



# Light *of* Life

DECEMBER 2017

## Advent BY Candlelight

Sunday, December 3  
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Decorate a table. Potluck. Devotions. Carols.  
*Renew and Refresh*

Renew and refresh with dinner and fellowship! Host and decorate a themed table. Join your friends. The meal will be potluck. Pastor Robert will lead devotions. For the finale, we'll sing favorite Christmas carols. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

## Our Staff

### PASTOR

Robert Neubert  
[gumby523@yahoo.com](mailto:gumby523@yahoo.com)  
cell # 240-215-5176

### ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Peri Beal  
[burkelutheran@att.net](mailto:burkelutheran@att.net)

### NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Cyndi Chatten-Culb

### MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

Dave Wisner

## BURKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

5720 Portage Rd / Madison, WI 53718  
608-244-8486 / [burkelutheran@att.net](mailto:burkelutheran@att.net)  
[www.burkelutheran.org](http://www.burkelutheran.org)

## Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17

Our Sunday School children have been hard at work preparing their Christmas program. They'll perform as part of our Sunday Worship Service on Sunday, December 17. Come and experience *One Little Star*.



We will practice December 3rd and 10th during Sunday school. In addition, we'll have dress rehearsals from 9am—noon on Saturday, December 9 and Saturday, December 16.

## Join us for Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

9:00am – Advent Service

4:00pm – Family Service

9:00pm – 'Midnight' Service

## Poinsettias

Help add color to the sanctuary for Christmas. Sign up in the Narthex by December 22 to purchase a poinsettia (or two!) More details will be coming in the weekly worship bulletin.



**Inclement Weather/Winter Parking:** The winter season is coming fast, and with it, lots of ice and snow. In order to keep our members safe we wish to remind everyone to please keep the loading and unloading areas as clear as possible to allow for drop offs, to reserve our limited handicapped spaces for those most in need, and to let us know immediately if you find ice anywhere where people may be walking. To find out if church services are cancelled due to inclement weather, you may call the church office at 244-8486. Thank you, and God's peace be upon all that you do.

# A Message from Pastor Robert.....

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I really love watching the world as it goes through a transition, which is why I love Wisconsin during the Fall and Spring. One could characterize Fall as a series of defeats, while Spring can be characterized as a series of victories. In the Fall as the air cools and the natural world slowly and beautifully retreats into a dormant state we too must start adding layers to our wardrobes as the air forces us to gradually retreat behind their warmth eventually covering every square inch of our exposed skin. At the same time we are also pulling in our bikes, lawnmowers, hoses, and various other tools and outdoor toys as we prepare to button down the hatches and retreat to the warmth of our fireplaces, blankets, space heaters, or whatever else we may have to keep us warm. The progression of Spring is just the opposite. As the air warms we begin peeling off layers of clothing, and pulling things out of the garage, as the world begins to awaken, conquering the bitter cold that has engulfed it.

So here we are, December is upon us and Fall is coming to an end. Though the weather is currently quite mild allowing the farmers to finish up some last minute work, the bitter defeat of winter is upon us. Already we have had one snow and I have had to admit defeat and pull my winter coat out from the deep recesses of the hall closet. Yet as we admit defeat and the cold dark winter slowly descends upon us I am thankful for that shining light that overshadows the gloominess that this season can bring.

While Christian Scholars debate the validity of Jesus actually being born on December 25th we have collectively decided to celebrate anyway, because nobody knows for certain which day he was born and this is not only historically the day we have chosen, but also is a great way to brighten a time of year that many might find depressing. Even though it is becoming increasingly more and more miserable to step foot outside at least we are greeted with bright flashing colored lights, cartoon snow men, Santas, reindeer, giant inflatable football players, and maybe/hopefully some kind of depiction of baby Jesus. Instead of the miserable cold, people are given this joyous light that is centered around the birth of our savior to celebrate.

