



FOCUS AT FIRST

Summer 2022 - Quarter Two Newsletter

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2022

July

10-15—Middle School Mission Trip

25—Afternoon Singalong

25-27—Rebound High School Youth Gathering

August

7—Sunday 8:45 Hymn Sing

22—Afternoon Singalong

September

4—Sunday 8:45 Hymn Sing

7—Confirmation Kick-Off

26—Afternoon Singalong



Don't forget to join us in person each Sunday at 9am or on the radio at WAQE 97.7 You can also view us online anytime via the website or FB@FLCBarron

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PASTOR RON'S MESSAGE

Is this over yet?!

Since March 2020 we have been living in this pandemic. As I am writing this article I can name more people who are currently home with COVID than I have fingers to count on. So, I guess the answer to my opening question is simply, no. We have learned a lot about this virus in the past two years that has greatly enabled us to live with it, and we've learned a few things about ourselves too.

Gallup research shared that in 2021, for the first time ever, church membership dropped below 50% nationally. Among Millennials (those born between 1981 and 1996) only 36% identify with a church. A similar study reported that 31% of Millennials have no religious affiliation and 33% of Gen Z. Or, to put it directly, one-third of parents with children living at home have no religious affiliation.

We also see from a survey of over 15,000 churches done by FACT that between 2000 and 2020, median church service attendance dropped from 137 people to 65. That is just over a 50% reduction in worship attendance.

If I were to stop there, it sounds like the church in America is dying and our church here in Barron is closing up shop. But, let me stop you right there.

Just. Stop.

And look around you.

Our worship lately is vastly different than what it was two years ago. For starters, for the past program year we had a choir, led by John Krall, and are looking forward to them singing again come August. We have a new Prayground to welcome worshippers of all ages. Perhaps the most subtle and biggest change for me as worship leader is that until 2020 we livestreamed like a person would a baseball game. We never stopped to think about digital worship as anything more than someone watching us worship. The pandemic forced me to pause and have a period of intentional reflection where I came to realize that those joining us from home, or the cabin, or wherever they may be at that moment are not just spectators, they are worshipers. I knew this before, but never stopped to actually think about it. Those who join us for worship online sing the songs, pray the prayers, and hear God's Word. This realization caused several nuanced changes, and a few more noticeable ones. For example, you now here me say an invitation at the beginning of communion, "I invite those joining us from a distance to take bread and wine/grape juice and place it before them as we join together in prayer."

As things began to reopen and regather, like most of you I was excited and hoped that everyone would return "like it was before." That didn't happen and now I, alongside you, are struggling with grief in the changes of our church and in our daily living as things are not as big as they use to be. Lately we worship

PASTOR RON'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

about 50%-75% in-person what we use to before COVID – putting us in line with the median congregation of the FACT survey. While we lament what was and are frustrated about the way things appear to be, I want to lay out a few different perspectives that I need to keep reminding myself.

While we have fewer people worshiping with us in the pews, our worship engagement has grown well beyond our walls, Barron, and even Wisconsin. This year, on Boxcast alone, we averaged livestream worship to 106 computers in 27 different states with majority streamed to Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Washington, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas.

While we aren't adding new chairs to our sanctuary, we had to expand our fellowship seating in Lutheran Hall to accommodate the growing coffee fellowship that takes place after worship.

There are fewer in-person worship attenders, yet the majority of the people who serve on committees, church council, servant groups, and missional projects are not those attending in-person worship.

These three items remind me, and I hope you, that in-person worship attendance is not the only way to measure congregational vitality.

A good example of this is how just last week we held our first Missional Worship service in a few years. We had 40 members involved, filling the halls of our church with laughter, storytelling, coffee, and service to others. What a wonderful testament of living out our mission to *Love Others First!!!* And, dare I ask, when was the last time we had so many gathered to serve others?

Church clearly is different today than it was two years ago. Two years is an important number to me as a pastor of a midsize congregation. When we entered into this pandemic, I sat in as many seminars as possible to learn new skills on how to lead this congregation. One item that was repeated by several presenters was that recovery takes at least as long as the disaster. If we are so bold as to say the disaster (pandemic) is now over, then we need to continue to take things at a recovery pace until at least 2024. If this is true, then I feel like the church is in the recovery ward of a hospital after surgery – impatient, eager for the healing to be over, and ready to get out of the hospital and back to normal living. The only problem is, what was considered normal no longer exists. What it means to be a church has changed. Our lives have changed.

As a congregation we have a strong vision for our future. Thanks to the financial support of our members, the mission remained strong through these past two years of the pandemic. Because of the work of our volunteers, our congregation is not just surviving, but thriving as we live into these recovery years.

