

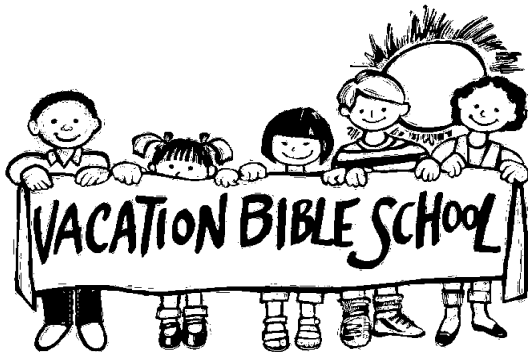


# FOCUS AT FIRST

Volume 23 Issue #5

A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church – Barron, WI

May 2009



## WE NEED YOU!

VBS will be July 20–24 from 9 a.m. to noon. We need volunteers of all ages. Even if you can help for only a day, please come. The children need to see both younger and older people modeling their faith. **YOU** may be just the person they need. If you are interested, or have questions, please call Heidi Verhulst at 637-5130. The children

Thank You.

**Attention Students!** Remember the First Lutheran Scholarship Fund which has financial assistance for students attending an ELCA college or seminary. If you are interested and qualify, talk to Pastor Beyer or Pastor Lisa. Applications are due by May 31.

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### It's Time for the Youth-Sponsored Garage Sale!

Friday, May 15  
8:00am—4:00pm

&

Saturday, May 16  
8:00am—noon



Please come to the education area of the church and shop for bargains on clothing, household items, antiques and toys while supporting the 2009 National Youth Gathering.

### SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS MAY 24



On Sunday, May 24, the summer schedule changes to one worship service at **9:00am**. Saturday worship continues each week at 5:30pm.



Recognition of our 2009 high school graduates will be on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** at the **8:30am service**. There will be a brunch for only the graduating seniors and their families following the service hosted by families of this year's junior class. Congratulations and best wishes to the graduating members of First Lutheran.

## ***Dedication of New Worship Books***

On Pentecost weekend, May 30-31, we will dedicate our new Evangelical Lutheran Worship Books. They have been given in memory of:

Carla Grey  
Muriel Krough  
Alice Nelson  
LeRoy Sather  
Beth Anderson  
Esther Mayte  
Helga Schultz

Lucille Brandt  
Cal Romsos  
Ellen Silbaugh  
Grace Odden  
Richard Degerman  
Cora Heil  
Eunice Beyer

Violet O'Flanagan  
Emmanuel & Charlotte Johnson  
John Kallenbach  
Violet Larson  
Phyllis Anderson  
Helen Larson

Other copies were given as gifts to our congregation by Shirley Hover, Effie Hegna, Kris Beckwith, Carolyn Beckwith, Marilyn Beckwith, Kay and Scott Meyerhaff, Jane and David Clausen, and Sally Jacobsen.

If we have missed any names, please call the church office at 537-3575.



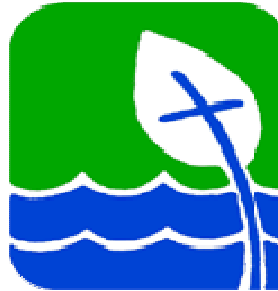
### **Pennies for Planting Project - Thank You!**

The Social Concerns Committee would like to express a big THANK YOU to all who helped to make our Lenten project a great success.

With your help we have been able to surpass our goal of \$1200.00 to fill our growing corn stalk. Together we have managed to raise \$1760.46 for the purpose of seeds, fertilizer and tools to help feed the hungry in our sister Synod in Malawi!

It is heart warning to know that although the economy is struggling right now and many are having difficulty keeping up, our congregation has been able to give generously to those who struggle even more—just to survive. God Bless you all and again thank you for sharing your blessings with those who have little.

-The Social Concerns Committee



**Save the Date and  
Participate!!  
Pieces of Luther Park  
Wednesday, May 27  
4:00-8:00  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Eau Claire**

All ages are invited to join us for a fun-filled evening enjoying "pieces" of Luther Park! There will be food (including pie and ice cream), crafts, tie-dying, games, camp songs, worship, bake sale, and silent auction.