Unfortunately, for some, Christmas does not bring the joyous distraction from the cold that it does for me. Instead it only deepens whatever pain they may be going through. The holiday season can be a painful reminder of those who have passed away, and/or days when things were better. As Christians celebrating with joy and thanksgiving during this season, it is not our place to belittle or ignore their pain in order to not have our own joy squashed. Instead we are called to use the joy we have and channel it in such a way that we can accompany them through whatever they might be going through, and maybe the love we spread can carry us through the cold months ahead

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Robert Neubert

## Prayer Concerns

During this past month we have remembered the following individuals in our Sunday prayers:

David Vincent

Chris McFarlin

Pearl Kvalheim

Bishop Mary Froiland

Bill Schmidt

Marshall Bostad

Mark & Mary Schultz

Chuck Hughes

Erik Jelinek

Louise Kraemer

Tina Bauman

Brianah Laughnan & family



*We apologize if we have missed anyone, it was not intentional.*



## Burke Lutheran Concession Team

A big THANK YOU to the 19 members, including drivers, who volunteered at our Q3 Pizza Stand at UW Football games. We raised \$2,600+, including tips. Approximately 90% went to the New Building Fund. The rest supported Road Home, The River Pantry and the Sunshine Place. Go Badgers!

## Burke Garden

The Reach Board would like to thank the volunteers that have made the Burke Lutheran garden a success in 2017. The garden produce was provided to church members for a small donation and also donated to area food pantries. This year we had a surprise with a few pumpkins growing in the garden. The large pumpkins provided fall décor both outside and inside the church.



A special thank you to Dan and Sandy Lothe and their Prairie Garden Farm for donating plants for the garden.

## Cardmaking, Dec 4 at 1pm

Join Barb on Monday, December 4 for a little crafty fun! We'll meet at Barb's home, located at 6260 Sommer Valley Circle, DeForest. Please RSVP to Barb at [bjhennings@aol.com](mailto:bjhennings@aol.com) or 608-445-0566.

## Delegates Needed

With the electing of a new bishop, the position of delegate to our Synod is even more critical in representing Burke. Please prayerfully consider volunteering.

## Food Pantry



Proteins are December's Food Pantry focus. This includes canned tuna, canned chicken, canned beans and peas, nut butters, rice, etc. Please place items in the designated basket in the Narthex and it will be delivered to the pantry.

## Birthday Luncheon

See you next year in January!

## It's Coming...



### Light of Life & Sunday Bulletin Articles

If you have news you'd like to see in the Sunday bulletin announcements and/or Light of Life newsletter:

1. Email your submissions to [burkelutheran@att.net](mailto:burkelutheran@att.net) (please indicate in the subject line whether it is for the bulletin, LOL or both), or
2. Mail to church, 5720 Portage Rd, Madison, WI 53718, or 3. Turn it into the church office with Attn: Peri

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesdays

LIGHT OF LIFE DEADLINE: 15th of the month

## Craft & Bake Sale

### A Success!

We sold out of lefse by 11:15 taking in \$1,980.00. We sold 17 cookbooks at \$12.00 each for the Dorcas Circle earning them \$204.00. We earned \$239.35 from our sandwich plate/coffee/sweet snack area and 20% of crafts sold earned us \$361.28. Our baked goods just flew off the tables earning us \$573.48. We have given the "Move the Church Fund" \$1,174.11. I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way. It was a very fun day!

—Kay Gritzmacker

## Dedicated Volunteer



Thank you Sharon Hughes for your dedication to our Veterans! We thank you for your many years of service honoring our Burke Lutheran Veterans. Sharon puts her heart and soul into documenting those who have gone before us and those who are no longer serving or still serving our country by recognizing them at our special service in conjunction with Veteran's Day. Sharon and her

few volunteers place flags on the graves of those buried in the cemetery at Burke Lutheran. She also organized the Sunday School children in giving cards of thanks to our veterans. Her dedication to the recognition of all should not go unnoticed.