I say we are thriving cautiously and optimistically. There is a lot of work to be done. But, as I referenced earlier, we have learned to keep our focus not on what we want, but rather (continued on next page)

PASTOR RON'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

to start with why we are doing things. As we move into the future, the Congregational Council is spending time intentionally identifying the reasons why we do the things we do around here – these reasons why are called the “Core Values of FLC.” I’m excited to see how spending intentional time identifying these core values will further shape future ministries.

We are letting the past inform our future, but not constrict it. The church two years ago no longer exists today. What it meant to be a church 100 years ago, when our sanctuary was built, is vastly different today. And we fully expect that what it means to be a church today will not be the same another 100 (or even 10) years from now. But to get us to be a church 100 years from now, we must first meet the needs of today – we must first be a church for today.

For this reason, in the midst of this social and economic recovery period, we are launching two major investments into the mission and future of FLC. First is the investment of a full-time Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator who will intentionally build a partnership and develop ministries that involve children, youth, and families in a safe, fun, loving, and faith-nurturing environment. The development of our Youth and Family Ministry will be led by trained staff, but this person will not be successful without the full support of our congregation.

The second investment is led by the Facilities and Future Committee. FLC has been discussing the need for a new building and/or major building remodel for decades. When I interviewed with the call committee over five years ago, it was clear that most members knew there was a problem...they just didn’t agree on the solution. This committee has worked tirelessly, and during a pandemic no less, to help this congregation understand the dire needs of our building. After years of work, with significant delays due to the pandemic, this group is now making great strides. I am excited to see that in the coming months we will be presented with a master building plan, talk about the design of the building, and begin the process of fundraising. A new building will greatly influence and benefit the mission of FLC for many years to come. But a building is not the church, the people are. The building is what enables the people to gather and do God’s work. Care and construction of God’s building will not be successful without the full support of our congregation.

We are God’s church.

Called to share the gospel through word and deed.

Gathered to worship, pray, Bible Study, and in fellowship to care and support one another.

Sent into Barron and beyond to share God’s Love.

Serving with you,

Pastor Ron

FIRST LUTHERAN NEWS

Afternoon Singalong

Every 4th Monday of the month

1:30pm Monroe Manor

2:30pm Dove

All are welcome to join our group!



Hymn Sing! Beginning in August, we will begin worship the first Sunday of each month 15 minutes early with a hymn sing. Come at 8:45 on August 7th and request your favorite hymn to be played. Join us each month as we celebrate our Lord with songs of worship.

Congratulations!

First Lutheran's own Ashlynn Harmon and Emma Thompson earned GOLD medal recognition at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA.

Ashlynn and Emma competed in Focus on Children STAR event with their project titled "Positivi -Tea".



Scholarship Recipients:

The Barron Area Clergy Association awarded \$500 scholarships to three First Lutheran Seniors.

Congratulations to Macey Herrman, Isabella Lyste and Greta Scheps!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As we move hopefully to what can be described to be the recovery stage of the COVID pandemic, here is what we are seeing in our worship attendance.

From January 1st through June 30th:

In-person worship average: 78

On Boxcast average: 106

On Facebook average: 171

Total weekly average worship: 355

Most guidelines say that those streaming worship do not do so alone and that we should account 1.5 to 2.5 per computer/profile. If we did so, then we would report to you that our average weekly worship is somewhere between 494 and 771. However, while Facebook is watched by many, the numbers are more challenging to understand for our purposes as a “view” is something longer than 15 seconds. A view can also be counted as it auto plays in a person feed. This leads me to think there are fewer people actually worshipping than the view report portrays. Boxcast, however, is our proprietary streaming platform. A person must go to our website to click on the link from their computer, phone, or TV app. So, while Facebook numbers can be heavily misleading with auto play feature, the Boxcast report is far more reliable. Therefore, the metric I think can be best used is as follows:

In-person: 1:1 = 78:1 = 78

Boxcast: 1:2 = 106:2 = 212

Facebook: 1:0.5 = 171:0.5 = 86

Total average weekly attendance = 376

How things compare to this point in time in 2020 when I last ran the numbers:

Boxcast averaged 50 (106 this year)

Facebook averaged 243 (171 this year)

In-person average has insufficient data (78 this year)

In reflecting on the analytic reports of Facebook and Boxcast there are a couple things to pay attention to. First, Boxcast reports 38% do not worship live. Facebook’s reporting is different than Boxcast’s so we don’t have percentage data, but we can see that there are many who click on the video throughout the week. Second, Facebook views are going down as people returned to worship in person. Facebook’s numbers are also going down and Boxcast has doubled since 2020.

The first part of the year we saw pew attendance to be about 2/3 what it was back in 2018. Currently in the month of June we are about 50% what it was back in 2018. However, in 2018 we averaged about 40 views on Facebook each week and now we average 171. Unfortunately, we don’t have data for our streaming service from that year. But based on Boxcast numbers I think it safe to say they were significantly less than what we are seeing today. As we work to develop our in-person worship we do so recognizing two significant facts. First, the majority of our congregation worships online. Second, of those attending online, one-third do so not at 9:00am on Sunday morning.



