



FOCUS AT FIRST

Volume 33 Issue #1 A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church — Barron, WI January 2019

happy new year



Upcoming:

2019 Congregational Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on **January 27th** following worship

From the Council President's Corner

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope that the New Year will be good to all of you. This will be my last president's letter. I would just like to thank all of you for coming together as a congregation and really working together this year. We have accomplished many things **together** this year.

It is my hope that you will be as supportive, helpful and kind to the next president of the congregation, Andrew Harrington, as you all were to me.

My New Year's Gift to all of you is this list of things, that is called "25 Things to Remember."

25 Things to Remember

God is always with you...

Your presence is a present to the world...

You're unique and one of a kind...

Your life can be what you want it go be...

Take the days just one at a time...

Count your blessings, not your troubles...

You'll make it through whatever comes along...

Within you are so many answers...

Understand, have courage, be strong...

Don't put limits on yourself...

So many dreams are waiting to be realized...

Decisions are too important to leave to chance...

Reach for your peak, your goal, your prize...

Nothing wastes more energy than worrying...

The longer one carries a problem, the heavier it gets...

Don't take things too seriously...

Live a life of serenity, not a life of regrets...

Remember that a lot... goes forever...

Remember that friendship is a wise investment...

Life's treasures are people ... together...

Realize that it's never too late...

Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way...

Have health and hope and happiness...

Take time to wish upon a star...

And don't ever forget... for even a day... **how very Special you are...**

May God be with you all in the New Year

Jan Kienbaum

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 26, 2018**

Present: Jason Erb, Andrew Harrington, Steve Haugen, Jan Kienbaum, Mike Otto, Susan Olson, Bruce Rasmussen, Pastor Ron Mathews. Absent: Pamela Jacoby, Carolyn Verhulst. Others Attending: Bill Koser, Keith Kolpack and Dallas Sloan

The November 2018 meeting of the First Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Jan Kienbaum.

Pastor Ron led the opening devotion.

OFFICERS REPORT:

The Secretary's report from council meeting held 10/15/2018 was reviewed and Jason made a motion to accept the minutes. Mike seconded it. Motion carried.

Jason made Treasurer's reports and discussion centered on status of envelope offerings as through 10/31/18, the envelope offerings are \$58,960 short of budget for YTD however the envelope offerings for October were \$2,445 over the budget for the month. The budget process for 2019 has started. Bruce made motion to accept the report. Mike seconded it. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

A Gathering of Hope for Jayme Closs was coordinated by Pastor Ron in the Barron Community and attended by approximately 800 Barron area community members.

Two funerals and one quinceanera were held during the past month.

A Congregational Christmas Party will be held on 11/28/18.

Lori Wiegrefe has given her two week notice to resign from her executive assistant position at FLC.

An updating of the membership rolls is in process

Stewardship will be meeting again to follow-up on members in which no pledges have been received.

Pastor Ron will be on vacation from 12/3/18 to 12/9/18.

OLD BUSINESS:

Constitution Task Force – Bill Koser, Keith Kolpack and Dallas Sloan lead a review of the updated FLC Constitution. Bruce made a motion to present updated constitution to congregation for approval. Jason seconded it. Motion carried. Bill, Keith and Dallas will now commence work on the FLC bylaws. A Big Thank You was given to task force members for their work on the updated constitution.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee reports for the annual meeting booklet will need to be submitted by 12/15/18.

Motion made by Steve and seconded by Bruce to approve an expenditure of up to \$500 for a guest speaker to talk about community and how we respond to fear and grieving. This would be a joint event with school district and be open to entire community. It will be communicated to FLC congregation that special funding donations for this program would be accepted. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Budget process is in process.

Property – Report given from meeting held 11/12/18 - \$1,200 will be the cost to straighten tombstones at FLC cemetery.

Worship – Children's Christmas program will be 12/16/18.

Outreach – The church directory is being proofed.

WELCA – Bazaar held 11/3/18 & 11/4/18 went well

With no further business, we closed with the Lord's Prayer. Susan made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Andrew seconded it. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Rasmussen, Council Secretary

Join Us As We Listen to the “Picture the Bible” Worship Series

January 6 - Jesus in Temple

Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?

—Luke 2:49

Why do you think the teachers listened to Jesus, a 12-year-old boy? How do you decide who you listen to?