## The Road Home December 4 & 5

Note we only have Monday and Tuesday for December. We need volunteers, and there are 3 opportunities to do so: Activities (entertain children with games, ball, jump rope, crafts, etc.), Dinner (prepare food and clean up), and Overnight (monitor quiet time, sleep overnight, wake up families and prep coffee). Contact Debbie Buss as soon as possible at [deb.e.buss@gmail.com](mailto:deb.e.buss@gmail.com) or 608-516-7883.

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is Wednesday, December 13 at Gus' Diner, Hwy 19, Sun Prairie.



# Youth & Kids Corner



## Elementary Retreat January 20-21

A fun trip to Lutherdale for 3rd to 6th graders is coming up. Pick a favorite parable, and study and reteach it to others. \$90 covers 3 meals, snacks, lodging and program. Chaperone needed for every 8 campers. Get registration and submit to church office, or contact Rudy Nielsen (rudy-sonie@juno.com or 608-960-7147).

## Save the Date February 9

Kalahari Family Night. Please let Pastor Robert know if you are interested in attending.

## Sunday School Scoop

Serving on your Teach Board:

*Chairperson:* Diane Johnson-Hung

*Council Representative:* David Hanson

*Treasurer:* Rudy Nielsen

*Secretary:* Sonja Nielsen

### Butter Braids Delivery

Delivery will start December 18. Thanks for helping us raise funds for Confirmation Camp!



### Christmas Program Practice

We will practice December 3rd and 10th during Sunday school. In addition, we'll have dress rehearsals from 9am—noon on Saturday, December 9 and Saturday, December 16.

Our Sunday School students will be putting on our annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17.

**Sunday School Teachers Needed for 2nd Semester:** We have four classes, with one teacher per class. With more teachers we can rotate each week so that no one is teaching every week. We will be using the Whirl curriculum again. Teachers bring their classes together, go through a group opening and activity, then break out into their respective class rooms. The lesson plans, opening videos, and supplies will be in the supply boxes, so all they need to do is track the attendance on a prepared attendance list and lead the children through the lesson and activities. The 3rd Sunday of the month is Kids in Service, so no Sunday School on those days. If there is a month with five Sundays, that fifth Sunday of the month will be kids activities (no Sunday School).

Classes are:    -Pre-K and K                      -3rd and 4th Grades  
                         -1st and 2nd Grades           -5th and 6th Grades

## Youth Gathering in Texas

You can still get in on the ELCA youth gathering in Houston next June 27 through July 1. Thousands of high schooler kids from all over the country will gather for a time of growing in faith. Come and experience inspirational worship, Bible study, and service activities. A bus will be going from the Wisconsin's South-Central Synod. Financial help will be available. Interested? Please contact Pastor Rob at 240-215-5176 or burkelutheran@att.net.



"The Gathering sparked something inside me I did not know I had; it made me feel part of something bigger than I knew existed. The Gathering enabled me to grow in my faith, leadership, and service, along with providing me with the ways to do so."

--ZOE CLARK

# December Calendar

The staff at Burke Lutheran meets most Thursday mornings at 9:00am. We will return phone calls after our meeting.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Decorate Church
<b>3</b> Worship/Sun Sch, 9am Choir Practice, 10:30am Advent/Candelight 4pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Quilting, 9:00am Confirmation, 6:30-7:45pm	<b>7</b> Bible Study, 12:30pm	<b>8</b> Dorcas Circle Christmas Party, 6pm	<b>9</b> Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 9am-noon
	The Road Home					
<b>10</b> Worship, 9am Sunday School Choir Practice, 10:30am	<b>11</b> Fireside Fellows, 6:30-8pm	<b>12</b> Boards/Council 6pm/7pm	<b>13</b> Quilting, 9:00am Men's Breakfast, 9am Confirmation, 6:30-7:45pm	<b>14</b> Bible Study, 12:30pm	<b>15</b> River Food Pantry, 5-8pm	<b>16</b> Ruth Circle, 10am Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 9am-noon
<b>17</b> Worship, 9am Christmas Pageant No Sunday School Choir Practice, 10:30am	<b>18</b> Butter braid delivery starts	<b>19</b> Foundation Mtg, 6pm	<b>20</b> Quilting, 9:00am Confirmation, 6:30-7:45pm	<b>21</b> Bible Study, 12:30pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship Services: 9am, 4pm, 9pm No Sunday School	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas!	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Quilting, 9:00am NO CONFIRMATION	<b>28</b> NO BIBLE STUDY	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Worship, 9am						

