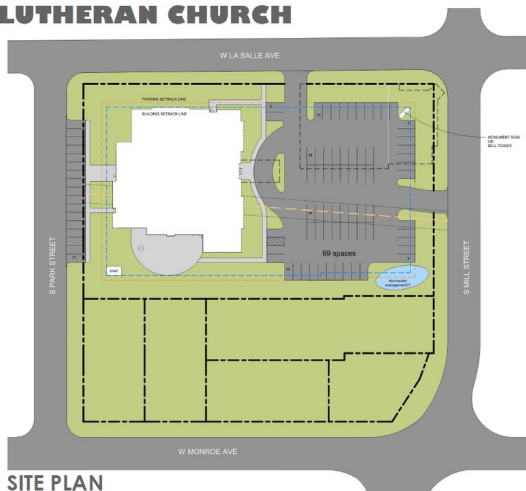
Plan to attend a listening session to learn more about our proposed building project. These sessions are designed for members to express questions and ideas about our proposed project. Please plan to attend one of the sessions listed below:

Sunday, January 22nd after worship
Thursday, January 26th 6:00pm on Zoom
(link will be posted closer to date)



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



OUTREACH FOR MALAWI

Thanking God for His Grace!

With gratitude and love, I thank each and every one of you here at First Lutheran Church-Barron who so generously supported outreach to women and girls in Malawi during the year. Beyond all my dreams, 2022 was a monumental year with your gifts to empower the poorest of the poor girls and women in our world. Thanking God for His grace as your gifts of \$4,100.00 are put to use for the better good in Malawi.

The three educated young women in Malawi, who have taken their education to a higher level, have put their hearts and souls into assisting struggling women who could change their lives if given the opportunity. But the challenges are beyond our imagination. Malawi has been short of medication for the different strains of Covid and cholera.

As of this date, they are using funds to assist the people who need support at the point of death or life suffering from cholera. Unsanitary water supply and unhealthy food preparation has led to this cholera epidemic. With so many challenges, we open our hearts to God's calling on our journey to first support the greatest needs.

As we at FLC join hearts to work with love and understanding for the better good of girls and women in Malawi, let's remember God love is great!

God bless each of you!

Ann Knutson



FIRST LUTHERAN NEWS

Afternoon Singalong Upcoming Dates

January 23, 2023

February 27, 2023

March 27, 2023

Fourth Monday of the Month.

1:30 Monroe Manor

2:30 Dove



944 24 1/4 Street
Chetek WI 54728
715-859-2215

Now Hiring

Luther Park is hiring staff for this upcoming camping year! The application portal for staff is now open on the Luther Park website at <http://lutherpark.org/>



New Member:

Hi First Lutheran!

First Lutheran is where I grew up in the church-fifth row, left side in the sanctuary was our family pew.

Lucy, Willa (my two bulldogs) and I recently moved from Menomonie to be closer to family.

I must say it feels good to be back and thank you for making me feel so welcomed.

Prudy (Kirk) Shay

Barron Cub Scout Pack 6/Scouts BSA Troop 6

Happy New Year from Cub Scout Pack 6 and Scouts BSA Troop 6

We hope everyone had a good Holiday Season. We have been having a lot of fun in Scouts. In addition to our den meetings, we have had some awesome Pack meetings.

In October we toured the Cumberland Municipal Airport. We got to talk with the gentleman who is the airport mechanic. We learned that not only does he work on airplanes here, he also travels the world to work on them. We got to see all the equipment that is used to clean the snow off of the runways. We saw the hangar that holds the airplanes that are for rent and are stored on a giant turntable. The four gentlemen who gave us the tour are all pilots.

In November, Blaine Sinclair gave a talk on taxidermy. He showed us some of the mounts that he is currently working on, and some that he had already finished.

In December we had our first cake bake. This was a night where the Scouts brought in a cake that they made and decorated at home with their family. Our categories were Scout Theme, Christmas Theme and a Creative Theme. The Scouts and parents did the judging and the winners were given a small award. The Scout that won Most Creative, put on a little skit revolving around his cake shaped like a deer. It was great seeing their imaginations at work. Afterwards, we all enjoyed cake and the Scouts were sent home with Snowman Soup.