The 9 ELCA churches in Eau Claire are sponsoring and participating in this fun-filled evening. If you'd like to help or donate to this event, please contact Brenda Thalacker at 579-3999 or email at [cetinec@hotmail.com](mailto:cetinec@hotmail.com). **Proceeds will be used for Luther Park debt reduction.**

\*\*This is a Thrivent Financials for Lutherans supported event\*\*

125 years is a long time. There has been a lot of good ministry done in God's name throughout those years at First Lutheran. What a treat to be able to look back at it all and remember the blessings of God's grace. As long as that 125 years may be, there is still more for us all to do as a congregation. There are more people that need to hear God's words and experience God's love as only we can share it. Barron needs us to be faithful to the calling of God in this generation and beyond. I found a list entitled, "12 Secrets to Happiness." I think it could also be called 12 Secrets to Living Together as Brothers and Sisters in the Body of Christ. Here's the list:

### 12 SECRETS TO HAPPINESS

1. **GIVE** ~ Giving shows that we are willing to reach out beyond our own selfishness and self-absorption.
2. **ENCOURAGE** ~ Encouraging lifts others above their hurts and frustrations and loneliness.
3. **APOLOGIZE** ~ Apologizing says that we are aware of our missteps and we are willing to take responsibility for our actions.
4. **LOVE** ~ Loving gives us purpose; for loving God and our neighbors is why we were created.
5. **SMILE** ~ Smiling lets the world know that there is hope.
6. **TRUST** ~ Trust allows us to relax with the knowledge that God holds all things in His strong and tender hands.
7. **THANKS** ~ Thanking tells God and others that we truly appreciate all the good gifts we have.
8. **LEARN** ~ Learning brings us closer to God, His wisdom, His ways, and His creation.
9. **WELCOME** ~ Welcoming reaches out to others of every gender, race, and creed with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
10. **PRAY** ~ Praying keeps us closer to the Creator of the universe, through both our good and hard times.
11. **FORGIVE** ~ Forgiving reminds us of how much God has forgiven us, erasing our sins and giving us a fresh start.
12. **CELEBRATE** ~ Celebrating joyfully all that God has said, done and created.

*Dr. Steve Stephens  
Author and Seminar Speaker*

I think these 12 Secrets are a good way to live in our congregation and community for the next 125 years. God has placed First Lutheran in Barron for a purpose. You and I have a lot of work to do. May God give us the faith and the strength to do it.

See you in church!

*Pastor Lisa*

**Minutes of the Congregational Council  
March 16, 2009**

**Members Present:**

Terry Jergenson, Wendell McDonough, Jason Erb, Gerald Johnson, Gayle Larson, Barb Swant, Keith Kolpack, Ardis Ress, Nancy Krahenbuhl, Julie Malone, Rod Wieneri, Carla Nordby

**Members Excused:**

Julie Hallberg, Pastor Bruce Beyer, Pastor Lisa Shank, Carolyn Verhulst, Lissette Ritchie, Michelle Davis

**Meeting Call to Order:**

7:00 PM by Council President, Rod Wieneri

**Devotions:**

Terry Jergenson and Rod Wieneri

**Secretary's Report:**

The February Church Council minutes were tabled until the April meeting because of a computer error at the church office.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Gerald Johnson gave the treasurer's report. At the end of February we were slightly below budget but if March offerings come in as expected we will not need to borrow money at this time. Going into March in a good position.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

We received a letter from Lynn Kolpack regarding the upcoming fundraiser for the Barron Food Pantry on May 3, 2009. A piano concert will be given by Steve Hall and a spaghetti supper will be served from 5:00-7:00 PM. They are looking for any size donation to off-set the costs of the dinner.

A motion to approve the transfer of \$100.00 from the Gifts and Memorials Undesignated Fund was made by Ardis Ress.

Second by Julie Malone.

Motion Carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Vision Team – meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, 2009. The committee will begin to review lists of comments and suggestions made to BeFriends.

