



FOCUS AT FIRST

Volume 22 Issue #9

A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church – Barron, WI

September 2008



CALLING ALL TEACHERS - Our children need YOU!

Anyone who is interested in teaching Sunday School this fall, please contact Bonnie Hilbert at 637-9339 as soon as possible so that you can get the grade/age that you would prefer. Get a friend to join you and co-teach!



THERE ARE SEVERAL DATES AVAILABLE for the 2008-2009 radio broadcast calendar. Please see page 7 for available dates.



The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering ~
New Orleans, LA ~ July 22-26, 2009
See page 5 for more info or online at
www.firstlutheran-barron.org/highschool

BeFriends Update: New information is available on page 4



Exciting news from the Barron Area Clergy Association! See page 4 for more details.



SEAHORSE SECRETS.
Wednesday, September 17th
More info on page 6



Friday Night Fish Fry coordinated by the new Parish Fellowship Committee. See page 6 for more details.

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Kids 3 years through 8th grade:
Rally Sunday is September 7 and we want YOU to be a part of this fun day.

At the 8:30 & 10:45 worship services we'll install your teachers, sing Sunday School songs and bless your backpack!

And a new Sunday School year begins at 9:40am.
Come for Sunday School, stay for church!

Thank you, parents, for sharing your child with us.
Check out our website page: www.firstlutheran-barron.org/sundayschool



2008 Confirmands & Parents:

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, October 5th at the 10:45 service. Parents and students are scheduled for a meeting with the Pastor on Sunday, September 7th at 9:40am. The

Confirmands will also be meeting with Pastor on Wednesday, September 24th at 7pm and Wednesday, October 1st at 7pm with rehearsal to follow at 8pm.

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study begins again. Join us on Tuesday, September 9 (and Tuesdays to follow) at 7:00am. All men are invited!



A Call to Worship and a Call for Musicians from the Jubilee Team
(page 9)

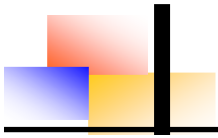
Jubilee Services are scheduled for the third Sunday of every month (September thru May)

Join us in praising Him in Song!



We need your input . . .

See page 7 to give your thoughts on the Summer Sunday worship schedule or go online at www.firstlutheran-barron.org/news to fill out the online survey!



There are many ways to look at life. Is the glass half empty or half full? Are we facing problems or opportunities? Every thing in life can be seen in the positive or negative. It all depends on our perspective. A pastor at a church I attended had a very Godly perspective of the world. He claimed that everything could tell a story about God. Each week for the children's sermon, a different child would bring in the special lunchbox with some object he or she had placed in it. The pastor would then try to tell God's story through whatever object was in the lunchbox. It was pretty easy when the child put in something like an angel figurine. He was a little more challenged with things like dinosaurs or a toy gun, but we adults always enjoyed his struggle and were glad we weren't up there in his place. But he had a point – everything in this world testifies to the creator of it all. Will we take the time to look around to see God? Could water remind us of our baptisms? Could a rainbow remind us that God makes and keeps His promises? Could a hug from a child remind us to trust God like a child? There are so many reminders around us each and every day. I ran into this explanation of a deck of playing cards and thought you might enjoy it – even a simple deck of cards can tell the story of God. Hope you enjoy it. I challenge you to take the time to see God around you every day, even in the simple things.

See you in church!!

Pastor Lisa

God's Story in a Deck of Cards

- ACE...God (the Person in charge)
- KING...Christ (King of Kings and Lord of Lords)
- QUEEN...The Church (the bride of Christ)
- JACK...The Holy Spirit (confirmation of God's Word)
- 10. . . The Plagues (amount used to prove God)
- 9. . . Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, gentleness, longsuffering, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance)
- 8. . . The Flood (amount of people saved)
- 7. . . Forgiveness (forgive 7 times 70)
- 6. . . The Creation (the days it took for creation)
- 5. . . The Talents (that were doubled for good works)
- 4. . . The Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel)
- 3. . . Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit)
- 2. . . The Tablets (for the Ten Commandments)
- JOKER. . . Satan (always wild)

- Red and Black . . . The Testaments (the Old and the New Testament)
- 4 Suits . . . The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
- 12 Face Cards in a Suit . . . The Apostles (Peter, James, John, Andrew, Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas)
- 52 Playing Cards . . . Sundays (The Lord's days per year)

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Minutes of the Congregational Council July

Present: Clarice Fall, Rod Wieneri, Jason Erb, Terry Jergenson, Barb Swant, Pastor Bruce Beyer, Carla Nordby, Cathy Anderson, Marvin Organ, Gayle Larson, Ardis Ress, Michelle Davis, Judy Amundson

Also Present: Joe Johnson

Excused Absence: Lissette Ritchie, Pastor Lisa Shank, George Unteriner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by the council president, Clarice Fall. Devotions were given by Marvin Organ.

