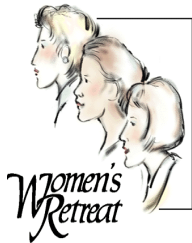




FOCUS AT FIRST

God's work. Our hands.

Volume 23, Issue #8 A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church – Barron, WI August 2009



Join the **Heart of the North Women of the ELCA** and guest speakers including Barb Solsaa for our annual retreat at Luther Park on August 10 & 11. *More details are on page 11.*



Welcome Back!

Our National Youth Gathering group has returned from their week-long journey to New Orleans! Please plan on attending Rally Sunday on September 13 to hear about their adventures in learning and service. Also, look for an article in the September Focus.



THERE ARE STILL DATES AVAILABLE for the 2009-2010 radio broadcast calendar. The dates not yet sponsored are March 14 & 28, 2010.



Afternoon Fellowship:

Trip to High Grounds Veterans Memorial Park...
more info on Page 9.



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.



CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Orientation & Registration set for Wednesday, August 26 as follows:

8th Graders and Parents, 5:00 p.m.
7th Graders and Parents, 5:30 p.m.
6th Graders and Parents, 6:00 p.m.

THOSE BEING CONFIRMED Sunday, OCTOBER 4 at the 10:45am worship service - watch the weekly bulletins and the September newsletter for the dates when you will meet with the pastors to prepare for the Confirmation service. All work and worship reports **MUST** be done before this day!

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope your summer is going well and you are finding refreshment and renewal for your busy lives. I enjoy the different pace of the summer months and rejoice that I can keep busy in different “pastor ways” during the warmer months.

I share a few concerns:

1. Please remember the church of Jesus during the summer. We need your ongoing prayers, participation and financial support as we engage in ministry for Jesus. The ministry may be somewhat different during the summer, but it is still vital.
2. When you can't be with us, don't forget our radio ministry at 8:30am each Sunday on AM station 1090. All of our services are available through the telephone ministry by calling 837-4122. If you are worshipping electronically, please mail in your offering envelopes - all they require is a stamp.
3. Another radio ministry concern - please see the notice on page one of this newsletter about Sundays not yet sponsored. If we are to continue reaching out to the community and our own people through the radio ministry, we need your support. This is not a budgeted ministry of our congregation, but has always been made available through our generous gifts. I would hate to lose this ministry tool.
4. Keep us posted when you desire a pastoral visit for whatever reason. Pastor Lisa and I have only four ears and four eyes. We don't always know what is going on in your lives, but we want to be with you in your times of need. We are also always receptive to your talking to us about others who may need a pastoral visit. We need your eyes and ears helping us in our ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Bruce Beyer



REFLECTIONS FROM Pastor Lisa

Who are you? It seems to be a simple enough question, but it can be a very difficult one to answer. What defines who you are? Are you a son or daughter of someone? The father or mother of someone? A worker of one variety or another? Just what defines how you see yourself? When my parents were both gone, I started doing a lot of genealogical research on my dad's family. (A cousin on my mom's side was doing that family.) What I found was quite interesting. Some members of my family were here during the Revolutionary War. They were part of the Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsche) who came for religious freedoms. Some of them were farmers, some inventors, and even some artists. But the names and dates didn't tell me anything more about who I was. What I came to realize was that the only thing that truly did define who I was, was whose I was – God's. That relationship with God was and is the most important thing that tells me who I am. It took a while for me to realize that simple truth; and, it will take more than a lifetime to truly know what it means to be a child of God. I found a list in my study Bible that gives more hints about our true identity in Christ.