BeFriends – 12 members were commissioned during church services two weeks ago.

Anniversary Update – things are rolling along. A sign

will go up next week and bookmarks are on their way.

Multi-Media – currently fundraising money with Schwan's Food delivery Sunday, March 22, 2009.

Other Committee Items – Social Concerns welcomes Ann Knutson to their committee. Church Secretary, Trisha attended Shelby training and paid the cost on her personal credit card.

A motion to approve payment from the Secretaries Fund for \$425.00 made by Jason Erb.

Second by Keith Kolpack.

Motion carried.

**Trust Fund Transfers:**

\$100.00 for the Barron Food Pantry Fund Raiser.

**Pastor Beyer's Report:**

Pastor Beyer is ill. His written report recommends for 4 Transfers In, 6 Reaffirmations of Faith, and 2 Transfers Out.

A motion to approve these transfers made by Jason Erb.

Second by Ardis Ress.

Motion carried.

**Pastor Lisa's Report:**

Pastor Lisa is in St. Charles for a family funeral.

**President's Report:**

A Church Council Leadership Training Workshop was held at Hayward on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Five council members attended. Some topics covered were: Transforming Leadership, Church Mission Statements, Mutual Ministry, Wellness Initiative, Book of Faith Initiative, New Study Bible, Malawi, Lay School of Ministry, and Charitable Gift Giving.

Rod Wieneri says, "We are blessed!" We are very fortunate to have so many active members carrying out the mission of First Lutheran.

We are looking for three people to attend the Synod Assembly May 29 and 30, 2009 in Eau Claire. Early bird deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> – anyone can go!

**Vice President Report:**

None

**Other Business:**

None

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM by Wendell McDonough.

Second by Nancy Krahenbuhl.

Motion carried.

Close with Lord's Prayer.



# Seven Brides For Seven Brothers

At the Chanhassen - Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.  
A Thrivent bus trip.

A musical with an award-winning score. Set in the Oregon wilderness, it's love at first sight between Millie and Adam, a handsome backwoodsman. They marry and she discovers she is expected to keep house for Adam and his six uncivilized brothers. Her plan to marry them off backfires when they kidnap six women from a neighboring town.

Thrivent members \$60\ non-members \$75 – all-inclusive show, dinner & bus. Send no money yet, but contact Roger Jones now to pre-register (637-5762 – [FifeMcDowell@hotmail.com](mailto:FifeMcDowell@hotmail.com)).

## CELEBRATING YOUTH MUSICIANS

The Barron Area School District has forever been blessed with great musicians. Why? As with all phenomena, there are several theories. Some seem to think it's something in the water. Others say genetic background. Still others claim it to be the result of great teachers. This writer personally doesn't feel the water has anything to do with it. Instead, he believes the genes have a lot to do with it – and the teachers a huge amount.

The Afternoon Fellowship program on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, will celebrate our younger generations of music greats, beginning at 1:30 in the Sanctuary.

The first performers will be the Fifth Grade Music Club, a baker's dozen-plus of Jennifer Werner's students from Riverview Middle School. Their performance is being called "The Granny Awards" (a spoof on the Grammy Awards). If you're a granny – or maybe a grampy – you won't want to miss this. Nor will anyone who is likely someday to be one!

Next, will be several of Julia Loisel's and David Midboe's voice students from Barron High School. Were you one of those unlikely folks who missed the recent production, "Showboat"? If so, your luck has changed. From that show, you're scheduled to hear "O' Man River" (an unforgettable rendition by 9<sup>th</sup>-grade Josiah Madison) and "Only Make Believe" sung by Josh Davidson and Jessica Pintens. Sam Olson will sing his award-winning solo, "If Music Be the Food of Love" by William Purcell. Topping off this group will be Amanda Arnold and Josiah Wampfler singing their state solo-ensemble number, "Pie Jesu" by Andrew Lloyd Webber. All accompanied by "native-daughter," Julia Ellison Loisel.