A motion to approve the secretary's report as made by Carla Nordby and seconded by Marvin Organ. The motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Jason Erb and seconded by Gayle Larson. The motion carried. Offerings YTD are at 92% of the budgeted amount. The financial secretary's supplies are larger than budgeted due to the purchase of offering envelopes earlier in the fiscal year than planned. This will fall back in line in August. The balance of our income and the expenses YTD are at budgeted level. We borrowed \$9,000 at the end of June to help meet expenses. This is typical within our church and historically has been recovered as the year progresses.

There was no old business.

New Business:

- Committee Appointments: A motion was made by Jason Erb and seconded by Terry Jergenson to accept the following individuals as members to the committees listed. The motion carried. Education: Rhoda Burdick, Renee Degerman, Brenda Haag, Alaethea LaLiberty, Jill Lansin, Sheila Erb. Outreach: Gene Redlich, Barb Redlich, Mark Pedersen, Kristi Pedersen. Property: Mrs. Gail Larson, Jeff Lindstedt. Parish Fellowship: Lynn Kolpack, Gabby Hanson. Public Relations: Linda Wieneri. Social Concerns: Char Chermack. Stewardship: Mamie Landsworth, Rosella Amundson. Youth: Jackson Unteriner, Shelby Springer, Trever Severson. Worship & Music: Nan Carlson. Youth: Karen Lettner.
- Vision Team: Waiting for results from their survey
- BeFrienders: The every member visit has begun and appears to be going well. The group meets on a monthly basis. There will be a recruitment effort for additional members. Please let the group know if you are aware of someone that would be a good BeFrienders.
- Multi-Media Committee: Andy Pierson is unable to do a complete computer generated visual of how the screen will look installed. This does not need to be computerized. The committee is at the point that they would like to move ahead with this project. The initial phase being fundraising. General feedback has been positive. There is concern that the screen will change the sound of the organ. The committee will need to address this. In summary there are two major concerns: the look of the screen and any changes in the sound of the organ.
- Finance Committee: Our note payable is due in July. The current balance on the note is \$38,000. This is an \$80,000 line of credit. This is expected to be enough to cover any short term borrowing needed and the outstanding member loans we currently have (if they were requested to be paid off.) The committee has obtained quotes for renewal from the First National Bank and Sterling Bank. They are as follows: First National Bank: 6.75% fixed rate note for 2 years—with a negative covenant (a request to forego pledging

any assets to another institution.) Sterling Bank: 6.25% fixed rate note for 2 years. This note would be unsecured. Gayle Larson made a motion to accept the Sterling Bank line of credit at 6.25% interest, fixed for two years, unsecured. Marvin Organ seconded the motion. Jason Erb abstained. The motion carried.

- W/ELCA: All of the Women of Faith tickets have sold. The group is currently looking at options for bus transportation to this event. Trust Fund Transfers:
 - The following trust fund transfers were requested: transfer \$174.45 from BeFrienders into the Outreach Budget; transfer \$683.31 from Bible Camp Scholarship Fund in the Youth Account; transfer \$95.00 from Jail Ministry Fund to reimburse Roger Jones—Materials; transfer \$975.00 Radio Broadcast for 2008 into the General Fund. Transfer \$750.00 from ELCA Scholarship Fund - Luther College on behalf of Andrew Sloan. A motion was made by Carla Nordby to approve the stated Trust Fund transfers and seconded by Michelle Davis. The motion carried.

Pastor Beyer's Report:

- A request for transfer of membership into our congregation for John and Nancy Breckner was made. A motion was made by Jason Erb to approve this transfer and seconded by Ardis Ress. The motion carried.
- It was mentioned that vacations of pastors are not announced due to various possible concerns.
- Bulletin delivery to the shut-ins has been going well. Judy Amundson has been doing a very good job coordinating this effort. This is a double blessing for those receiving the bulletins and those delivering them.

Pastor Shank's report: (A written report was submitted)

- Over 20 BeFrienders visits have been completed. Each visit is reported to the Vision Team.
- Twelve young persons from our congregation have attended Confirmation Camp and other programs at Luther Park this summer.
- The Barron Area Clergy Association has voted to move into the Clausen building this fall, probably November at the earliest. ; They will be looking for monetary donations to help with the purchase, of course, but also will be looking for volunteers to help with construction. Please be supportive of this cause.
- The August newsletter will contain information on the Spiritual Wellness Wheel developed by the ELCA Board of Pensions. The BOP and the presiding bishop of the ELCA are encouraging all clergy to take a reflective look at their lives using this tool. Pastor Lisa encourages all of the council and the entire congregation to use the tool as well.