Also in December, we met at the Barron/Maple Grove Fire Department where Assistant Fire Chief, Ben Cole, talked with the Scouts about the importance of working smoke detectors and escape plans and meeting places. We also got to see the different trucks and learn what they are used for.

In January we will be celebrating an awesome popcorn season by having a pizza party. For all of our Pack meetings the Troop joins the Cubs so everyone can enjoy the fun. Thank you for your continued support of our Scouts



Prepared. For Life.®

GIFT FROM THE HEART

Gift From the Heart

We served a total of 214 children from 78 families with gifts of clothes and toys and/or coats and snow pants, boots and hats and mittens this last year.

The families that received gifts for their children for Christmas also received a food box filled with everything needed for a Christmas dinner. This was organized by Marge Colby and her team. Also included in the boxes were coupons for milk and eggs from Kwik Trip. Each of these families received a bag of household goods that included toothbrushes, toothpaste, a bar of soap, shampoo, and dish soap. These families also received a bag of new/gently used books appropriate for their children. These books were organized by the volunteers from the Methodist Church. The Cupboard and Closet donated many of the books that were given! This year the National Honor Society at the high school had a book drive to help fill these bags! That was a truly wonderful gift!

We organized our annual packing and distribution days like we had done the last couple of years. 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 St. Joe's Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Four Square Gospel Church, Salem Lutheran Church and our own First Lutheran Church!

Our committee had many conversations via email and in person to organize the year's program! Everything from printing posters and putting them together, hanging up the posters, putting the ads in the paper, printing labels and mailing out letters to organizations and businesses, organizing the lists of families and children, keeping track of the finances, organizing the bags of books, organizing and packing the gifts from First Lutheran, putting together the food boxes, calling the 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 or gave with your time and your prayers to this program!

Kristi Pedersen
GFTH Chair



Community Outreach Committee Annual Report 2022

Last February confirmation students helped with fleece blankets for our Community Outreach program. We were able to complete 11 fleece blankets that afternoon with several more blankets finished at a later date.

We had a Fleece Drive in May to make more blankets for the newcomers to our area. With the money and fleece that was donated, on Sunday, June 26th we held an after church “Fleece Tying Extravaganza”! We had a wonderful turnout of people! There were treats and coffee for everyone and we had people of all ages cutting fleece, tying fleece and making tags for the blankets. It was a great time of fellowship and doing God’s work! We were able to finish about 25 more blankets! At this point we still have money in our Fleece Fund and will plan another Fleece Blanket Tying day this winter.

When we deliver the blankets to the families, we include a coupon donated from the Cupboard and Closet that can be used to purchase clothing. Also included is information about our church services and K-WOW program! If there are children, we also include games or toys and if needed, coats are included as well. All of this is packed in a large reusable tote bag that the families can keep. There have been at least 5 families, one couple and one single person that have benefited from this program.

As a committee we have discussed how to continue to fund this program. We reached out to Kiwanis and they agreed to help us for the 2023 year with a donation of \$500. It has been put into a separate fund titled “Kiwanis New Barron Families”. It is a restricted fund and can be used only for welcoming new families to the communities of the Barron Area School District. The money can be used to purchase items such as: blankets, coats and other winter clothing, toys and games. This fund is not to be used for people/families who come with the intention of moving to another school district. A report has been made to the Kiwanis at their first meeting in January detailing the program. At this point we are still in need of a source of funding for families/people new to the U.S. and Wisconsin who will not be living in the Barron School District.

The Outreach Committee had a vehicle at the city’s Trunk or Treat day. We were in the Woodland Elementary School parking lot and were visited by about 200 children! First Lutheran gave out a treat bag filled with candy and information about our church services and the K-WOW program! It was a beautiful day and a great time!

We hope to have another worship service and potluck meal for the Filipino families in the area. We will be contacting Pastor Rom from the cities to help with the service. We look forward to welcoming them into our church again and worshipping with them and sharing a meal.

Kristi Pedersen

Outreach committee chairman





Luther Park Recharge

January 6-7, 2023

Front Row: Avery Mathews, Axton Rick, Rankin Mathews, Eden Kisting, Izzy Felber, Lilli Horvath.