DID YOU HEAR RUTH TELL HER STORY!

I am honored to be a pianist at the 131st Continental Congress, the Annual Convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Washington, D.C. I will be performing a 45 minute recital of patriotic and inspiring processional, incidental marches and recessional music throughout the day, July 1, 2022.

My job is to kick-off Day 2 of the convention, by setting the mood for an uplifting and exciting day. I will be playing the grand piano on the stage of Constitution Hall, the largest concert hall in Washington, D.C.

The excitement of being a performer at this national convention is huge!

At this time, 4500 from all 50 states and around the world are pre-registered to attend June 29 - July 3. I will also be singing in the National Chorus.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, volunteer women's service organization. The mission is threefold: to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism.

Our motto is God, Home, Country.

I look forward to representing Wisconsin and sharing my love of music at this exciting event.

Thank you for your constant support and cheerleading!

Ruth Anderson

Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship:

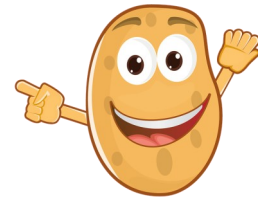


FIRST LUTHERAN NEWS



W/ELCA News

The Community Baked Potato Dinner and Bake Sale was a success! We had a profit of \$1,273.94. Thanks to everyone who attended and/or helped with it. We used our profit to donate \$500 to each of the following charities: Barron Backpack Program, Comfort Care Closet, Barron Youth sports and Day Break.



Darla Weinert, Carolyn Verhulst, Ann Knutson and Jan Kienbaum attended W/ELCA's Retreat at Luther Park on June 8th and 9th. Jan Kienbaum also attended the Mini SWO Convention on June 9th at 3 p.m.

A Guy's and Gal's Rhubarb Delight Night was held on Monday, June 27th. Several people attended and all enjoyed making a rhubarb cake to take home. I am sure they enjoyed eating it and sharing it with their families on Tuesday as well. Thank you Lynn Kolpack for organizing this event.

Barb Javener will be asking for donations for the New Born Kits and the Baby Care Kits that W/ELCA puts together for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health. The goal is to make 100 of each kit.



The Quilters are not meeting during the summer, but will start up in September. We need more people to help with making quilts.

A Community Bunco Night with prizes and pizza is being planned for Thursday, October 6th at 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Rolling Oaks.

We are having our Bazaar this year. It will be Saturday, November 5th. So begin thinking about what you might like to make to donate to the bazaar and how and if you could help with it.

BAZAAR

The W/ELCA Heart of the North Conference will be having a Day or Renewal on September 17th at New Hope Lutheran Church in Sand Creek, Wisconsin. The Conference is looking for a secretary and a coordinator. If anyone is interested in these positions contact Janet Allison at jallison@bloomer.net.

Have a great summer!

Jan Kienbaum

President of First Lutheran WELCA

Community Baked Potato Dinner and Bake Sale



WELCA WOMEN HONORED 2022 GRADUATES WITH A QUILT OF THEIR CHOICE



Mission Kit Supplies Needed!

The following items in new or like new condition are needed to complete our goal of 100 mission kits:

551 Cloth Diapers

64 Hand Towels

84 Bath Towels

269 Receiving Blankets

367 bath size bars of gentle soap

157 6 to 24 month size t shirts

18 6 to 24 month Gowns, Sleepers (no feet) or Outfits (pants and tops)

95 Hooded Sweatshirts, sweaters or light jackets (hat added if no hood)

143 pair 6 to 24 mo. Socks

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, checks should be made out to WELCA and placed in the offering plate on Sundays or turned into the office.

Stay tuned for WELCA Work Day!

Thank you for your generosity!

W/ELCA



FROM THE BISHOP RE: ROE V. WADE

Dear church,

Whatever personal perspective one might take on the June 24 abortion ruling from the Supreme Court, it is the legal framework in which we now minister, and I wish to speak a pastoral word at this time.

The Supreme Court has voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, removing federal constitutional protection for safe and legal abortion and leaving decisions about abortion law largely to the states. As a result, safe and legal abortion will likely not be [accessible in every state](#). This church's 1991 social statement [Abortion](#) argues that "the number of induced abortions is a source of deep concern" but teaches that the practice should be legal (pp. 3, 9-10). In other words, "Laws should be enacted and enforced justly for the preservation and enhancement of life, and should avoid unduly encumbering or endangering the lives of women" (p. 9). Overturning *Roe v. Wade* and placing decisions about abortion regulation at the state level encumbers and endangers the lives of all persons who need to make decisions about unexpected pregnancies.