We'll conclude with a show-stopping act by "Seven 30 # (translated 7:30 Sharp – the early-morning hour they rehearse). This is a group who put more than their voices into their music! (If you've ever seen\heard them, you'll know whereof I speak.) The group is composed of Amada Arnold, Kassie Church, Amber Glass, Bridget Klatt & Erika Shearer. Their repertoire includes "Breaking up is Hard to Do," "It's Raining Men," and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" – and, yes, their signature tune "Lollipop."

Simon Cowell, eat your heart out!

After the singing, we'll adjourn to the Celebration Room for refreshments. There you will find a basket for a free-will offering to be used for the day's expenses and future programs.

The public is invited. Please invite your friends.

# Sunday School, Vacation Bible School & Youth Activities

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FROM BONNIE:

**Sunday School** is drawing to a close with the **last day being May 17<sup>th</sup>**. We thank the following teachers for everything that they have done for our children!

Alaethea LaLiberty  
Lisa Quinn  
Kayla Stoeklen  
Chris Malone  
Dallas Sloan  
Valeri Scheps  
Janeen Anderson

Emma Babler  
Sheila Erb  
Brenda Haag  
Terry Jergenson  
Bill Koser  
Judy Folstad  
Amanda Johnson (Kevin too)

Amanda Krahenbuhl  
Alanna Hanson  
Carolyn Verhulst  
Tessa Horvath  
Susan Babler

And all of the many subs we have had this year, for giving of your time to fill in when the teacher calls you. THANK YOU!

And a very big THANK YOU to Lorri Hinde for all of your help. It is too busy for one person to handle on Sunday morning. You have been a bigger help than you know. Thanks for your support.

## Mark Your Calendars: Vacation Bible School will be July 20th - 24th from 9:00am - noon.

The registration form is available on page 7. **We need your help!** The Education Dept. is asking for help with the Vacation Bible School program. Please talk to Heidi Verhulst at 637-5130 or Bonnie Hilbert at 637-9339 if you can help. Be on the lookout for a posting of items that you can bring, too!



**SWYG WILL BE MEETING** at the church at 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 13th to perform some outdoor clean-up. Please bring rakes and work gloves, and wear comfortable clothes. After our chores we're having Uptown pizza.



**Senior High Graduation Recognition Sunday is May 17<sup>th</sup>!**  
**We ask that the Seniors join us for worship at the 8:30 service.**  
**You and your family are also invited to a brunch in your honor**  
**hosted by your friends in the Junior Class!**



May 26th is "Needle Night" from 6:30—8:30pm in the Centennial Room at church. Young, old, and in-between and beginners and experienced "needle masters" are encouraged to join us on the 26th. Bring any knitting, crocheting, or stitchery projects you're currently working on, or come and learn how to knit or crochet. We've got needles, hooks, and yarn you can borrow. Of course, there will be time for visiting and dessert, too. Come late and leave early if that's what your schedule allows.

**Go Wild For VBS**  
**DISCOVER** the untamed nature of **GOD**  
 And  
**BOZ'S GREAT ADVENTURE**  
 (for the preschool)



Date : July 20<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>

Time : 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Who : 3 year olds thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Where : First Lutheran Church Barron

Please join us for the week for Wild Bible stories, crafts, games, snacks, and great music.

**VBS REGISTRATION**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Color Group Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Siblings Attending VBS \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pager or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church Home \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Allergy/Health Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

I permit my child's name and food allergy to be posted for VBS staff members to see. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ NA \_\_\_

My child has my permission to attend and participate in Wildwood Forest VBS program.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





## A Message from Bishop Pederson:

We recently received news of the discontinuation of *Grace Matters* due to reduced mission support and the resulting cutbacks.

The demise of *Grace Matters* is a specific example of how important our undesignated mission support is as we partner together for the sake of mission. When mission support is reduced, it does indeed affect our ability as congregations, synods, and church wide in the witness we make in Jesus' name in very real ways.



The Bible study on Esther ends with theme Esther, Reversal of Fortune, based on Esther 9-1. Three studies we did this year: Ruth, Daniel, Esther. Our summer studies will be on Mary and starting in September we'll study Romans.