Save the Dates: January 5—Annual Reports due  
January 28—Annual Meeting  
February 4—New Member Affirmation Service  
February—Talent Show and Chili Cookoff



**Happy Birthday!**

**Have a birthday in December? Hope your birthday is totally cool, really fantastic, wonderful, exciting, majorly awesome, rocking and HAPPY!**



**Happy Anniversary!**

**To all who said “I do” in the month of December!**

# December Worship Leaders...



	<b>December 3 9:00am Service</b>	<b>December 10 9:00am Service</b>	<b>December 17 9:00am Service</b>	<b>December 31 9:00am Service</b>
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Gloria Lundquist	Susie Kittel Moore	Jamie Falk	Gloria Lundquist
<b>Music Leader</b>	Diane O'Toole	Gloria Lundquist	Beni Hupf	Beni Hupf
<b>Music Leader</b>	Bob Rittmann	Dave Wisner	Darrell Foss	Dave Wisner
<b>Comm Assist</b>	Sharon Hughes	Dave Weinberger		Jean Schnick
<b>Comm Assist</b>	Sue Rittmann	Nancy McClurg		Joelle Frye
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Jean Schnick	Jeannette Gehrke	Diane O'Toole	Mary TeWinkel
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Diane Moore	Beni Hupf		Paul Beckman
<b>Prayer Readers</b>	Beni Hupf Barb Hennings	Sharon Hughes Jean Schnick		Beni Hupf Lucy Wisner
<b>Acolyte</b>	Stephen Bosben	Emma Dobbs	Clara Neubert	Danielle Ludwig
<b>Ushers</b>	Al Klinger Bob Lenzendorf	Roger Kittelson Rick Brandon	Karl & Emily Patzer	Roger Kittelson Dave Weinberger
<b>Greeters</b>	Jan & Galen Peterson	Mark & Mary Schultz		June Chadwick Kay Gritzmacker
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Diane & Jim Moore	Ruth Circle	Dorcas Circle	
<b>Counters</b>	Sharon Hughes Joelle Frye	Linda Hughes Mary TeWinkel	Jan Peterson Nancy Blum	Linda Hughes Mary TeWinkel
<b>Sunday School Pre-K—K 1st—2nd grades 3rd—4th grades 5th—6th grades</b>	Emily Patzer Kim Hanson David Hanson Paul Beckman	Charley Hanson Laura Hung Janeen Otis Shaney O'Toole	Kids in Service (no Sunday School)	No Sunday School

	<b>December 24 9:00am Service</b>	<b>December 24 4:00pm Service</b>	<b>December 24 9:00pm Service</b>
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Susie Kittel Moore		
<b>Music Leader</b>	Diane O'Toole		
<b>Music Leader</b>	Bob Rittmann		
<b>Comm Assist</b>	Phyllis Svoboda		
<b>Comm Assist</b>	Barb Hennings		
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Gloria Lundquist		
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Nancy Blum		
<b>Prayer Readers</b>	Beni Hupf Peri Beal		
<b>Acolyte</b>	Olivia Otis		
<b>Ushers</b>	Nancy Blum		
<b>Greeters</b>	Phyllis & Stuart Svoboda		
<b>Coffee Hour</b>			
<b>Counters</b>	Gloria Lundquist Diane O'Toole		

Sign up  
sheets are  
located in  
the Narthex