January 13 - Baptism of Jesus

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

—Matthew 3:17

We don’t know exactly how God is with us in baptism, but we know it is true. Even when we don’t understand God, God is with us. That is good news!



January 20 - Temptation of Jesus

It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”

—Luke 4:8

All people are faced with the temptation to think or act only for ourselves, rather than as God wants us to.



January 27 - Call of Disciples

Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.

— Matthew 4:19

What is the difference between being faithful and being perfect? Why is it impossible to be perfect?



January 6th Worship with a Bluegrass Bang!!!

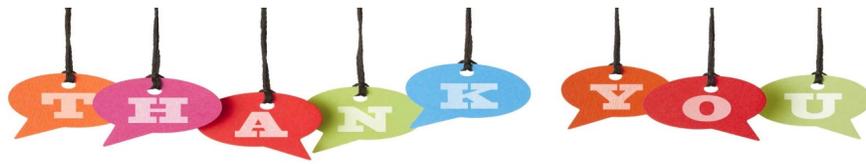
The Stringsmiths are looking forward to being at First Lutheran on **Sunday morning January 6th!** They are a hard-driving bluegrass band that keep listeners tapping their toes. These fine instrumentalists also add a blend of two, three, and four part vocal harmonies to their music. Band members include Barb and Chris Landstrom of Cumberland on bass and banjo, Nate Elmer of Clayton on mandolin, Randy Hanson of Cameron on fiddle and Mary Pimblett of Eau Claire on guitar. They play at bluegrass festivals, private/public events and also enjoy sharing their Gospel repertoire at local churches. Everyone is invited to FLC for some great toe-tapping worship music on January 6th. A free-will donation basket will provide an opportunity for folks to support the ministry of the Stringsmiths. Invite your family members and friends to join us!



E-mail addresses are needed for Realm



In the beginning of summer, you may have read about our new church management software called Realm. Realm allows you, as a member, to look up members in our church directory, update your personal information, view your giving history & print giving statements, make & keep track of your pledges all in the comfort of your own computer! If you would like to log into Realm, we will need your e-mail address on file in Realm first. Please e-mail Andrea in the church office at andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org so that she may add your email address to your Realm profile and send an invitation to log in in the near future.



Thank you to the following radio broadcast sponsors:

- Jan 6 - In memory of Janet Campbell by Lloyd Campbell
- Jan 13 - In honor of LaVern Strop's birthday by Marilyn Strop
- Jan 20 - In memory of Cheryl Prashad by Pastor Chet Prashad
- Jan 27 - In honor of Richard & Lois Schultz's 66th wedding anniversary

Thank you to the following Live Stream broadcast sponsors:

- Jan 6 - (available)
- Jan 13 - (available)
- Jan 20 - (available)
- Jan 27 - (available)

Please contact the church office at 715-537-3575 if you would like to sponsor a broadcast.

Gifts and Memorials

In memory of Donna Miller, \$200 for Building Repair Funds,
given by Family & Friends.

In memory of Donna Miller, \$10 given by June Edson.

In honor of our Children & Grandchildren, Andy & Allison Rick, Audra, Alivia, Aidan, and Axton,
\$75 given by Ken & Alexa Gonske.

In honor of Ron & Jan Barrett, \$25 for Gift from the Heart by Roger & Donna Jones.

Thank you to Clean Label Kitchen for donation of Communion Bread!

Thank you to Nate and Nan Carlsen, for donation to purchase new Christmas lights!

Gift From the Heart News

Thanks to everyone who helped the Gift of the Heart project this year by taking and fulfilling hearts, donating hats and mittens, donating books, and giving monetary gifts! We couldn't have done this project without all the wonderful volunteers we had on packing day and distribution day also!

We have a special thank you to our Sunday School students who donated all their offerings in December to Gift From The Heart and for making over 100 sets of beautiful fleece hats and scarves to put in the bags for the children!

Because of your generosity and that of the Barron community and the Methodist, St. Joes Catholic, Salem Lutheran and Four Square Gospel churches, we were able to help 74 families with 200 children with warm winter clothes and or Christmas gifts.



W/ELCA News

W/ELCA Meeting, Wednesday, January 2 at 1:30 p.m.

There will be a speaker from Benjamin's House. Please join us to learn about the good things they do there. If you choose you could bring a donation for Benjamin's House when you come to the meeting. Items needed are multipurpose cleaners, laundry soap, disinfectant spray, paper towels feminine hygiene products, diapers, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, over the counter cold and allergy medications, table lamps, alarm clocks and socks.