President's Report:

- Updated signatures are needed for the Good Samaritan Account at First National Bank. This is an account that is used to provide emergency funding for families in need at the pastors' discretions. A motion was made by Carla Nordby and seconded by Marvin Organ to approve Clarice Fall and Rod Wieneri as approved signatures for this account. The motion carried.
- On August 8 both pastors will be gone simultaneously for a time. Pastor Beyer will arrange for alternate coverage during this time.
- Someone has been driving on the south lawn. The property committee will address this.

A motion was made by Gayle Larson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jason Erb. The motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



First Lutheran BeFrienders

Almost 70 visits have been completed. Again THANK YOU to all who have met with a BeFriender. Some of you may feel that you don't have anything important to say to us, but anything and everything is important. Your insights and your wisdom are gifts from God and are VERY valuable to us and our congregation. The crazy dream you have for First may not be so crazy. The hopes you have for our congregation may be key to our deeper faith life together. It doesn't matter to us if you only have good things to say – we want to hear. It doesn't matter to us if you only have things to say that aren't so good – we want to hear. We as a congregation cannot read your mind or know how you are feeling. We WANT to hear from you, and we NEED to hear from you. When Cheryl calls to set up your appointment, please say "yes". We only want to listen.

We will soon be recruiting other congregation members to join us as BeFrienders. Tentatively, the training will take place on the five Thursdays in October, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. If you like people and like to listen, you would be a great BeFriender. Please prayerfully consider being part of this important caring ministry at First. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Cheryl Johnson (537-5350) or Pastor Lisa (537-3575).

Barron Area Clergy Association Update:

The Purchase Agreement has been signed!! With the generous help of attorney David Cusick and accountant Joe Johnson, the BACA and the Clausen brothers met and came to an agreement on the terms of the sales of the buildings. The BACA will be buying the Clausen Variety Store building on LaSalle Avenue. And the Clausen brothers will be buying the current Thrift Store building on Third Street. The closing date for the real estate transaction has been set for November 3, 2008. That's also the date we will be taking occupancy of each other's buildings.



Between now and November 3, there is a LOT of work to do. In the near future, we will be starting to do some remodeling at the Clausen store to add a restroom on the main floor and partition off the food pantry area from the rest of the store. We will be looking for help with plumbing, building walls, sheetrocking, painting, etc. When the time of the move gets closer, we will need your help transporting the food, merchandise, and fixtures from the Thrift Store and Food Pantry. If you have those skills and would be willing to help, please let one of the pastors know. As the remodeling and moving projects come closer, and the planning more definite, we will give you more information so you will have the opportunity to help.

There is also a LOT of money to raise. We will have a Land Contract with the Clausens, but we would like to get the balance due down as low as we can. Please consider a donation toward the building fund. We are planning fundraisers in the near future, and your help and participation would be greatly appreciated. Any donation checks may be made out to "BACA" with "Building Fund" on the memo line. Checks can be sent to: First Lutheran Church, Attn: BACA, 4 W LaSalle Ave, Barron, WI 54812.

Thank You for your physical labor, your donations of time, money and effort. And most importantly, Thank You for your prayers. This is a HUGE undertaking, but by the Grace of God, and with the Help of God, we can do this.

Sunday School, SWYG, Confirmation & Youth Activities



Kids 3 years through 8th grade: Rally Sunday is September 7 and we want YOU to be a part of this fun day. At the 8:30 & 10:45 worship services we'll install your teachers, sing Sunday School songs and bless your backpack! And a new Sunday School year begins at 9:40am. Come for Sunday School, stay for church! Thank you, parents, for sharing your child with us.

Sunday School news from Bonnie Hilbert:

- We still need teachers for the 4 year olds, 1st grade, 3rd grade and 4th grade. Please call Bonnie at 637-9339 or email school@firstlutheran-barron.org to let her know that you can teach or co-teach. Thanks!
- The Third Grader will be going on their annual trip to the Woodcarving museum in Shell Lake on September 21st. Please return your permission slip to the office before that or you cannot go. You may download a permission slip from our website at www.firstlutheran-barron.org/sundayschool.
- On Sunday, September 14th during the Sunday School hour there will be a fire drill practice. More information will be sent home with the children on September 7th.



SWYG:

SWYG in September will be held on Wednesday the 10th at 5:30pm. All confirmation students are required to join us for SWYG night, which includes a meal, an activity and fellowship together.