First, as a pastor of this church, I want to acknowledge that this decision affects many people, especially those whose pregnancies unfold in complex situations and the people who love them. Many now find their moral agency restricted because federal law no longer guarantees access to legal and safe abortion. They already face difficult moral questions, and the Supreme Court decision only adds to their anguish. As our social statement reminds us, we have both the freedom and the obligation to serve neighbors in complex situations. As a church, we are called at this moment to recognize and spiritually support people who are struggling with decisions around pregnancy.

Second, as presiding bishop, I want to remind this church that, despite this new legal landscape, we continue to depend on our social teaching for guidance. Our social statement provides the moral framework for our church's communal discernment and ministry, holding in tension both the strong Christian presumption to preserve and protect all life as well as the complex moral situations in which pregnancy sometimes occurs. Our social teaching is complex and does not hew to clear categories or labels such as "pro-abortion" or "anti-abortion."

That complexity is reflected in several points. The statement recognizes that pregnant persons have moral agency; they are the ones to make decisions about a pregnancy (see pp. 5-6). This church and its ministers trust them to decide but expect them to make such decisions in relationship—with God, self, partner, family, ministers and others.

I also want to underscore for the whole body of Christ the statement's exhortation "that those who counsel persons faced with unintended pregnancies respect how deeply the woman's pregnancy involves her whole person—body, mind and spirit—in relation to all the commitments that comprise her stewardship of life" (p. 5).

Further, our church teaching holds that there are no exclusive rights in pregnancy. A pregnant person does not have an exclusive right to abort a fetus at all points during the pregnancy. A developing life does not have an exclusive right to be born (p. 2). This church does not support abortion as a normative form of birth control but rather understands it as necessary in some morally responsible circumstances. This church does not condone late-term abortions except in extreme circumstances, which must be determined by the individual with their medical caregivers (p. 7).

This church acknowledges that individuals and religious traditions hold divergent viewpoints over when life begins. These divergent views are not only scientific but also biblical and cultural. The ELCA social statement acknowledges these ethical ambiguities and states that "the closer the life in the womb comes to full term the more serious such [moral] issues become." (p. 7).

As we live into this new legal framework, we can respond to and minister in the current situation, for instance, by ministering to individuals who seek abortions; advocating for laws that provide free or affordable health care, child care and education; providing and promoting sex education; continuing to be a community of discernment where thoughtful and diverse perspectives can be shared and heard; and advocating for state laws that provide legal, safe and affordable abortions, and against legislation that would outlaw abortion in all circumstances (p. 9).

Finally, I wish to remind everyone that this church supports peaceful means of expression within a diverse society. Peaceful protest is a crucial element of civic engagement; violent protest is not, and this church reproves it. Likewise, this church is on record against hate speech. Let us be instruments for peace where there is none. Let us listen to one another. Let us serve the needs of neighbors in all the complexities life presents. God calls us to be *for* others, just as God in Christ is for us.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FIRST LUTHERAN CORE VALUES

First Love, Love First

The mission of First Lutheran Church is First Love, Love First. Grounded in scripture (because we are a biblical congregation) our mission comes from 1 John 4:19 “We love because God first loved us.” The sentiment of our mission is expressed in Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke as the Great Commandment to love God with our entirety and to love others.

Over time people change as they grow and mature. As the members change, a congregation is no different. So, it is good for a congregation to revisit its mission, vision, and values.

To summarize our work:

Mission answers the question “Why are we here?”

Vision answers the question “What are we going to do?”

Values answers the question “Why do we do what we do?”

Strategic Plan answers the question “How are we going to do it?”

Over the past couple months, the Congregational Council has been led by Pastor Ron through a Strategic Planning process. Because values precede and determine action, and we are a Biblically minded congregation, we started first by reflecting on the Jerusalem congregation of Acts 2:42-47. This congregation was led by clear core values of giving, helping each other, worship, and fellowship to name a few we identified. We also reflected on the church in Acts 6:1-7 where issues of identity, purpose, and who was to fulfill what leadership roles were raised. The core values of this congregation helped the leadership respond in such a way that kept their primary focus primary and met the expressed needs of the people. (Please note that we are utilizing our core value of Biblical teaching to guide our actions to determine our core values! This idea did not go unnoticed by us either. ☺)

The resource we are using is called “Clarifying Core Values” and it begins with listing ten essential reasons that reveal why core values are so important to being a healthy congregation and accomplishing contemporary Christian ministry. This list basically describes the actions of the church described in Acts 2 and Acts 6.

Values determine ministry distinctiveness. Clearly articulated core values declare, “This is what we stand for; this is what we’re about; this is who we are.”

Values dictate personal involvement. People become involved and stay involved in ministry longer if they share core biblical values or convictions.

Values communicate what is important. Failure to communicate core values wastes time and energy, creates dissatisfaction, and brings needless frustration.

Values embrace positive change. Values-driven congregations embrace needed change even as their unchanging beliefs keep them anchored in truth.