Thank Offering Service

There will be a Thank Offering Service on Sunday, January 20th. Lori Wells will be the speaker. Ladies, this is when you can bring your Thank Offering. There are special envelopes in your 2018 W/ELCA booklet.

January Missionary Correspondence - Faith Circle

January Altar Guild - Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Kreckler, Diane Sloan

Upcoming Events

January 2—W/ELCA Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

January 20—W/ELCA Board Meeting at 10:15

January 20—Thank Offering Service

**The W/ELCA Board would like to wish everyone
a Wonderful New Year!**

Submitted by Jan Kienbaum



**8th Grade Capstone Retreat is
Saturday, January 12 at 9am - 5pm**

YOUTH IN MISSION - 2019

In the summer of 2019, our high school youth will be traveling to Lake Traverse South Dakota Indian Reservation, June 16-22. Our middle school youth will be serving right here in Barron

for our Home Town Mission, July 21-24. Be sure to watch future Focuses and bulletins for meeting dates and more information regarding these trips!



January Sunday School Scoop

Our December was so busy with Christmas preparation, so as we turn the calendar, it is fitting that we get ready for lots of new in the new year! Sunday School will join back together on **Sunday, January 6th**, where we will welcome our 3rd Quarter teachers, including some new faces to our group!

Our families gave so very generously in November and December, and we were able to support Gift From the Heart with a check for just shy of \$100! Starting in January, offerings will go to benefit the Barron Area Food Pantry.

Lots of fun new songs and lessons in our music time! ***Looking forward to seeing everyone very soon!***



CALLING ALL 3RD-5TH GRADERS!

JOIN US FOR A FUN LESSON, GAMES, AND A SNACK! BRING A FRIEND, AND GET READY FOR "SNOW" MUCH FUN!

PLEASE BRING YOUR BIBLE ALONG WITH YOU - THANKS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT AMITY AT 715.418.4276 OR AMITY@FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG.



Counting Sheep

Our Sunday School children had a great time sharing the Christmas story with the congregation again this year! We had a very full house join us in this special service!



Thank you to all Sunday School teachers, students, and families for the hard work that was put into the program! Thank you to Susan Babler for once again providing us with a fresh, new, look at this story! And, finally, thanks to Doug Wiegrefe, at Clean Label Kitchen, for the donation of the bread used in communion today!





PARISH NURSE CORNER

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas! At this writing, we will have enjoyed spending time with family and friends and likely, now feeling a little tight around the waist from indulging in tasty foods and desserts.

Hence, as we enter a new year, many will consider this time to make lifestyle changes through a New Year's resolution. The word resolve, per Wikipedia, means to change an undesired trait or behavior; to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve his or her life. The most common resolutions include weight loss, exercise programs and smoking cessation. Per the American Medical Association, a resolution has its roots at the end of the Great Depression when approximately, 25% of American adults formed some type of New Year's resolution. Those that formed a resolution at that time, were 46% more likely to succeed than those who chose to make life changes at other times of the year.

New Year's resolution also has religious origins. Per Open Bible. info, the Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The tradition of New Year's resolution continued into the Medieval era as well as involving other religious traditions, beliefs and practices.

There are over 60 bible verses addressing New Year's resolutions. Hence, as you consider making changes in 2019, you may find the bible a helpful spiritual resource as well.

One such verse is Colossians 3:14-15: "And above all these, put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

Blessings,

Carol A Matthys, Parish Nurse



Executive Assistant Position

First Lutheran Church is hiring an Executive Assistant. This position will be 15 hours per week. The Executive Assistant will possess demonstrated skill in advancing the communications of all aspects of the congregation's mission and ministries. This person will have primary responsibility for developing all print and digital communications. This will include worship bulletins, PowerPoints for worship, the monthly newsletter, and other periodic pieces. A full job description is available in the church office. If you would like to apply, please submit a letter of application and resume to the church office or Pastor Ron.