News from Cameroun is not good. The health care workers at Garoua Boulai have not seen any of their salary for several months. And money to buy some medicine (\$1,000) has not arrived from DGM, Chicago. There was an email from DGM stating that their budget has been cut 11.4 percent. This has cut deeply into hunger funds and help for companion synods. No missionaries have been called back to the U. S. yet.

-Lorraine Haugen

### ***Duties this month:***

Mission Correspondence: Pledge Circle

Communion Assistants: Faith Circle

Kitchen Maintenance: Linda Marvin & Elaine Mayfield

Care of Altar: \*Donna Jones, Vonny Degerman,  
Tamy Severude

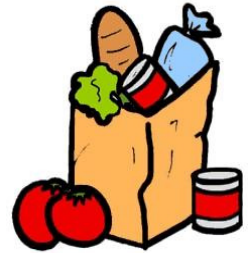
## Cupboard & Closet



Sales are up and so are the needs. We NEED your help. Here's how you can be part of this important ministry in Barron:

- We need a store manager to help with the day to day operation of the Closet (aka Thrift Store). For many years, Jay and Deanna Keppen have been working so faithfully and diligently, but they need some help. Please talk to one of the pastors for more information.
- We need volunteers to staff the Closet. The number of customers is up, and more help is needed to sort, stock shelves, price donated goods, and run the cash register. You don't have to know how to do everything, there will be training, and other volunteers to help. Call Jay Keppen at 637-5797
- We also need volunteers to help with the Cupboard (aka Food Pantry). We are having new families every month, and that is expected to continue. If you can help, or would like more information, please call Lynne Hanse at 637-5151.
- Every food donation is welcome and used. However, there is a constant need for "staples" for the Cupboard. There is always a need for:

Macaroni/pasta  
Cereal  
Peanut butter  
Soup  
Canned Vegetables



### **Your Help is Needed in the Kitchen:**

Please return the kitchen towels and dish cloths to the kitchen. Please remember to remove your milk in the refrigerator; otherwise it spoils. Please mark all food items that are left in the refrigerator with your name or your committee's name. This way we will know to whom the items belong. Please remember to remove your canned goods. Your assistance with these tasks will be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

-The Kitchen Maintenance Crew

**GATHERED TOGETHER  
BY THE SPIRIT**

**GENERAL FUND OFFERING**

2009 Budget	\$339,000.00
Received This Week	3,885.16
Needed Year to Date	95,903.72
Received Year to Date	93,645.14
	-2,258.58

**REPAIR AND DEBT FUND**

Received Year to Date	1,518.00
Needed Year to Date	1,586.40

(As of April 19, 2009)

**MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS**

In memory of Boyd Junkans  
For the "Undesignated Fund" ..... \$25

**FUNERALS**

Mable Thompson..... April 27, 2009

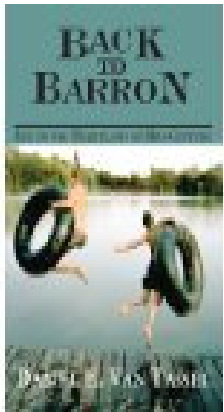
**BAPTISMS**

Brady David Frandsen	4-19-2009
Zoey Olivia Frandsen	4-19-2009
Bryce England Lee Kittelson	4-19-2009

**RADIO BROADCASTS**

- May 3: In memory of George & Audrey Miller by their daughters.
- May 10: In honor of our families by Arnold and Gladys Ellison.
- May 17: by Clifton & Gladys Hansen In Honor of Their 33rd Wedding Anniversary.
- May 24: In memory of Alf Rasmussen by Ethel Rasmussen and family.
- May 31: In memory of Ralph Akenson by Mynn Akenson and sons David, Greg and Bruce.