Values influence overall behavior. Values affect everything: decisions made, goals set, priorities established, problems solved, conflicts resolved, and more.

Values inspire people to action. Shared, biblical values give those who serve a greater sense of meaning in their service; values energize and motivate.

Values enhance credible leadership. Christian leaders must opt for and model a strong Bible-based values system; strong beliefs help build strong leaders.

FIRST LUTHERAN CORE VALUES (CONT.)

Values shape ministry character. Personal character rests on the foundation of personal values; congregational character is defined by corporate core values.

Values contribute to ministry success. Success is the accomplishment of the congregation's mission and vision without compromising bottom-line values.

Values affect priority setting and strategic planning. Shared core beliefs generate deeper commitment and lead to greater creativity and innovation.

Core Value Timeline

June: The Council issued a broad Core Value survey to the congregation for 2 weeks. Thank you to all who took on this task to turn in their thoughts! Based on our discussion and response, we have narrowed our engagement to 10 key words that describe the core values of our congregation.

July: Council will engage the congregation in a survey to identify the top key words that describe FLC's core values today.

August: The Congregation Council will review the results of this survey and draft a statement of understanding why we do the things that we do here at FLC.

September through December: From understanding "Why do we do what we do" the Council will then draft a Vision statement describing "What are we going to do". Having identified our primary core values, the Congregation Council will then spend time crafting a clear Vision statement and Strategic Plan to be presented to the congregation at the next Annual Meeting.

First Lutheran Committees

Congregation Life:

Lynn Kolpack

Facilities and Future:

Rod Nordby (chair)

Mark Pedersen

Brittany Homer

Dani Felber

Steve Haugen

Chris Donica

Sheila Erb

Amanda Johnson

Worship:

Ruth Anderson

Nan Carlsen (chair)

Jean Wick

Outreach:

Kristi Pedersen (chair)

Amy Beckendorf

Ann Knutson

Judy Rassbach

Lyndsey Kurtz

Ron and Jan Barrett

Trust Fund:

Dallas Sloan (chair)

Lori Springer

Mike Otto

Keith Kolpack

Bruce Rasmussen

Sally Ellison

Property:

Rod Nordby

Vern Hanson

Jim Wichart (chair)

First Friends:

Judy Rassbach (Coordinator)

Nan Carlsen

Kelly Hover

Lynn Kolpack

Carla Nordby

Kristi Pedersen

Carolyn Verhulst

Rod Wieneri

Ann Knutson

If you feel you would like to be involved in the work of one of these committees, please talk to a committee member or see Pastor Ron.

OUTREACH

The Malawi Lenten Project

It is so heartwarming when we receive gifts from all the generous supporters here at First Lutheran Church. It allows us to say “yes” to one more woman to empower her with skills to make for a better way of life.

The true gift comes from lifting a woman out of poverty and a life of dependency. She is offered education to succeed in her choice of business. Most chose to plant a garden, start a business. The Centre for Girls and Women Empowerment provides education for them to succeed. As time goes on and her business profits, she will pay back the loan with a small amount of interest. That money is then made available to the next woman. One more woman has learned to “fish” and feed her family for a lifetime.

Since the Centre for Girls and Women Empowerment is an NGO, we are reaching out to receive grants from charities who give to the needs of the poorest of poor. Medicine and available food are an ongoing need. Too many children go without good nutrition which leaves them with stunted growth and mental retardation. Through the love of Jesus Christ, we can help one child or a family at a time!

First Lutheran Church Lenten Outreach has been the backbone of empowering girls and women in Malawi for many years. This is truly a blessing. I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who donated to improve the lives of girls, women, and children who live in one of the poorest countries in the world.

My door is always open to be the voice for the women in Malawi. Blessings, Ann Knutson!

“We love others first because God first loved us!”

Outreach Committee



Gal. 6:2 “Bare one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the love of Christ.”

OUTREACH (CONT.)

Faithful Innovation Network

The Outreach Committee has enrolled with our Synod's Faithful Innovation Network (F.I.N.). This process is led by Pastor Erin Nelson and is designed to help our congregation shift from technical to adaptive changes as we work on innovating the way we do outreach ministry. We will use our current Community Outreach Ministry as a focus for this process. The F.I.N. program begins in August and will go into Spring 2023. You can expect to see Pastor Erin and others leading a variety of events at FLC during this time as well as a few extra "ministry experiments" from the Outreach Committee.

But we are not sitting around waiting till August! We have been busy on many different projects. Recently Pastor Ron and a couple members of FLC helped with the Barron Chamber Family Fun Night at Anderson Park serving our community and being a visible church presents to many families.