Confirmation:

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, October 5th at the 10:45 service. Parents and students are scheduled for a meeting with the Pastor on Sunday, September 7th at 9:40am. The Confirmands will also be meeting with Pastor on Wednesday, September 24th at 7pm and Wednesday, October 1st at 7pm with rehearsal to follow at 8pm.



The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 22-26, 2009

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH:

The time has come to make your commitment to attend the National Youth Gathering and celebrate God's love and gain a depended understanding of His call to serventhood. You'll need to reserve the following dates: July 20—27, 2009 (this includes the bus ride to and from the Gathering). Please contact the church office or Pastor Lisa with a verbal commitment by September 10, 2008. A \$100 non-refundable deposit will need to be made to the Youth Committee by October 8, 2008. We will be fundraising for the balance of the cost, including registration fees, hotels and transportation. More info is available by clicking the link on our website at www.firstlutheran-barron.org/highschool

DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH KIDS? We need your help in the nursery! Please contact Sheila Erb at 637-6539 or nursery@firstlutheran-barron.org if interested in signing up. There are many available weekends for your choice.

Let's all help make a difference today for tomorrow's leaders!

KEEP UP TO DATE - CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG!



SEAHORSE SECRETS:

How do they eat?
How fast can they swim?
Where do they live?
Do they make any sounds?

Want the answers? Hop on the bus to Duluth on Wednesday, September 17th. The Afternoon Fellowship Committee has reserved a deluxe Blackhawk motor coach (equipped with a bathroom) and there's plenty of room for YOU.

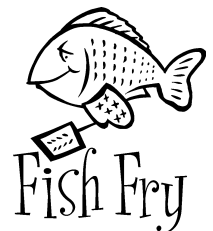
For a day of fun, excitement and education, we will visit Duluth's Great Lakes Aquarium – including dive shows and special programs.

Norm & Nancy Thompson are making all the arrangements. Questions? Call Norm and Nancy at 637-3733.

Parish Fellowship Committee is Up and Running!

Greetings from Gabby Hanson and Lynn Kolpack, members of First Lutheran's new Parish Fellowship Committee. We hope to work on the "friends" and "fellowship" components of our life together at First Lutheran Church. Our plan is to provide opportunities for the "Folks at First" to get to know one another better and enjoy one another more.

The first activity we have planned is our first "Friday Night Fish Fry for Friends at First," which will be held on Friday night, September 12th, at 6:00 p.m., at The County Seat and Saloon in Barron. Everyone covers the cost of his/her meal, beverage, and tip for each fish fry outing. The cost of The County Seat's fish fry is \$9.25, which includes relishes, salad, bread basket, potato, and fish. Beverage and tip is extra.



If there is interest, we hope to offer once-a-month-fish-fry-get-togethers at various area restaurants. These get-togethers are open to all ages and singles and couples. The group that meets in September will decide where and when the next fish fry outing will be.

If you are interested in the September 12th fish fry, please sign-up on the bulletin board in Luther Hall by Wednesday, September 10th. If you need transportation, you may sign-up for a ride to and from The County Seat. If you have questions, call Gabby at 637-3445 or Lynn at 637-5986.

We're looking for suggestions as to other good "mixer" opportunities for the members of our congregation to take advantage of. Be sure to share your good ideas with Gabby or Lynn. Stay tuned for more fun and fellowship!

We need your input . . .

In January of 2008 at our Annual Meeting it was voted upon to change our summer service schedule to one Sunday service rather than two. Now that the summer is almost behind us we would like to get your input.



- Did you appreciate the summer schedule with one Sunday Service? Yes _____ No _____
- Would you like to repeat this schedule next year? Yes _____ No _____

Other thoughts: _____

Please fill out this form and return to the church office. Thank you!

This survey is also available online at www.firstlutheran-barron.org/news



.....
There are several dates available for the 2007-2008 radio broadcast calendar. If you are interested in sponsoring any of the following dates please contact the church office or fill out the information below:

2008: Sept. 28th & Nov 9
2009: Jan 4 & 11; Feb 1; March 1, 15 & 29

Each radio broadcast costs \$75 and should be paid before the day of the broadcast.
Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

I/We would like to sponsor Sunday, _____ or Sunday, _____

Please indicate how the announcement should be worded (i.e. given in memory of John Smythe by Paul and Alice Smythe):

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

A Call to Worship from the Jubilee Team



Jubilee! Taken from the Greek word *Yobel*, or ram's horn, the instrument used to call God's faithful to celebration. In the year of Jubilee, on the Day of Atonement, all debts are forgiven, all seized property is returned to its owners, prisoners are set free, and the people rest from their labor. It is a time of singing and celebration, of boisterous, uninhibited worship. It is all about grace and redemption as God's people joyfully reclaim their inheritance!