Many thanks to all of you for your continued support of Cupboard and Closet. We couldn't do what we do without you and your donations. Blessed Holidays to all of you,

Lynne Hanse

Birthdays of the Month

Doug Clausen	1/02
Michael Marvin	1/02
Jordan Haag	1/02
Linda Hackett	1/02
Andrew Smith	1/03
Kay Zabka	1/03
Betty Lambert	1/03
Paul Lundequam	1/03
Deb Dietrich	1/03
Luverne Hanson	1/03
Charles Kirkwood	1/04
Jackalyn Fladten	1/04
Robert Huiras	1/05
Paul Schmitz	1/05
Melissa Weiten	1/05
Josh Moe	1/05
Matt Johnson	1/05
Connie Steen	1/06
Cole Severson	1/07
Amanda Olson	1/07
Kimberly Ness	1/07
Victorea Lyons	1/07
Allison Rick	1/09
Maria Vruwink	1/09
Matt Vruwink	1/09
Chad Weinert	1/09
Oscar Stephens	1/09
Andrea Severson	1/10
Jami Stodola	1/10

Lenore Berg	1/10
Luann LaLiberty	1/10
Hector Meza	1/10
Steven Hakari	1/11
Jodi Sinclair	1/11
B.J. Williams	1/11
Braden Lipke	1/12
Marvin Amundson	1/12
Lavern Strop	1/12
Jay Halvorson	1/12
Rachel Hanson	1/12
Kyle Bedrava	1/12
Taryn Frandsen	1/12
Jeffrey Lindstedt	1/12
Lois Schultz	1/13
Karianne Mau	1/13
Brian Peterson	1/14
Margy Thompson	1/14
Brenda Haag	1/14
Calvin Rohde	1/15
Lorri Odash	1/15
Diane Sloan	1/16
Betty Van Natta	1/16
Isabella Lyste	1/16
David Wiemer	1/19
Lori Schmitz	1/19
Vonny Degerman	1/20
Emily Roux	1/20
Parker Lystig	1/20
Angie Harmon	1/20
David Sloan	1/21
Deann Anderson	1/21
Lehn Hanson	1/21
Clara Sather	1/22
David Olsen	1/23
Steve Haugen	1/24

Michele Boe	1/25
Travis Swenby	1/25
Lonn Yeakey	1/26
Doug Ormson	1/26
Sara Williams	1/26
Chad Marvin	1/27
Billie Jerome	1/27
Wyatt Boe	1/27
Bode Peters	1/27
Wyatt Hanson	1/27
Lauretta Peterson	1/28
Ann McEwen	1/28
Pat Olson	1/29
Todd Mandel	1/29
Tod Bates	1/29
Randall LaLiberty	1/29
Timothy Perry	1/29
Bryan Weghorn	1/29
Edna Organ	1/30
Carsten Ellison	1/30
Jeff Pagel	1/30
Emily Swenby	1/30
Mary Etlicher	1/31
Jolene Lansin	1/31
Jace Paulson	1/31

Is your name missing from our January list? Is the date incorrect? Do you know of someone who should be on our list? If so, please call the church office (715-537-3575) so that we may update our records!

Please note that any omissions are not intentional. Thank You for your help!



MaKaylie Blanch
Born December 16, 2017
Baptized August 26, 2018

Baptisms

Welcome to
Christ's family!



Kushal Patel
Born March 14, 2016
Baptized December 23, 2018

JANUARY 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday January 6		Sunday January 13	
Musician:	Ruth Anderson	Musician:	Mary Shearer
Media Engineers:	Mark Hornung Mark Pedersen Monty Shearer	Media Engineers:	Mark Hornung Mark Pedersen Monty Shearer
Reader:	Andrew Harrington	Reader:	Susan Babler
Ushers:	Gary & Carol Matthys	Ushers:	Boyd & Ann McEwen
Greeters:	Lynne Hanse	Greeters:	Lauretta Peterson
Acolytes:	Jacob Becker and Jenna Herrman	Acolytes:	Jazmyn Martinez and Annika Moe
Communion Assistants:	Barbara Javener, Jan Kienbaum, Jacob Becker, Jenna Herrman	Communion Assistants:	Linda Hackett, Carol Frank, Jazmyn Martinez, Annika Moe
Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan	Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan
PowerPoint:	Lynn Kolpack	PowerPoint:	
Coffee Prep:	Lloyd Campbell	Coffee Prep:	Lloyd Campbell
Food/Bev Service:		Food/Bev Service:	Sandra Rohde, Theresa Zappitello
Food/Bev Providers:	Ardis Ress, Carol Romsos	Food/Bev Providers:	Sandra Rohde, Theresa Zappitello
Sunday January 20		Sunday January 27	
Musician:	Judy Folstad	Musician:	Ruth Anderson
Media Engineers:	Mark Hornung Mark Pedersen Monty Shearer	Media Engineers:	Mark Hornung Mark Pedersen Monty Shearer
Reader:	Jubilee Team	Reader:	Kristi Peterson
Ushers:	Gayle Larson, Jazmyn Martinez, Rayna Hauck, Emma Thompson, Jenna Herrman	Ushers:	Ron & Jan Barrett
Greeters:	Sue Olson	Greeters:	Linda & Dave Martinson
Acolytes:	Garet Hegna and Drew Scheps	Acolytes:	Emma Thompson and Rayna Hauck
Communion Assistants:	Andrew & Shandra Harrington, Garret Hegna, Drew Scheps	Communion Assistants:	Orville Halvorson, Jacqueline Erb, Emma Thompson, Rayna Hauck
Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan	Altar Guild:	Carol Frank, Elaine Wells, Joan Krecker, Diane Sloan
PowerPoint:	Terry Miller	PowerPoint:	Rod Nordby
Coffee Prep:	Lloyd Campbell	Coffee Prep:	Lloyd Campbell
Food/Bev Service:	Youth	Food/Bev Service:	
Food/Bev Providers:	Youth	Food/Bev Providers:	Alanna Rosen, Amber Riebe