Secondly, we just coordinated a Mission Worship service at the end of June where 5 generations gathered to tie blankets for our Community Outreach Ministry. We tied 20 blankets thanks to the many who donated material, money, and their helping hands. Community Outreach Ministry seeks to reach out to those new to Barron and specifically the Filipino immigrants who are moving to our area with very little. To those new to Barron and America, we are God's presence. This ministry program seeks to bring a message of hope and encouragement through worship, fellowship, and Bible Study. We also provide blankets, voucher to Cupboard and Closet, and a welcome brochure that informs families where local places can be found as well as our own church information.





*First Lutheran
Barron, WI*

Confirmation 2022

Congratulations to our Confirmands

May 1, 2022

**Ella Mathews, Lucas Hagen, Glendon Thompson, Lillian Harmon,
Ariella McDonald, Abbygale Elliott (insert)**



High School Class of 2022

Honored May 22nd

Greta Scheps, Macey Herrman, Rayann Tallman,
Jacqui Erb, Sam Baumgard, Amelia Verhulst,
Isabella Lyste.



GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

For Broadcast System & Equipment

\$500.00 In memory of Richard Schultz by family

For Music Fund/Worship and Music

\$25.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Roger & Donna Jones

\$225.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Judy Folstad

For Undesignated

\$25.00 In memory of Walt Riese by Steve & Lynn Haugen

\$20.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Robert & Sharon Rollins

\$50.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by James & Mary O'Dell

\$50.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Carolyn Verhulst & Kristin Schultz

\$30.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Sharon Nelsen

\$30.00 In memory of Deann Anderson by Sharon Nelsen

\$25.00 In memory of Dale Prine by Roger Jones

\$50.00 In memory of Deann Anderson by John Mikkelsen

\$25.00 In memory of Walter Riese by Jane Ketcham

\$25.00 In memory of Lorraine Springer by Patricia Cigan

For Jubilee Team

\$150.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Rausch & Steel Funeral Home

\$100.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Judy Folstad

For Youth

\$300.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Judy Folstad

\$100.00 In memory of Dale Prine by Rod Zachary

For General Fund

\$380.00 by In memory of Doug Folstad

For Choir Music

\$20.00 In memory of Marge Haugen by Val & Dan Scheps

For New Building Fund

\$25.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Mark & Kristi Pedersen

\$20.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Agnes Prine

\$20.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Linda Nordby Simpson

\$20.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Glenn & Sandy Kolb

\$25.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Terry & Carolyn Miller

\$75.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Dallas & Diane Sloan

\$50.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Steve & Lynn Haugen

\$50.00 In memory of Greg Jergenson by Doug & Cathy Hjersjo

\$400.00 In memory of Doug Folstad by Judy Folstad

\$25.00 In memory of Lorraine Springer by Roger and Donna Jones

For Gift From the Heart

\$25.00 In honor of Ron Barrett by Roger & Donna Jones

For Altar Guild

\$100.00 In memory of Carter Swenson by Levone Swenson & family

For Turkey Dinner

\$25.00 In memory of Dale Prine by Pam Kirk-Jacoby

For Outreach

\$100.00 In memory of Dale Prine by Agnes Prine

For Mission Kits

\$100.00 In memory of Dale Prine by Agnes Prine

For Fleece Blankets

\$90.00 In memory of Dale Prine by Agnes Prine

Additional Gifts Received

\$3172.00 Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to all who have donated to these designated (and undesignated) funds, we appreciate your love and support of the ministries of First Lutheran Church!

TRUST FUND

Trust Fund Report:

The Trust Fund Committee has met monthly starting last April. Our goal was to look at starting to invest some of the Trust Fund money. We want the Trust Fund to grow with or exceed inflation.

The Trust Fund has \$545,000 in CD's and cash savings as of the end of May 2022. The Trust Fund is averaging less than 1% Return on Investment (ROI) the past three years. Prior to that the ROI was 1.35% over 5 years. Investment options were limited in the past to cash accounts and CD's. This changed at the last Annual meeting when the congregation voted and approved the Trust Fund Committee to invest up to 50% of the money and purchase Federally Insured CD's with the remaining 50%.

The Committee listened to three different investment companies with options. Thrivent (a local Lutheran based company), ELCA investment (we currently have a CD with ELCA) and Sloan Financial (a new local financial advisor). The committee chose to work with Thrivent and Sloan Financial. As noted above we can invest up to 50% or around \$272,000.

First, we started a mutual fund with Thrivent for \$100,000. This is a Faith Based mutual fund. The money is moderately invested in companies that have values much like our church. This fund can and will have positive returns and negative returns. The recent 5 year average return was 7% but there are no guarantees. It is also a very liquid account meaning the church can add to or withdrawal from the fund at any time.

Second, we chose to invest the remaining \$150,000 with Sloan Financial through two different annuity investments and a mutual fund. These investments are more conservative than Thrivent. By using a fixed and variable Annuity we have a more secure investment to hedge against a Mutual fund. The remaining money would be invested in a Faith Based Mutual fund similar to Thrivent.