Jubilee, then, is a very appropriate name for our alternative worship format here at First Lutheran. The Vision Team's challenge to worship with "passionate spirituality" was a call that the Jubilee Team took very seriously, and a cause for which we felt our ministry was particularly suited. We have been on hiatus over the summer months, but we will reconvene in September.

Characteristics of spirited worship include creative instrumentation and musical arrangements, clapping of hands, expressive movement, and hands uplifted in prayer or praise. Granted, these are not wholly familiar worship elements to upper Mid-west Lutherans, but they are appropriate, sanctified, and desired in the modern worship setting. We wish to convey with all sincerity that Jubilee worship is not "entertainment" or "performance." Certainly, elements of both inhabit the format as **we seek to engage the congregation in active participation, establish a meaningful connection with God through music, and invite the life-affirming touch of the Spirit through holy play.** With that in mind, we invite the congregation to **join us on the third Sunday of every month** throughout the school year for Jubilee worship with Holy Communion.

Our first Jubilee service of 2008-2009 will be on September 21 at both 8:30 and 10:45. We look forward to worshipping with you!

Psa 150:1. Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. 2. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. 3. Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. 4. Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. 5. Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with loud crashing cymbals! 6. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!



A Call for Musicians

If you would like to participate as a Jubilee Team worship leader, we enthusiastically invite you. We are seeking individuals who don't mind a fast-paced, improvisational and creative rehearsal process. If you can sight read music, sing harmony, or play an instrument confidently and want to give the Jubilee Team a try, give Mary Shearer a call at 637-3918 or Valeri Scheps at 357-6443. We are especially looking for a bass player and a percussionist! We usually meet to rehearse on the Saturday before the service at a time when the sanctuary is available, and when most of the team members' schedules will permit. We keep in touch via telephone and email to keep you informed about upcoming Jubilee Sundays, team meetings and rehearsals.

“Share the Gift of Good News”: In spite of our sins, God does not disqualify us from his kingdom. Instead he gave his son to be our savior. Isn't that good news? God doesn't want anyone to suffer eternal punishment in hell. He wants us to spend our forever life with him and his son in heaven. Sharing this gift of good news should be part of our responsibility of being good Christians!

- A message from your Stewardship Committee

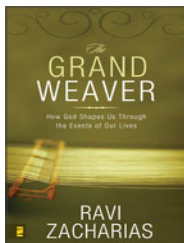


Gift from the Heart would like to include knitted **mittens** for each child receiving a gift this Christmas. Warm hearts and willing hands help make this project a reality. Yarn is available by calling Cheryl Johnson, 637-5350.

THANKS TO OUR CONGREGATION...

... Thank you very much for your continuing donations of food. We are seeing an increased need for food so your support is greatly appreciated. Thanks again!
- Lynne Hanse, Director of the Barron Area Food Pantry

... (excerpt)... With just today in mind, my whole summer has been like this, just nonstop busy-ness. ... and now finally packing to go to NDSU, I would say that this summer has been one of the busiest that I will probably ever experience. I know I promised to paint a picture for the Celebration Room, and I have to say that it is still a work in progress. I am definitely not as far along as I would have hoped to have been by now, but I can say that there is a decent amount of paint on the personally made canvas (that I made). If you were wondering, the particular Bible scene is the “Feeding of the Multitude” and this will eventually get done, don't you worry. I just need to find some extra time to fit into my schedule. Now, as I go off to college I would really appreciate receiving the online newsletter that is sent out monthly because I want to stay connected with the church that has supported me through my many endeavors over these past almost 19 years. ... I just want to end with many, MANY thanks to all of you who have made a difference in my life. Thanks a bunch, Sara Kolpack



The Grand Weaver: How God Shapes Us Through The Events of Our Lives Ravi Zacharia

“Are the threads of our lives accidentally tangled or intentionally arranged?” “How differently would we live if we believed that every event of our lives—from the happy to the tragic to the mundane—was part of a meticulous and purposeful design in which all the elements intertwined with breathtaking precision?” That's the question this author answers in this book.

“It's common to believe that great events such as a death or a birth are guided by the hand of God, yet we can easily drift into feeling that our daily lives are not sovereignly directed, but are simply the product of our own efforts”. This book is filled with stories that show us otherwise. The author encourages us to examine our backgrounds, our disappointments, our triumphs, and our beliefs in a new light, telling how they are all part of the intentions and perfect work of the Grand Weaver.

John Ortberg says of the author, “Ravi Zacharia never met a question he didn't like. Here he explores life's deepest questions in a tapestry that is personal, winsome and clear.”