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 OFFICE Closed 9:30a AA Meeting 2:30p & 3:30p Jail Ministry	2 1:30p WELCA Meeting 3:45-5:15p Confirmation Class 5:30p Meal 6:15p Worship	3 9:30a AA Meeting 1:00p Quilting	4 6:30p AA Meeting	5 9:30a AA Meeting
6 9a Worship 10:15a Blood Pressure Check 10:15a Sunday School 4:30p HS Youth at Benjamin's House	7	8 9:30a AA Meeting 2:30p & 3:30p Jail Ministry 7:30p Faith Circle Meeting	9 12:00p Worship 3:45-5:15p SWYG 5:30p Meal 6:15p Worship 7p Pledge Circle Meeting	10 9:30a AA Meeting 1:00p Quilting	11 6:30p AA Meeting	12 9:30a AA Meeting 9a-5p 8th Grade Capstone Retreat
13 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 3:45p Grade 3,4,5 Youth Group	14 5:15p Worship and Music Meeting 6:00p Cub Scouts 6:30p Property Mtg 7:00 Finance Mtg	15 9:30p AA Meeting 2:30p & 3:30p Jail Ministry	16 FOCUS ARTICLE DEADLINE 3:45-5:15p Confirmation Class 5:30p Meal 6:15p Worship	17 9:30a AA Meeting 1:00p Quilting 5:30p Meal from the Heart	18 6:30p AA Meeting	19 9:30a AA Meeting
20 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 10:15a WELCA Board Meeting	21 7:00p Council Meeting	22 9:30a AA Meeting 2:30p & 3:30p Jail Ministry	23 3:45-5:15p Confirmation Class 5:30p Meal 6:15p Worship	24 9:30a AA Meeting 1:00p Quilting	25 6:30p AA Meeting	26 9:30a AA Meeting
27 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 10:15a Annual Meeting	28 12:30p Nursing Home Visits	29 9:30a AA Meeting 2:30p & 3:30p Jail Ministry	30 3:45-5:15p Confirmation Class 5:30p Meal 6:15p Worship	31 9:30a AA Meeting 1:00p Quilting		

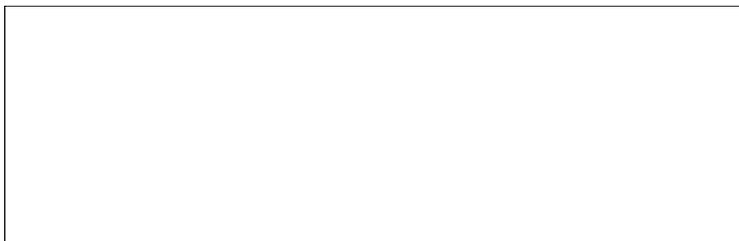
First Lutheran Church

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

January

2019



Church Office Hours	
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	
Pastor	Ron Mathews
Dir. Church Business	Andrea Cox
Financial Secretary	Shirley Hakari
Parish Nurse	Carol Matthys
Children's Ministry	Amity Mathews
Youth Ministry	Patrice Akenson
Maintenance	Brett Gevens