1. *Romans 3:24 ~ We are justified (declared "righteous").*
2. *Romans 8:1 ~ No condemnation awaits us.*
3. *Romans 8:2 ~ We are set free from the power of sin that leads to death.*
4. *1 Corinthians 1:2 ~ We are sanctified (made holy) in Jesus Christ.*
5. *1 Corinthians 1:30 ~ We are pure and holy in Christ.*
6. *1 Corinthians 15:22 ~ We will be given new life at the resurrection.*
7. *2 Corinthians 5:17 ~ We are new persons.*
8. *2 Corinthians 5:21 ~ We are made right with God.*
9. *Galatians 3:28 ~ We are one in Christ with other believers.*
10. *Ephesians 1:3 ~ We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*
11. *Ephesians 1:4 ~ We are holy and without fault.*
12. *Ephesians 1:5,6 ~ We are adopted as God's children.*
13. *Ephesians 1:7 ~ Our sins are taken away, and we are forgiven.*
14. *Ephesians 1:10,11 ~ We will be brought under Christ's authority.*
15. *Ephesians 1:13 ~ We are identified as belonging to God by the Holy Spirit.*
16. *Ephesians 2:6 ~ We have been raised up to sit with Christ in the heavenly realms.*
17. *Ephesians 2:10 ~ We are God's masterpiece.*
18. *Ephesians 2:13 ~ We have been brought near to God.*
19. *Ephesians 3:6 ~ We share in the promise of blessings through Christ.*
20. *Ephesians 3:12 ~ We can come boldly and confidently into God's presence.*
21. *Ephesians 5:29,30 ~ We are members of Christ's body, the church.*
22. *Colossians 2:10 ~ We are made complete in Christ.*
23. *Colossians 2:11 ~ We are set free from our sinful nature.*
24. *2 Timothy 2:10 ~ We will have eternal glory.*

I hope these passages and truths from God's Word help you to know who you are as a beloved child of God. There are many more to read throughout the entire Bible.

See you in church!

Pastor Lisa

**Minutes of the Congregational Council
June 15, 2009**

Members Present:

Julie Hallberg, Ardis Ress, Nancy Krahenbuhl, Pastor Bruce Beyer, Terry Jergenson, Gerald Johnson, Julie Malone, Gayle Larson, Carolyn Verhulst, Pastor Lisa Shank, Lissette Ritchie, Clarice Fall, Carla Nordby, Wendell McDonough

Members Excused:

Michelle Davis, Keith Kolpack, Rod Wieneri, Jason Erb, Barb Swant

Meeting Call to Order:

7:03 PM by Council Past President, Clarice Fall

Devotions:

Carolyn Verhulst

Secretary's Report:

Correction to May 18, 2009 minutes: From Pastor Lisa's Report: Pastor Lisa attended a "Synod" meeting at Luther Park. The meeting was not about Luther Park. They talked about statistics, vision and mission.

Motion to approve May Secretary's Report by Ardis Ress

Second by Julie Hallberg

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Year to date offerings are 89.41% of budget projections.

We will be short funds to cover obligations at the end of the quarter.

Motion to approve treasurer's report by Julie Malone

Second by Carolyn Verhulst

Motion carried.

A motion to support Finance Committee's recommendation to delay the transfer of designated monies to the Trust Fund until funds are available or year-end reconciliation.

Motion to approve by Gayle Larson.

Second by Terry Jergenson

Motion carried.

Old Business:

Wheels are rolling for Building and Grounds Committee to get estimates for flat roof repair.

New Business:

None

Committee Reports:

Vision – meeting July 14th with Pastor Odgren and a church council workshop is tentatively set for September 19th to work with Pastor Odgren on a strategic plan to work with the Vision Team.

Befrienders – visits continue but running into real road blocks with finding phone numbers or current addresses.

Multi-media – tri-fold brochure work continues.

Other committee items – Finance committee is still working to secure a credit card through First National Bank of Barron.

Trust Fund Transfers:

None

Pastor Beyer's Report:

No requests for transfers in or out.

Property committee concern – the commercial refrigerator in the kitchen is not working.

A motion to get the kitchen refrigerator repaired at an estimated cost of \$500.00 and solicit the congregation for donations for this repair because the repair is not in our budget was made by Carolyn Verhulst.

Second by Gayle Larson.

Motion carried.

Pastor Lisa's Report:

She has had many funerals and baptisms.

Not much news from the Synod Assembly. The National Assembly will be held August 17-21 in the Twin Cities. A two-thirds majority vote will be needed to pass the ELCA Ordination of gay/lesbian pastors. Please pray for this big controversy.

Ann Knutson was very grateful for the gifts from First Lutheran for her trip to Malawi. Please pray for her safe journey.

President's Report:

None

Vice President's Report:

None

Constitution Review:

A motion to table this review until the July meeting was made by Carolyn Verhulst.

Second by Gayle Larson

Motion carried.

Other Business:

Coffee Hour – there is a need to cover July 5th and July 12th. If you are interested please contact Ardis Ress.

Recently a need for men to help with lifting large roasters and/or coffee pots at funerals has risen. ***An invitation for all men to assist with helping serving groups on any given serving group need is extended. Your help is much appreciated!***

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM by Julie Hallberg

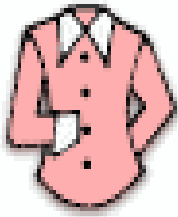
Second by Carla Nordby

Motion carried.

First Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

Being called by God through Baptism and strengthened by the Word and Sacrament of our Lord's Table, God guides First Lutheran Church to teach, preach, live and spread the Word of God.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.



Cupboard and Closet

The Barron Area Clergy is pleased to announce that we have hired a General Manager and Operations Manager for thrift store sales. Sales have increased tremendously since the move to the new building. A big THANK YOU needs to go to the community for such great support. Please congratulate General Manager Pam Jacoby and Operations Manager Jeff Anderson. They have a LOT of work ahead of them. Please consider volunteering at the *Cupboard and Closet*. We can always use an extra pair of hands.

The food pantry part of the *Cupboard and Closet* can always use donations of food. Please consider buying a few extra items when you shop for your family. The following are always in demand: Macaroni/Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Instant Rice, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Soup, Canned Vegetables.

THANK YOU for your donations and support.
God is doing a great work through all of us.



Tune in to the Churchwide Assembly

This summer, more than 1,000 voting members, congregational observers, resource members, advisory members, ecumenical guests and visitors will gather in Minneapolis for the Eleventh Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA, August 17-23. The assembly is the highest legislative authority of the Churchwide organization and deals with all matters which are necessary in pursuit of the purposes and functions of this church.

There are several ways ELCA members can keep abreast of the assembly:

- If not already elected to be a voting member, register as a visitor and experience the assembly in person. Register online at www.elca.org/assembly
- Keep up to date with pre-assembly materials as they are posted on www.elca.org/assembly and plan to “attend by Web” as plenary sessions are streamed live online. If you miss a plenary session, you’ll be able to view the sessions “on demand” as well. There will be plenty of associated Web items also, such as photos and news conferences, which will also be streamed live.
- Subscribe to the ELCA News Service to receive the news releases as they are published at www.elca.org/news
- Keep up to date with “almost live online reporting” on LutherLink in three discussion groups:
 - “2009 CWA Informal Reports” will have frequent updates of brief summaries of discussions as they happen;
 - “2009 CWA in Minneapolis” is where you can ask questions or participate in discussions;
 - “2009 CWA Human Sexuality Issues” contains discussion of the proposed social statement and ministry policies recommendations. See www.lutherlink.org for links to subscribe and join.
- Connect to the assembly with prayer. For the 50 days leading up to Aug. 17, this church is invited to pray for wisdom in discernment for the ELCA and for voting members of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Visit 50 Days of Prayer at www.elca.org/assembly.



Imagine..... Hearing from Lisa Welchel, Blair from Tv's "*Facts of Life*" and founder of MomTime Ministries; Laughing with Comedian Anita Renfroe, Learning from Sheila Walsh, Patsy Clairmont and Marilyn Meberg; and Music with Nicole C Mullen, Sandy Patty and Steven Curtis Chaman! All together on the same stage.....

You can be part of this experience. It's the Women of Faith Conference and again First Lutheran is sponsoring a group - we want you to join us! The dates are **Friday, Oct 16 & Saturday, Oct 17**; the price is \$99 for premium seats. The seating price also includes meals at the Xcel Center this year! Additional arrangements are being made for hotel rooms and chartering a bus if there is sufficient interest. Be sure to ask your friends to join you! Would you be interested in fundraising to help cover the costs of this adventure? Please let us know. We want to make this trip available to all who want to go.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on Pastor Lisa's door. Sign ups are required by August 1st, including a check for \$99 to cover your cost of the ticket, made payable to First Lutheran WELCA. We ask for this payment immediately as we have to pay for the ticket purchase in August. Questions? Contact Pastor Lisa or Michelle Davis by phone at 418.2046 or email at michelle@firstlutheran-barron.org.



Needle Night Folks will NOT meet in August. Plan to meet again at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29th.

The speaker at a recent WELCA meeting was Helen Wells-O'Brien, a chaplain at the Gillette Children's Hospital, St. Paul, MN. We were twice-blessed:
 -for all inviting us to "walk with her" in this special ministry, and
 -the gift to our church library of Dr. Steve E. Koop's book We Hold This Treasure.

-Library Committee

Bible Study Opportunity for Pastors, Women & Men

"To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans" is the Bible Study published monthly in Lutheran Woman Today (September 2009 to May 2010). The author, Dr Sarah Henrich, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, will present the Bible Study Introduction Saturday, August 1, 2009 at Chetek Lutheran, Chetek. 9 a.m.- Coffee; 9:30 - noon - Bible Study. A free will offering will be taken. Order Lutheran Woman Today, Leader Guide and Companion Bible by calling 800-328-4648 or order on line at www.augsburgfortress.org.



Luther Park Benefit Auction

When: August 9, 2009. Come for the day--outdoor worship at 10:30am, grilled chicken dinner at 11am and auction, which starts promptly at noon!

Where: Luther Park Bible Camp's main site - 944 24 1/4 Street/
Luther Park Road, Chetek, WI. This is our 19th Annual Benefit.

Still need: Antiques (especially furniture, glassware, pictures), collectibles and quilts. All auction item donations are tax-deductible.

Contact: Sherm or Diana at camp 715-859-2215. They will arrange to have your items picked up.

More info and pictures on website:
www.lutherpark.org





THE SHACK

The Shack is a well-written book that causes a believer to question his/her theological thoughts and **beliefs**. Mr. Young wrote the book as a gift for his children. The book deals with some very emotional circumstances involving an abduction and murder of a young child.

Mackenzie Phillips is married to Nan who loves the Lord. They share five children, two of which are grown and in college. One year in the fall before school starts, Mack decides to take the three younger children on a camping trip alone while Nan is away at a nursing conference. At the end of the trip two of the children are involved in a near drowning experience on the lake. While this is taking place a serial killer abducts the youngest child and murders her shortly after. Evidence leads investigators to a nearby abandoned shack. Three and half years later, Mack receives a note from 'Papa' inviting him to the shack for some time alone. Mack is skeptical, but decides to find out who the note is really from by accepting the invitation. The weekend is filled with getting to know the Godhead through tears, laughter, rest, and many of Mack's deepest questions are answered.

Author William Paul Young was born a Canadian and raised among a stone-age tribe by his missionary parents in the highlands of what was New Guinea. He suffered great loss as a child and young adult. Now he enjoys life with his family in the Pacific Northwest.

Eugene Peterson writes, "This book has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress did for his. It's that good!"

Be sure to visit our library!

LutheranWoman
TODAY

W/ELCA (Lutheran Woman Today) August

Third Session:

Mary, a Woman of All Seasons

The theme verse is John 19:26-27a

We read today (and study) *Mary Among the Disciples*.

Please note all the verses in Proverbs 31 about a woman of strength.

We also studied about Mary, a widowed woman; Mary, a woman of sorrows; Mary, part of a new creation; and Mary among the Apostles.

Starting in September 2009, we'll be studying Romans and we will all have a chance to attend the briefing in Chetek.

If you want to hear the ELCA Church-wide assembly in Minneapolis, you can watch it from your own computer. The Assembly web site is www.elca.org/assembly.

There is no news from Cameroun as I've tried to connect with Dr. Solofee and Mr. Elie. Maybe the satellite service is down.

Lorraine Haugen

Afternoon Fellowship:

Ready for an interesting road trip? Then come along to the **High Ground Veterans Memorial Park** near Neillsville on August 12th with the Afternoon Fellowship Committee. We'll have a chance for a leisurely guided tour of the park - then head downtown for lunch at Doc's Diner, a Neillsville restaurant of historic significance. We will car pool over there, leaving church that morning at 9:00.



This past June, Shirley Hover and her family placed a memorial plaque in the Korean section for her husband, Rusty (Allen). We will be sure to pause there a few extra moments. Do you know of any other local veterans who are memorized there? Please let us know.

Veterans: We request your presence. Regardless of when you served, there are things of interest for you. And you might win a prize! Who entered the military the earliest? Who served the longest? Who achieved the highest rank? Don't worry. We won't leave you out if you're a non-veteran.

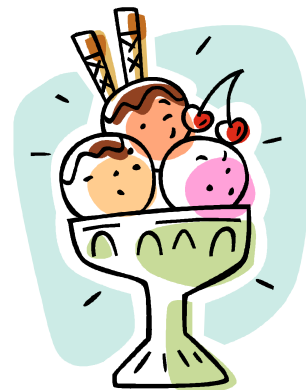
So – “What will this cost,” you ask. Just lunch on your own and a tip for the driver of the car you ride in.

We need your RSVP. Interested? Phone Nancy & Jack Breckner (458-4835). They'll arrange the car pools. Need to be picked up at home? That can be arranged.

SUNDAE SUNDAY

When? Sunday morning, August 30th after the 9:00 worship service.