The third option we are working on are CD's. Currently, all our CD's are at local banks (one exception is at ELCA). The longest term goes to April 2026. The committee is going to start to buy \$50,000 CD's that will come due every 6 months over a 3-year period. We are also looking away from the local banks. Our committee struggled with this as we feel strongly to do business locally. Local banks have released many of our current CD's without penalty and we thank them for that. Our first CD was purchased in the new process for 3.35% through Sloan Financial.

The committee has met a number of times and worked very hard to make some big changes in the Trust Fund. We have made investment in moderately aggressive funds, more secure annuities and very secure CD's to help protect and grow this fund. As we implement our new investment plan, we are excited to share with our congregation the growing potential the Trust Fund will have to further the mission and ministries of First Lutheran Church.

Dallas Sloan,

Trust Fund Committee

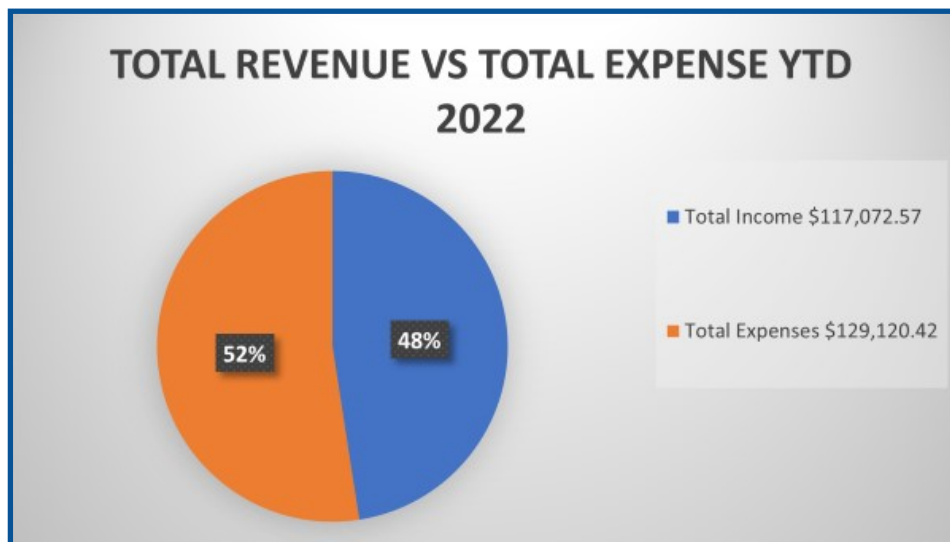
FINANCIALS

Accounts	Actual Quarter 2	Actual YTD	Annual Budget 2022
Revenues			
General Fund Offerings			
Total General Fund Offerings	\$ 57,033.44	\$ 116,072.04	\$ 292,550.00
Total Debt Retirement Offerings	\$ 525.16	\$ 1,000.53	\$ 2,100.00
Total Revenues	\$ 57,558.60	\$ 117,072.57	\$ 294,650.00
Expenses			
Total Pastoral Expenses	\$ 24,522.86	\$ 49,793.22	\$ 102,472.00
Total All Other Staff	\$ 16,932.81	\$ 35,601.90	\$ 89,324.00
Total Property Committee Expenses	\$ 6,412.92	\$ 15,158.17	\$ 38,900.00
Total Finance - 5400	\$ 334.50	\$ 10,755.99	\$ 13,600.00
Total Faith Formation Expenses -5500	\$ 1,317.67	\$ 1,601.51	\$ 9,700.00
Total Administration - 5900	\$ 2,059.20	\$ 4,577.41	\$ 13,150.00
Total Council Expenses	\$ 100.01	\$ 130.01	\$ 1,500.00
Total Outreach Expenses - 5700	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,675.00	\$ 14,300.00
Total Personnel Expenses - 5300	\$ 114.00	\$ 114.00	\$ 500.00
Total Member Care Expenses - 5600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700.00
Total Worship Expenses	\$ 3,053.89	\$ 4,713.21	\$ 10,950.00
Total Expenses	\$ 57,847.86	\$ 129,120.42	\$ 295,096.00
Net Total	\$ (289.26)	\$ (12,047.85)	\$ (446.00)

Explanation for the above chart:

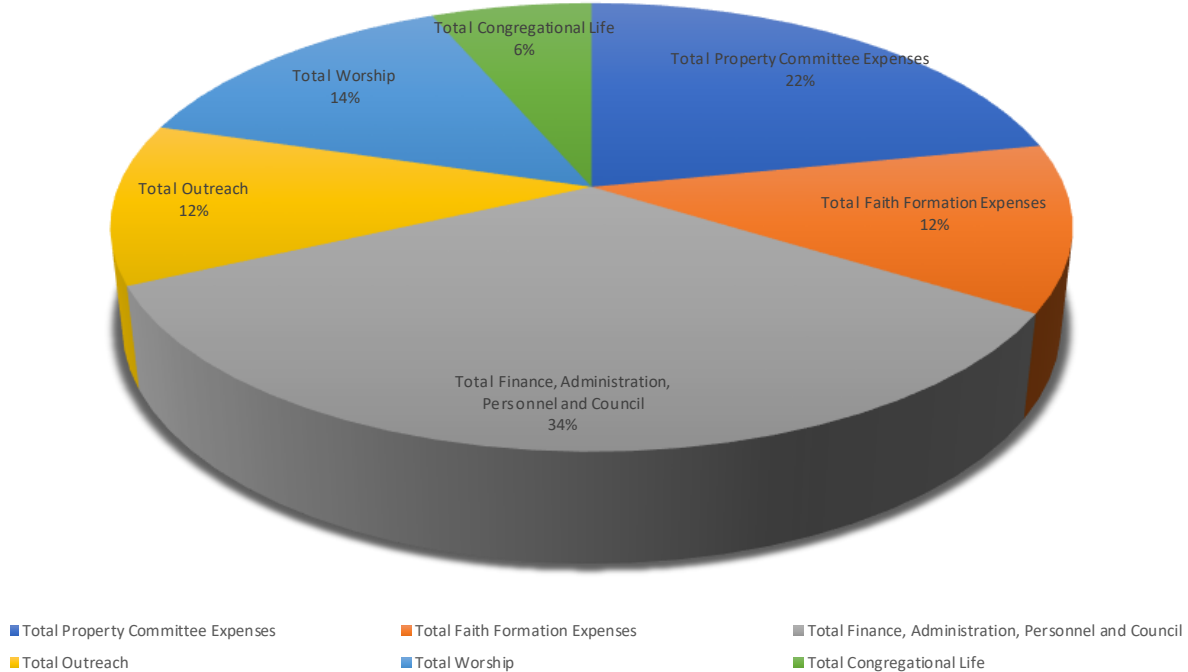
- Column 1 is the actual quarter 2 donations and expenses.
- Column 2 is the year to date donations and expenses.
- Column 3 is the total annual budget.

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



FINANCIALS

YTD Total Expenses for Ministry Areas



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



Ways to Give Electronically

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

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

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN—FACILITIES & FUTURE

The Facilities and Future Committee has been working over the past couple months with Vanman Architects and Builders imagining a building that will meet the needs of First Lutheran Church's mission as a congregation in Barron. We are excited to say that we have almost finished creating a master plan for our new building!

Once this is complete, we will hold several meetings with the congregation to discuss and design the details of how our building will look and function. (Remember the master plan just says what rooms we will have and where, it does not determine how the rooms are going to look.)

While these meetings to finish designing our building are taking place, we will simultaneously have a feasibility study done to help determine a budget, a timetable to get us to construction, and a detailed plan that will fit the mission of our church.

The committee knows this had not gone well in the past and this leaves some with reservations. In talking with other churches that have completed building projects the consensus was they would not have succeeded if they had not relied on the advice of professionals who had successfully guided other church projects. The committee recognizes that we do not have the expertise or the time to do this well and recommends that we hire a consultant for this part of the project. Our recommendation is to hire Jim Harrison from the Harrison Group. More information on him as well as his brochure is on the church website. Here is a short excerpt:

Jim Harrison has over 45 years of experience managing capital appeals and development programs both locally and nationally. He has directed successful programs for congregations, hospitals, other health organizations, public television, and youth related organizations. This includes over 2000 churches.

Of course, there is a cost for these services. We would need to pay \$9000 upfront and then \$9000 upon completion to do the feasibility study for the congregation. When we talked about hiring a consultant there were two questions that kept coming up.

First, "Can we afford to hire a professional consultant?" and Second, "Could we do this ourselves?" The Facilities and Future Committee determined that the committee does not have the expertise or the experience to do this task well. **So, before we pursued hiring, we wanted to extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation who thinks they have the skills to do a feasibility study, to submit a proposal to the Facilities and Future Committee for how they would do this project by Sunday July 17th.** The Facilities and Future Committee will then evaluate the proposal and make their recommendation to the Church Council.

You can look forward to more information in late July and August as we move forward with these two tasks. More information on the building project can be found on the church's website under the "Building" tab. We ask you to continue to pray for our church's mission and this project as we move forward *Loving Others First*.

The Facilities and Future Committee



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

www.firstlutheran-barron.org

Sunday Worship @ 9am on Facebook @FLCBarron

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Pastor - Ron Mathews - PastorRon@firstlutheran-barron.org

Office Administrator - Patrice Akenson - Office@firstlutheran-barron.org

Bookkeeper - Andrea Cox - Andrea@firstlutheran-barron.org

Financial Secretary - Shirley Hakari

Choir Director - John Krull

Maintenance - Brett Gevens