Back: Pastor Ron, Dani Felber



*Kids and the Word on Wednesdays
Christmas Program*



Thank you to
Director Lynn Kolpack,
Susan Babler,
Bea Lundequam,
Rayann Tallman and
Mateo Halverson for
leading our
K-WOW Youth!

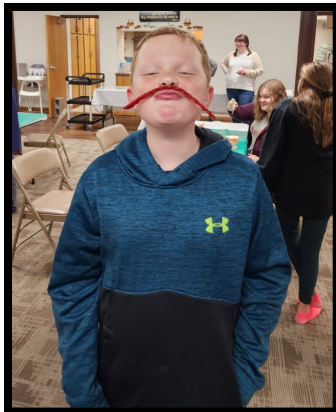


Wedding:

Congratulations to
Alyssa Johnson and Mitchell Fornell
who were united in marriage October 22, 2022.



Confirmation Christmas Party
Nativity Scene Contest



FAITH FORMATION



W/ELCA Bazaar

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Thanks to everyone at First Lutheran who helped and/or contributed items to sell at our Bazaar on November 5th. It was a huge success!!! It would not have been without all of your hands.





W/ELCA had a **Christmas Tea** at Monroe Manor for the residents. Christmas carols were sung and Jan Kienbaum shared a picture book called, Three Tall Trees, and poem called, "God Got a Dog" by Cynthia Rylant. Refreshments of coffee, lemonade, cheese, crackers and Oreo Cookies were served. At the conclusion of the Tea all residents were given soft fluffy lap blankets that the Quilters had made.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the tea, the purchasing of the material and the making of the 60 lap blankets.

Last of all Happy New Year to everyone!

Jan Kienbaum, W/ELCA President



Bible People

We are a Biblical people. Because we are also Lutheran, we would say something fancy like *Sola Scriptura*, which means “scripture alone” – one of the five “solas” we hold (faith, grace, Christ, and to God’s Glory are the other four in case you were curious). What does it mean to say we are Biblical people? It means we see scripture as a living testament of faith. We see the people, the events, and God’s work happening in scripture. We also see their story as our story. We see how God was at work thousands of years ago and how God continues to be at work today through us.



This Lenten season, at our midweek Holden Evening Prayer worship services, we will encounter a Biblical figure and hear their faith story in monologue style about their encounter with Jesus and how their lives were changed because of it. Because their story is our story, there will be aspects that are very similar to our lives and our encounters with God. Hearing their stories told from a first person perspective, you will be inspired to see God in a new way at work in your own life. (Bible People: Monologues for Lent by Steve Dornbusch is published by Augsburg Fortress, used with permission copyright 2007.)

Holden Evening Worship services will be held on **Wednesdays at 6:15pm beginning February 22nd**. Join Pastor Ron for reflection and deeper discussion based on each week’s monologue **Thursdays at 6:30pm, beginning February 23rd**.



**Practice Wednesdays
@ 6:30**

Come early for meal
served 5:40-6:15

All Are Welcome!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

“From Worry to Wonder”

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:11-14

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God is doing and promises to do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,