THE RECENT POSTAL HIKE has resulted in our church seeing an approximate \$.14 increase in mailing cost per newsletter mailed. 14 cents per newsletter might not seem like much, but if you calculate that out it amounts to **\$84 per month and over \$1000 per year** - and that doesn't include the printing cost!

You now have three options to receive your newsletter: continue to receive through the mail, online or by picking up here at the church.

Contact the church office at office@firstlutheran-barron.org or by phone at 537-3575 to make arrangements if you would like to change how you receive your newsletter. Thank you!



Free Blood Pressure Checks! Some of the medical providers in our congregation are volunteering their time between services on the second Sunday of each month to provide this service and Pastor Beyer has offered the use of his office for your privacy. Mark it on your calendar today!

Hello everyone! We're back to fall again.... This summer went so quickly that it's hard to believe it's time to think of school and all the fall activities here at church. There will be many interesting activities for you to be involved with...

Our first meeting of the fall will be on Wednesday, September 3 at 1:30pm when we'll discuss our new Bible Study, "The Hidden Hand of God", and elect our new leadership Board for the 2009 year.

Mark your calendars for our Fair Trade Christmas Fair to be held on Wednesday, October 1st from 11:30—5:30pm. You won't want to miss the opportunity to see the beautifully hand created items and coffees that will be for sale in addition to the refreshments for you to sample.

Please also consider joining one of our Circles, who would love to have you join them. They offer a warm, caring and supportive environment in order to learn about your faith. Want more info about a Circle, contact the church office.

Finally, those who are attending the Women of Faith conference - keep your eyes open for info on our get-away in October!

- Michelle Davis, W/ELCA President

CHANGE IN W/ELCA SCHOLARSHIPS

Is there a Women's conference or event that you would like to attend, but funds are a little tight? The W/ELCA Board has changed the policy on scholarships: they are now available for anyone who has a need, not just first-time attendees. Speak to a Board Member or Michelle in the church office for more information.



Were you kind enough to furnish a jello or cake for a recent funeral or event here at the church? Thank you! Unfortunately, we're now inundated with pans in the kitchen. If you believe that yours is here, please take a moment to stop by and retrieve your pan... if they aren't picked up they will be donated.

Duties this month:

Mission Correspondence: Faith Circle

Communion Assistants: Faith Circle

Kitchen Maintenance: Terry Lansin & Alice LaPoint

Care of Altar: *Debbie Slagstad, Jan Barrett, Kari Skaar

New Bible Study: The Hidden Hand of God. For the September study read the theme verse: Ruth 1:16b-017 and Prayer—read! It is beautiful.

We start the study of God's direction of three people: Ruth, Daniel and Esther. The lessons are wisdom stories. There is a section of background information, then a setting of the stage with the meanings of all the names. At the end of the study "God remains hidden in the experiences of the characters of Ruth 1.

- Lorraine Haugen

MISSION GLOBAL:

On August 18th I phoned out to Garoua Boulai Hospital and am happy to report there is one doctor working there now, a woman from Cameroun who will be there until Drs. Solofou and Joely return.



Because of no funds there won't be a sea container packed until January '09. So there will be time to get supplies for Layettees and Aids Hospice Kits, also soap towels and sheets and bandages.

Thank you so much for supplies and money for orphans and malnourished children. Mr. James Noss will take care of the money to be sent from here.

- Lorraine Haugen

MISSION ACTION:

Please remember items for the school kits when you are out shopping. We are still in need of the following: Notebooks, scissors, rulers, crayons (16 or 24 count) and construction paper.

Your donations to the soap barrel are always welcomed! Keep in mind that we need individually wrapped, unused soap. The bags for health kits are much needed—and appreciated. Items must also be individually wrapped or they cannot be sent.

We're working on collecting sewing kits, too. They include 3 yds 44" or 45" cotton or blend fabric, 1 pkg needles, a spool of matching thread and a card of buttons. More info is posted on the bulletin board.

Please continue to save Campbell Soup labels and stamps (be sure to leave the die-cut edge on the stamp!).

Thank you for your help with these projects.

The Associated Church Press named "Café - Stirring the Spirit Within," the online e-zine of Women of the ELCA, a top winner in its awards competition for work done in 2007. "Café" was named "Best in Class" in ACPT's independent Web site or e-zine category!

**GATHERED TOGETHER
BY THE SPIRIT**

GENERAL FUND OFFERING

2008 Budget	\$326,800.00
Received This Week	2,654.75
Needed Year to Date	195,873.96
Received Year to Date	190,569.74
	-5,304.22

REPAIR AND DEBT FUND

Received Year to Date	4,122.00
Needed Year to Date	2,904.28
	+1,217.72

RADIO BROADCASTS

- September 7: Given by Mike & Cindy Otto
In honor of their 35th wedding anniversary.
- September 14: Given by Walter & Agnes Nelson
In honor of Walter's 96th Birthday
- September 21: Given in service and God's love to
Merilee Lapoint in honor of her birthday by Timothy Goosby
- September 28: Open - Please call the office to
Sponsor this broadcast

MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS

- In memory of Bev Funck
For the Undesignated Fund..... \$35
- In memory of Elsbeth Kolb
For the Radio Broadcast Fund \$20
- In memory of Don Thompson
For the Radio Broadcast Fund \$75
- In honor of Mike & Cindy Otto's 35th anniversary
For the Radio Broadcast Fund \$75
- In memory of Nellie and Norman Olson
For the Radio Broadcast Fund \$75

BAPTISMS

- George Henry Saffert.....07/26/08
Isabella Jean Kallenbach-LeGore08/16/08
Aiden James Hawkins.....08/17/08
Kia Taylor Kahl.....08/23/08
Brady Kristofer Hanson.....08/24/08

THE CHURCH COUNCIL has approved adding
"Evangelical Lutheran Worship"
to the Gifts and Memorials list.
We will not be using budgeted
money to purchase this new
hymnal and service book until
enough gift money has been
received to purchase the books.



Me?
**Serve coffee on
Sunday
morning?**



**Well, I'd like to,
but.....**

- ... I don't know how.
- ... I'm not able to provide the goodies.
- ... I have the time to bake,
but I'm not able to serve.

**You can extend a welcome to our
members and visitors on Sunday morning**
- and we can help! We can team you up with
the right person.

Call Ardis Ress at 458-2412
Or Lissette Richie at 837-1446

September 7: Brad Hirschfield – *Is Your God Big Enough?*; Daniel 3:16-18

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield joins this edition of *Grace Matters* to discuss religious fanaticism. Having experienced his own incursion into the world of “being possessed by one’s religion,” Hirschfield made a sudden and dramatic turn in his faith journey. Today he is an important voice for people of all faiths who want to re-examine their most strident assumptions that put other people down. He is author of the book, *You Don’t Have to Be Wrong for Me To Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism*.

September 14: Bruce Weber – *Share the Juices*; John 15:13

Bruce Weber is a winning NCAA basketball coach. He is also a winsome human being. His unselfish style has shaped the lives of talented young men who happen to need more than just good dribbling technique in life. For the last five years he has led the Fighting Illini of the University of Illinois, including a trip to the Final Four championship game in 2005. Weber’s faith life is an active one, connected with his local Lutheran congregation. Listen in to meet an individual who enjoys taking the needs of others to heart.

September 21: Peter Benson – *A Person Through Other Persons*; Matthew 14:13-21

There is a craving for community in our world, and people are struggling to fulfill that need. We may be well connected electronically, but this is hardly the same as being emotionally and spiritually connected. Communities are relational places – “the oxygen of human development,” says Peter Benson. Benson is the president of Search Institute, a nonprofit organization providing leadership and resources for the promotion of healthy children, youth, and communities. He is the guest on this edition of *Grace Matters*.

September 28: Brad and Libby Birky – *Just Doing My Job*; Luke 17:5-10

Brad and Libby Birky are owners of an extraordinary restaurant in downtown Denver. It’s not a big or ostentatious place. What makes the SAME Café unique is its pricing schedule. There are no prices on the menu; there is no cash register. Patrons pay whatever they can or are willing to pay, even if the payment means an hour of kitchen labor washing dishes or cutting vegetables. For those curious about a venture created So that All God’s people May Eat, this edition of *Grace Matters* is a “Do Not Miss.”

A Way of Life

Repeat this phrase 42 times: “Stewardship is not about money.” On second thought, don’t. That may only reinforce a connection that should not exist. Instead, begin to think about this phrase: “Stewardship is about a way of life.”

How do you spend your time? Every breath is a gift from God. (Look up Genesis 2.7) How are you using those breaths? How do you care for your body? Your body is a holy temple for the Lord. (See 1 Corinthians 6.19) Have you explored the ELCA Wholeness Wheel: it connects physical, emotional, social, intellectual, vocational and financial well-being. How do you manage your resources? Everything, EVERYTHING, that we have is a gift from God. (See Genesis 39–50; too long to read? See the first bullet above! ;-)) Do you manage all that you have for the benefit of many? How do you care for the earth? You walk on holy ground. (See Genesis 1– 2.4a) How do you work to care for the earth from which God formed you?

Stewardship is a way of life—it is about how you spend your time and resources and how you care for your body and the earth.

In fact that may be a great way for your community of faith to make stewardship a year round emphasis. Focus on one of these four aspects of stewardship for three months and at the end of the year you can start over at the beginning, because this way of life is for our whole lives—double meaning intended!



First Lutheran Church

4 W. LaSalle Ave.
Barron, WI 54812-1307

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**Thank you for signing up to receive your newsletter online
or picking it up at church....
It saves printing and postage costs!**



First Lutheran Church

4 W. La Salle Ave. · Barron, WI 54812

Church Phone: 715-537-3575
Telephone Ministry: 715-837-4122

e-mail: office@firstlutheran-barron.org
www.firstlutheran-barron.org

Pastors:

Bruce Beyer home: 537-3480
Lisa Shank home: 637-7916

Parish Secretary & Newsletter Editor:

Michelle Davis church: 537-3575

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30-11:00 & 12:00-4:00
Friday: 8:00-12:00

President:

Clarice Fall

Vice-President:

Rod Wieneri

Treasurer:

Johnson, Agen, Kupferschmidt
& Associates

Financial Sec.:

Mary McDonough

Senior Choir Director:

David Midboe

Dir. of Education:

Bonnie Hilbert

Custodians:

Ron & Brenda Kahl

Summer Schedule:

(Memorial Day - Labor Day)

Saturday Worship, * 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship, * 9:00a.m.

Winter Schedule:

Saturday Worship, * 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship, * 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:40 a.m.

*Holy Communion,
each Saturday and 1st and 3rd Sunday




First Lutheran Church

4 W. LaSalle Ave. , Barron, WI 54812 • Phone: 715-537-3575
 www.firstlutheran-barron.org • e-mail: office@firstlutheran-barron.org
 The 8:30 service is broadcast live over radio station 1090 AM.
 Telephone Ministry for all services: 837-4122

SEPTEMBER



2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Rally Day Teacher Installation fun songs & Blessing of Backpacks @ 8:30/10:45 8:30a Worship & Holy Communion 9:40a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:40a Confirmands & Parents Mtg W/Pastor 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion 3p Service at Extended Care 4p Service @ Barron Care & Rehab	1 Office Closed	2 9:30a AA Mtg 6:30p Jail Ministry	3 1:30p W/ELCA Mtg 4 & 6p Confirmation 7p Sr. Choir	4 9:30a AA Mtg 1p Quilting 5:45p Women's Way 7p Gift from the Heart	5 9a Bulletins Assembled	6 9:30a AA Mtg 5:30p Worship & Holy Comm.
	8 6p W&M Cmte 7p Most Cmtes	9 9:30a AA Mtg 6:30p Jail Ministry 7p Faith Circle Hosted By Pam Oman	10 1:30p Harmony Circle 5:30p SWYG 7p Sr. Choir	11 9:30a AA Mtg 1p Quilting 5:45p Women's Way 	12 9a Bulletins Assembled	13 9:30a AA Mtg 5:30p Worship & Holy Comm.
14 8:30a Worship 9:40a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:40a Blood Pressure Checks 10:45a Worship	15 7p Council Mtg	16 Newsletter Due Date 7a Men's Bkfst Bible Study 9:30a AA Mtg 6:30p Jail Ministry	17 Afternoon Fellowship Trip to Duluth Aquarium 4 & 6p Confirmation 6p Circle of Friends 7p Sr. Choir	18 9:30a AA Mtg 1p Quilting 5:45p Women's Way	19 9a Bulletins Assembled	20 9:30a AA Mtg Blaser/Espeseth Wdg 2:30p Severson/Scott Wdg 5:30p Worship & Holy Comm.
21 8:30a Worship & Holy Communion 9a 3rd Graders Trip to Wdcvrg Museum 9:40a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion	22 11a W/ELCA Bd 6p Boy Scouts Pack Mtg 7p BeFriender's Communion @ 12:30p Monroe 1:30p Maplecroft & Brg- Wdland 2:30p Barron Care & Rehab 3:30p Extended	23 7a Men's Bkfst Bible Study 9:30a AA Mtg 6:30p Jail Ministry	24 4 & 6p Confirmation 7p Sr. Choir 7p Confirmands' Mtg With Pastor	25 9:30a AA Mtg 1p Quilting 5:30p Meal from the Heart 5:45p Women's Way Meal from the Heart 	26 8:30a Newsletters Assembled 9a Bulletins Assembled	27 9:30a AA Mtg 2p Ostenson/Kohel Wdg 5:30p Worship & Holy Comm.
28 8:30a Worship 9:40a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:45a Worship	29	30 7a Men's Bkfst Bible Study 9:30a AA Mtg 6p Multiple Blessings 6:30p Jail Mstry	Schedules subject to change: A current full month calendar and worship volunteer schedule are also available online at www.firstlutheran-barron.org			