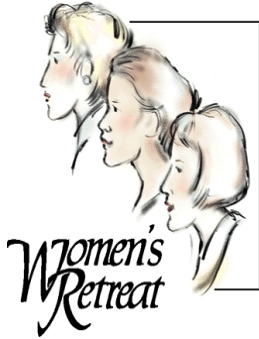
What? A “build-your-own” ice cream sundae sponsored by the Afternoon Fellowship Committee. Coffee? Why ask - we're Lutheran! Yes, we'll have some juice for you who don't like/want java.



Where? Luther Hall. And, if the weather's nice, you might like to take your coffee & sundaes outside to sit and visit with your friends. You might want to bring your folding chairs.

Why? This will be your last chance to buy a 125th anniversary coffee mug. Two for \$5.00 (half price) or \$3.00 each. You can drink your coffee (or juice) from your very own. And, yes, we'll wash them first!

See ya....



Retreat and Surrender....

at Luther Park Bible Camp. It's time for the Heart of the North Women's Retreat. This year's theme is ***Hands that Speak***. Camp is from Monday, August 10th at 4:00 pm to Tuesday, August 11th at 4:00 pm. Cost is \$35.00 advance registration and \$40.00 at the door.

Accommodations are available in modern, duplex cabins; each bedroom sleeps 10 and has its own private bathroom. Monday dinner, snacks and late night treats. Tuesday breakfast and lunch are also included in the registration fee.

The camp is handicap accessible. Child "scholarships" are available and children will be cared for by youth staff.

Speakers: Barbara Solsaa Church Relations, Lutheran Social Services; Jan Etnier

Global Health; Retreat Pastor: Pastor Rich Noeldner, Bethel/Dovre Lutheran Church; Bible Study: Mary Toufar, Director of Program Ministry, LPBC; Musical: by the Luther Park Bible Camp Staff.

The retreat is a wonderful time of rest and study. Registration forms with more complete information are on the Women's Bulletin board across from the church office.

Our next year Circle Bible Study will be Paul's Letter to the Romans. The author, Dr Sarah Henrich, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, will present the Bible Study Introduction Saturday, August 1, 2009 at Chetek Lutheran, Chetek. 9 a.m.- Coffee; 9:30 - noon - Bible Study. A free will offering will be taken. This is open to everyone and is be a wonderful and rare opportunity to meet the author or our study.

Our July pie and ice cream social was a great success. We served 130 people and had a wonderful time with Chuck Kirkwood and Friends.

Have a Wonderful and Renewing summer.

Barb Swant, Mission Growth

Duties this month:

Mission Correspondence:

Communion Assistants:

Kitchen Maintenance:

Care of Altar:

Pledge Circle

Harmony Circle

Anita Meysembourg & Betty Missling

*Cheryl Johnson, Dixie Bjurstrom, Gail Larson

*leaders please contact Pastors prior to your month to serve.

**GATHERED TOGETHER
BY THE SPIRIT**

(As of July 19, 2009)

GENERAL FUND OFFERING

2009 Budget	\$339,000.00
Received This Week	5,950.00
Needed Year to Date	174,286.34
Received Year to Date	163,936.87
	-10,349.47

REPAIR AND DEBT FUND

Received Year to Date	3,294.00
Needed Year to Date	2,875.35
	+418.65

MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS

In memory of Janice Mosentine Wellman
For the Campership Fund.....\$100

BAPTISMS

Jayden Ryan Meyer 07/19/2009
Ole Ryan Todahl 07/19/2009

RADIO BROADCASTS

August 02: A gift from David and Linda
Martinson

August 09: In memory of 125th Anniversary of
First Lutheran by 125 Anniversary
Committee

August 16: In memory of Harland and Stella
Weghorn by Mike and Kathy
Weghorn

August 23: In memory of Larry Hanse by
Lynne Hanse

August 30: In memory of Don Thompson by
Margy and Family

FUNERALS

Arnold Ellison 7/16/2009



THANKS TO OUR CONGREGATION...

... Thank you for the graduation blanket and for supporting me as I grew up.....Jared Hilbert

First Lutheran Church

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Barron, WI 54812-1307

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**You can now sign-up for the Focus newsletter,
LutherGram, Sunday School and Confirmation email
news and reminders online at our website!**



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

Pastor:

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

Parish Secretary :

Tricia Lehner church: 537-3575

Office Hours:

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

President:

Rod Wieneri

Vice-President:

Keith Kolpack

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 *9:00am

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