REV. LAURIE SKOW-ANDERSON

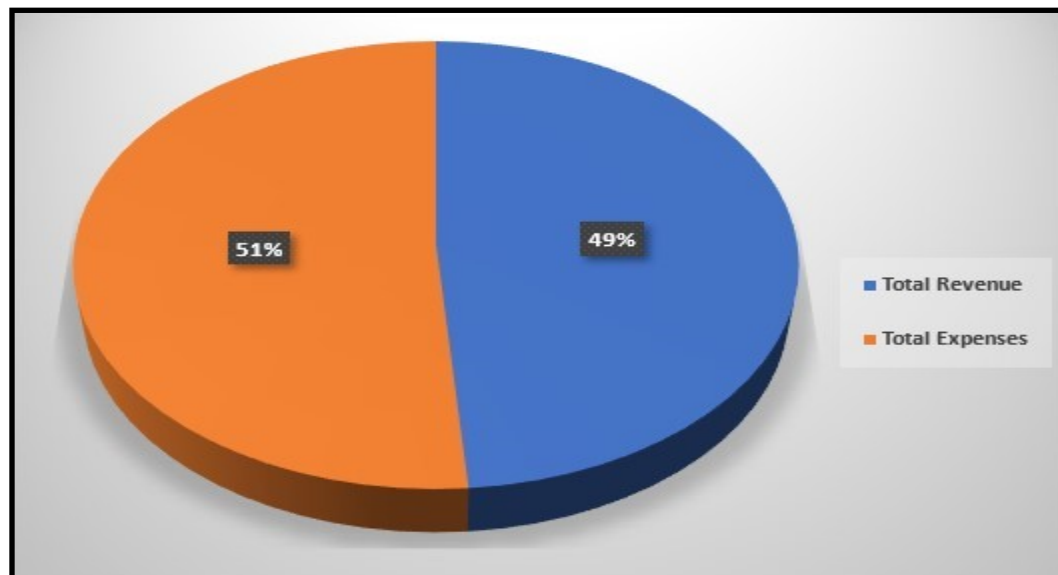
FINANCIALS

Accounts	Quarter 4 Actual	YTD Actual	Annual Budget 2022
Revenues			
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 60,909.45	\$ 219,095.14	\$ 280,000.00
Total General Fund Other Offerings	\$ 3,376.67	\$ 14,306.55	\$ 14,650.00
Total Revenues	\$ 64,286.12	\$ 233,401.69	\$ 294,650.00
Expenses			
Total Pastoral Expenses	\$ 25,767.58	\$ 100,222.48	\$ 102,472.00
Total All Other Staff	\$ 14,932.64	\$ 66,209.08	\$ 89,324.00
Total Staff	\$ 40,700.22	\$ 166,431.56	\$ 191,796.00
Total Property Committee Expenses	\$ 9,237.59	\$ 30,608.01	\$ 38,900.00
Total Finance	\$ 590.38	\$ 11,739.41	\$ 13,600.00
Total Faith Formation Expenses	\$ 1,364.61	\$ 4,330.36	\$ 9,700.00
Total Administration	\$ 2,972.18	\$ 10,352.61	\$ 13,150.00
Total Council Expenses	\$ -	\$ 130.01	\$ 1,500.00
Total Congregational Life	\$ -	\$ 254.37	\$ -
Total Outreach Expenses	\$ 3,276.09	\$ 12,951.09	\$ 4,300.00
Total Personnel Expenses	\$ -	\$ 114.00	\$ 500.00
Total Member Care Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700.00
Total Worship Expenses	\$ 2,966.80	\$ 8,936.75	\$ 10,950.00
Total Expenses	\$ 61,107.87	\$ 245,848.17	\$ 295,096.00
Net Total	\$ 3,178.25	\$ (12,446.48)	\$ (446.00)

Explanation for the above chart:

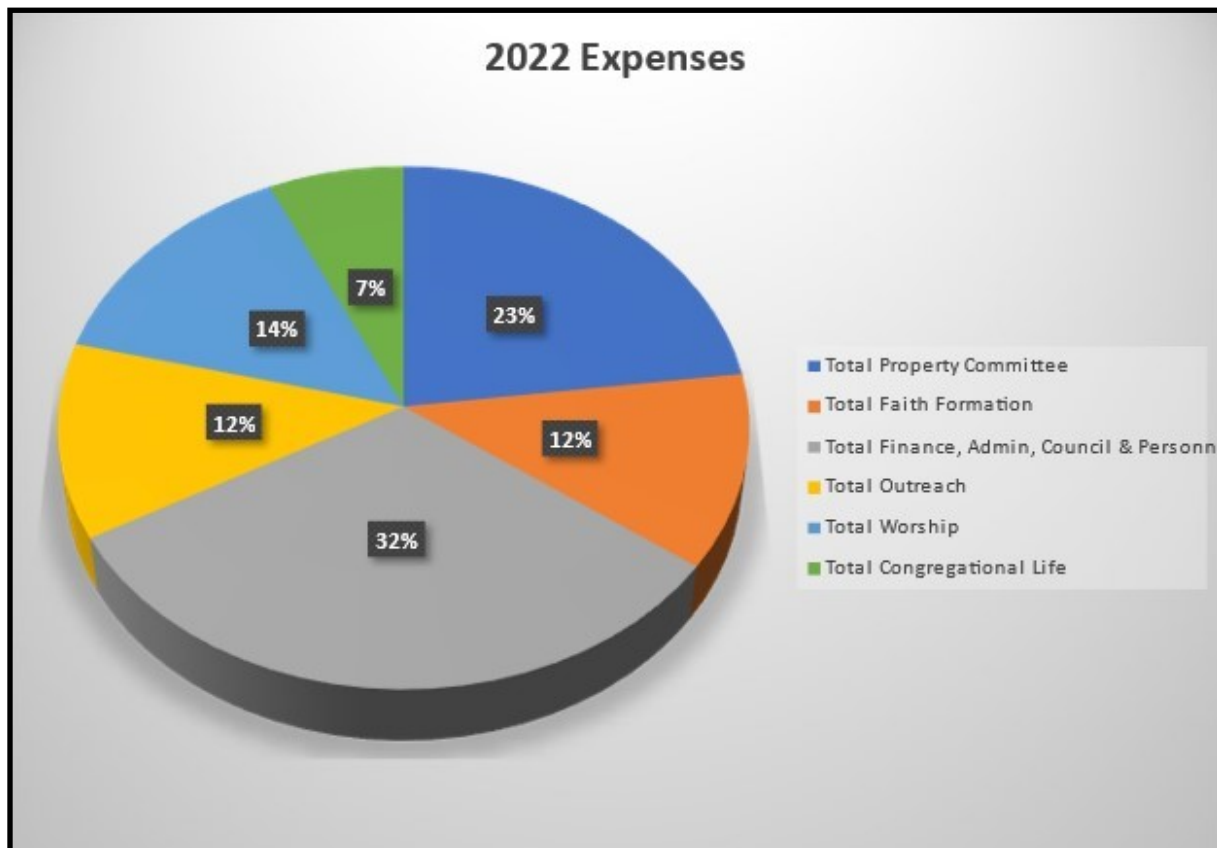
- Column 1 is the actual quarter 4 donations and expenses.
- Column 2 is the year to date donations and expenses.
- Column 3 is the total annual budget.

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



FINANCIALS

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



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

Ways to Give Electronically

Your financial gifts make all that we do here at FLC possible.

Give+ Text: Set up a one time or recurring donation by texting the amount you wish to give to 715-496-6473

Give+ Mobile App: Download the 'GivePlus Church' app to set one-time or recurring donations. You can also manage and view your giving from the convenience of your smartphone.

Give+ Online: Visit firstlutheran-barron.org/give to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

For Undesignated

- \$51.38 In memory of Donna Lloyd
by Theresa Mills
- \$50.00 In memory of Donna Lloyd
by Wendell & Mary McDonough
- \$20.00 In honor of 50th Wedding Anniversary
by Roger & Donna Jones

For Quilters

- \$40.00 In memory of Nancy Breckner
by Anonymous

For Wednesday Night Meals

- \$100.00 by Wendell & Mary McDonough
- \$100.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson
by Terry Jergenson

For Streaming Computer

- \$1700.00 by Anonymous Member

For Gift From the Heart

- \$50.00 In memory of Dale Prine
by JM & BW Smith
- \$25.00 In honor of Ron Barrett by Roger Jones

For Music Fund

- \$20.00 In memory of Carole Bolster by Roger Jones

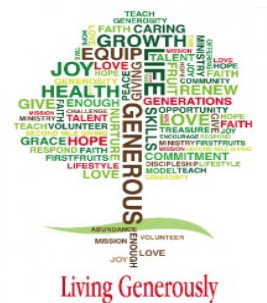
For Youth

- \$25.00 In honor of Betty Dodge's 90th birthday by
Sandra & Thomas Olson

Additional Gifts Received

- \$193.00 Thrivent Choice Dollars:
by Ron & Jan Barrett, Betty Blihovde,
Wendell & Mary McDonough,
Terry & Carolyn Miller

*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!*



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

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
Office Administrator - Patrice Akenson - Office@firstlutheran-barron.org
Bookkeeper - Andrea Cox - Andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org
Financial Secretary - Shirley Hakari
Choir Director - John Krull