**Back to Barron**  
**Book Reading on June 7 (Tentatively)**



Dan Van Tassel has written a book about his time in Barron. His father was the pastor at First from 1946 to 1955. Many of you have fond memories of Rev. Van Tassel and the rest of the family. Dan and his sister are going on a Midwest book tour and would like to have a reading at First. So, the tentative plans are to have a potluck after church on Sunday, June 7, and have the book reading in the early afternoon. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more information.

# Thank You!



Special Thanks go out to ALL who helped plan the 125th Anniversary Celebration. Much hard work and LOTS of hours went into making a festive day for us all. The 125th Anniversary Committee consisted of:

Pastor Bruce Beyer; Pastor Lisa Shank; Dale and Ardis Thorsbakken; Evelyn Peterson; Linda Wiemer; Harold and Reda Thorson; Renee Degerman; Ron and Jan Barrett; Julie Hallberg; Terry and Carolyn Miller; and Judy Degerman.

Thank you to all who attended to make the day so blessed. Special Thanks also go to all the following who helped to make the day a success. We appreciated all your time and all your talents. *Thank You to . . .*

- David Midboe; Sally Ellison; Mary Shearer; Judy Folstad; June Edson, and Rachel Hanson for their musical contributions.
- Fran Felber; Lisa Schultz; and Michelle Davis for printing the history books and tickets.
- 'R Country Gals for another wonderful concert.
- Linda Martinson for making the pew bows.
- Kolleen Forsman for making the new banner.
- Levone (aka Snooks) Swenson for catering our meal.
- Jim Forsman for being our Master of Ceremonies
- Carsten Ellison and Katie Nordby for sharing memories as life-long members of First Lutheran.
- Roger Jones and the Afternoon Fellowship Committee for ordering and selling the Anniversary mugs.
- Arnold Ellison for writing the *Reflections* poem.
- Sally Ellison for composing our theme song: "*Called to be One*"
- Lilly Sauer for writing the article for the News-Shield.
- W/ELCA for providing the cake and serving.
- Evelyn Peterson, life-long member, for speaking.
- Tricia Lehner and Patrice Akenson for all the work on the bulletins and programs, and selling tickets, and mailing invitations, and . . . .



## *Living The Resurrection*

The author is Eugene H. Peterson. He is a pastor, scholar, writer and a poet. He has authored more than 20 books including the best selling *MESSAGE Bible*. After the resurrection of Jesus, nothing is the same. That truth can become personal for you through this book. It takes you back to Jesus time so you can experience the resurrection through the eyes of the biblical witnesses. Jesus friends were completely transformed by His resurrection. Their friendship, their work and their meals together took on a new meaning. And the same can also happen to us. "You'll discover what life is like when every day is resurrection day." Come and visit our library. We have many new books.



**W/ELCA Monthly Meeting  
Wed. May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.**

**“God’s Comforting Hands”**

**Guest Speaker- Helen Wells-O’Brien  
Chaplain from *Gillette Children’s Specialty  
Hospital*, St. Paul, MN**

**Journey through her experiences comforting  
patients and parents.**

**Her hospital ministry has benefited children  
and families from First Lutheran and the  
Barron Area.**

**Bring your spouses and friends to hear this  
inspirational speaker.**

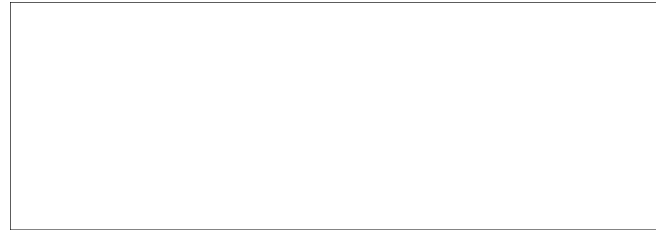
**Enjoy refreshments following the program!**

# First Lutheran Church

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

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## 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](mailto:office@firstlutheran-barron.org)  
[www.firstlutheran-barron.org](http://www.firstlutheran-barron.org)

### Pastors:

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

### Parish Secretary:

Tricia Lehner church: 537-3575

### Office Hours:

**Monday-Thursday: 8:30-11:00 & 12:00-4:00**  
**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,\* 9:00a.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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday