

# Light *of* Life

FEBRUARY 2021

Burke Lutheran Church  
**Drive-In Service  
Ash Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 6:00pm**

**5720 Portage Road | Madison, WI 53718  
608.244.8486 | [www.burkelutheran.org](http://www.burkelutheran.org)**

## ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, NOON AND 6PM

Join us Ash Wednesday at one of two options.

Option 1: Burke Lutheran Church will be partnering with Norway Grove for drive-thru ashes in DeForest by Fireman's Park at noon.

Option 2: Join Pastor Rob in the parking lot at Burke Lutheran Church for an evening service at 6:00pm. Ashes will be applied on your way out!

Burke Lutheran Church  
**Online Services  
Season of Hope**

**Lenten Wednesdays  
Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17 and 24**

**5720 Portage Road | Madison, WI 53718  
608.244.8486 | [www.burkelutheran.org](http://www.burkelutheran.org)**

## OUR STAFF

### Pastor

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

### Administrative Secretary

Peri Beal, 608-244-8486  
[burkelutheran@att.net](mailto:burkelutheran@att.net)

### 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)

## BUILDING UPDATE

A big thank you to all who helped empty the semi-trailer. And another thanks to Jay Olson and Ron Hennings for repairing pews.



**PAGE 2**  
**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROBERT.....**



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

2020 has been called a lot of things, most of which people find too inappropriate to be printed in a church newsletter so I will not write them here. Instead I will introduce a new label for 2020...The Advent Year. Normally we would celebrate the season of Advent during the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This is meant to be a season emphasizing patience and preparation as we await the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas morning. Unfortunately (or maybe fortunately depending upon one's perspective) this past year we have had to endure what it may be like to have the season of Advent stretched out to encompass an entire year, rather than just the customary four weeks where we light a candle at the end of each week.

This past year nearly all of us have had our eyes glued to our TV/computer/phone screens waiting to hear about when we would be able to return to the normalcy that we had experienced prior to this pandemic descending upon our world. As we waited we did our best to pass the time and may have even tried to plan for what we might do once we were able to move around freely. For many of us, our patience has been tested in ways we had never conceived of before as we struggled with the decisions that our leaders made on both the local, state, and national levels.

Yet here we are, a vaccine for this terrible disease has been tested and approved for distribution. Emergency care workers and nursing home residents have begun receiving shots, and by the time you read this they may have opened the vaccine up

to all people over the age of 65 (and hopefully our school teachers). Hope and increased anticipation for the end and that return to some form of normalcy is once again on the rise, yet we must still be patient and not jump too far ahead of ourselves. It is true, it looks like we are reaching the seventh inning stretch of this long and painful ordeal that we have been forced to endure, but that also means that we need to sit back and wait just a little bit longer.

Here at Burke, as our nation and the world have endured this pandemic, we have been undergoing a transformation to our own beloved community. This summer we witnessed the move of our beloved sanctuary and the construction/remodel continues on at this very second as I write these words. In some ways the knowledge that we did not have a sanctuary to gather in has made this inability to gather as church community easier to bear. Yet now as we are entering into the final stages of our construction project while vaccinations continue their rollout, I am asking everyone to be patient. This trial that we have all endured to greater and lesser degrees is nearing its end. I don't know when exactly construction is going to end, when we will all be vaccinated and able to gather without fear of the pandemic but I know it is going to happen soon and before you know it we will all be back together breaking bread, quilting, playing cards, sharing meals, and of course worshipping together.

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Robert

## PRAYER CONCERNS

During the month of January, we have remembered the following individuals in our Sunday prayers:

Tina Bauman	Lisa Thompson	Bev Lowe
Harper DeBauche	Heather Gehrke	Nicholas Thompson
Helen Knuteson	Marilyn Wolff	Lucy Wisner
Stuart Svoboda	Diane Moore	Kay Gritzmaeker
Paul Beckman	Dave Wisner	Sean Graham
Nancy Bartlet		

Our condolences to the family and friends of Rudy Nielsen and David Gehrke

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



## FILL THE ALTAR ALTERNATIVE

Our annual Fill the Altar usually runs through Lent. Since we are not having Lent in person, that's not an option this year. So if you'd like to help out The River Food Pantry or Sunshine Place with funds directly, please visit their websites for online donations or mail a check.



### [The River Food Pantry](#)

2201 Darwin Rd  
Madison, WI 53704  
608-442-8815

### [Sunshine Place](#)

18 Rickel Rd  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
608825-3875

## WINTER PARKING

The winter season is here, and with it, lots of ice and snow. Snow is usually easily identified but unfortunately ice often goes unseen until it is too late. 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. Thank you, and God's peace be upon all that you do.



## 2021 ENVELOPES

The giving envelopes for 2021 are available for pickup on the table in the Narthex. Please help us get these distributed to your families.

If you cannot find yours, please see Linda Hughes or contact the church office.

## CEMETERY WREATHS

Please remove all wreaths and winter flowers from the cemetery by Ash Wednesday, February 17. Items not removed by then will be taken down. If you need assistance in getting your wreaths removed please contact the church.

## DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

If you've changed your contact information in the past few years — if you've moved, dropped your land line, changed your email to get rid of all that annoying spam you were getting, got a new job, etc. — please let the church office know. You can contact us at 244-8486 or [burkelutheran@att.net](mailto:burkelutheran@att.net). Thank you for helping us stay in touch!



## 2020 GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements for tax purposes went out in January. If you receive the newsletter via email your statement was emailed to you; all others were mailed. Please review the statement and if you feel there is an error contact the church office to report it. Statements were sent out January 19 if you need to check your emails.

## 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**

# Youth of all Ages Corner



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Serving on your Teach Board:

*Chairperson: Open position*

*Treasurer: Open position*

*Council Representative: David Hanson*

*Secretary: Open position*

*Superintendent: Jean Schnick*

## GOD'S MARVELOUS SEASON

Can't get enough snow? Fold white paper circles or coffee filters into quarters, then again once or twice. Cut squares, diamonds, triangles or moon shapes from the folded edges. Unfold and enjoy your unique snowflakes.

*God does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow 'fall on the earth'. JOB 37:5-6*

## THINKING OF HOPE

What image comes to mind when you think of hope?

The synod's prayer team met in January as they do regularly to pray for you, our synod, our nation and our world. They shared their ideas on hope. One team member shared a poem. Another shared that she sees an image of balloons, and even when a big gust of wind comes along and sweeps the balloons into the air, she always has one string of hope in her hand. Thanks to Deacon Meg Nielsen for the poem and Diane Padrutt of the synod's prayer team for inspiring this image. What image comes to your mind? For what do you hope? Give your requests to God.

## HOPE

It hovers in dark corners  
before the lights are turned on,  
it shakes sleep from its eyes  
and drops from mushroom gills,  
it explodes in the starry heads  
of dandelions turned sages,  
it sticks to the wings of green angels  
that sail from the tops of maples.

It sprouts in each occluded eye  
of the many-eyed potato,  
it lives in each earthworm segment  
surviving cruelty,  
it is the motion that runs  
from the eyes to the tail of a dog,  
it is the mouth that inflates the lungs  
of the child that has just been born.

It is the singular gift  
we cannot destroy in ourselves,  
the argument that refutes death,  
the genius that invents the future,  
all we know of God.

It is the serum which makes us swear  
not to betray one another;  
it is in this poem, trying to speak.

*"Hope" by Lisel Mueller from*

*Alive Together. © Louisiana State University Press, 1996.*

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> WORSHIP ONLINE	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Quilting, 9:00am Online Confirmation Class	<b>11</b> Online Bible Study, 1:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  WORSHIP ONLINE Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Council Meeting, 6:30pm	<b>17</b> Quilting, 9:00am No Confirmation Class <b>DRIVE-IN ASHES , 6pm</b>	<b>18</b> Online Bible Study, 1:00pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> WORSHIP ONLINE	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Foundation Mtg, 7:00pm	<b>24</b> Quilting, 9:00am Online Confirmation Class <b>ONLINE LENTEN SERVICE</b>	<b>25</b> Online Bible Study, 1:00pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> WORSHIP ONLINE						

Save the Dates:    March 3, 10            Online Lenten Hope Service  
                           March 17, 24        Lent Services  
                           March 28            Palm Sunday  
                           April 1                Maundy Thursday  
                           April 2                Good Friday  
                           April 4                Easter Sunday



**Happy Birthday!**

**Have a birthday in February?  
 Hope your birthday is spectacular,  
 totally cool, really fantastic, wonderful, exciting,  
 majorly awesome, fun-filled, rocking and HAPPY!**



**Happy Anniversary!  
 To all who said "I do"  
 in the month of February!**

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ANNUAL REPORT

Due to the pandemic we will not be holding an Annual Congregational meeting until later in the year. In the meantime, we'll be sharing the various reports over the next few months here in the Light of Life.

### Presidents Report 2020

Remember 1993's comedy *Groundhog Day*? Phil, played by Bill Murray, is a cynical weatherman sent to cover Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, PA. Phil gets caught in a blizzard and finds himself in a time warp where he relives the same day repeatedly until he gets it right.

As a result of this film, Groundhog Day becomes a part of our English language. It means to describe a monotonous, unpleasant, and repetitive situation or a situation in which events that have happened before, happen again, in what seems to be the same way.

In many ways, 2020 was our Groundhog Day. We worked at getting it right. We made the most out of our days as we began wearing masks, being quarantined, working from home, and more. The monotonous, unpleasant, and repetitive situation of the pandemic remained. Despite all this, 2020 gave some people more family time. It introduced new games to children. It allowed others to dive into their favorite past times of gardening or baking. In a time when we were consumed by obligations, we were reminded of what matters most to people.

As a church we try to 'Get it Right'. Are we right all the time? Not always, but we try. While we were faced with the pandemic, the daily efforts of all those who kept their faith in the church shined through. We are now coming to the completion of our building project and it could not have been done without you. I think we have done it right. We have positioned ourselves for the future. I feel an excitement whenever I look at how far we have come and pray that soon we will be able to gather again as our Burke family.

Yours in Christ,

Linda Hughes, Council President



## Pastor's Report 2020

On March 15th, we held our last indoor in-person worship service at Burke Lutheran Church of 2020. It was our 4th worship service held in the fellowship hall of our brand new building, following a procession at the end of the service on March 1st officially closing down our old sanctuary in order to begin prepping it for the move this past Summer. We held two Lenten services with soup suppers on March 4th and 11th and two Sunday Services on March 8th and the 15th in our makeshift worship space in the new fellowship hall. The two Sunday Services could not have been more different, on March 8th we all gathered in hopeful expectation as we christened our new temporary home. Almost a hundred people gathered into our new fellowship hall, this included many visitors and many long term members excitedly looking toward the future. On March 15th the mood was much different. The day after our last Lenten service lockdowns began to go into effect and kids were sent home from school. Less than thirty people showed up for worship that Sunday and we did everything we could to lessen human contact and everyone quickly left following the service as we cancelled our usual coffee hour. We had no idea that this would be our last time using the fellowship hall for worship in 2020.

Up until March 15th everything seemed to be going as planned as we continued moving forward on our building project while simultaneously conducting worship services, Sunday school, outreach ministries, and providing pastoral care for those in need. Since March 15th I have had to learn how to do online worship, and I still don't think I have mastered it or even do it well. At first as we were dealing with a the full lockdown, I recorded the remaining Lenten services from my home and worked out of the office when able. For Good Friday we were able to put together some readings recorded by various members of the congregation and on Easter we were able to use our temporary worship space to record an Easter service with special music recorded by Eleri Beal. After Easter and for the next few months I often had to retreat back to my office or home to record worship services due to the ongoing floor odyssey that was a constant headache for many of us still working in and around our new building as the floor had to be torn up and repaired several times by multiple individuals. Meanwhile construction in other places continued moving forward as the building began its move on June 20th, and arrived on its new foundation on June 25th. Online worship continued until August 30th when we had our first drive-in Worship service which was attended by over a hundred people. It was very successful due to the help of Dennis Steward and his expertise in setting up a sound system that we could use for these services. These services continued with one held on the last Sunday of September, then the first Sunday of November when we finally confirmed Abby Harris, Clara Neubert, Danni Queiser, and Carter Truitt (who were supposed to be confirmed last spring, meanwhile we have begun an on-line confirmation program with Norway Grove Lutheran Church in DeForest). We would continue having drive-in Worship services for the next two weeks in November until we once again were forced to shut down due to weather and another government lockdown due to the pandemic. We would have one more drive-in worship service on Christmas Eve but the extreme cold resulted in us being plagued by technical issues (though Karl and Sheri Patzer did their best to hold everything together) and a very cold pastor.

Meanwhile in 2020 we also lost some beloved brothers and sisters; Ron Brantmeyer (6/1/2020), Cheri Krisher (8/29/2020), Mary Skinvik (9/7/2020), Marvin McCoy (10/31/2020), and Rudy Nielsen (12/7/2020). Due to the pandemic we were forced to get creative in celebrating these lives yet in the end I believe we were successful and I hope that the families were able to find some peace. In general pastoral care has been very frustrating over these past 10 months. One of the key aspects of my position here at Burke has been visiting people who had limited mobility in their homes. This year those visits had to stop and many of those I once visited on a regular basis were cut off due to various circumstances. As of now the vast majority of my interactions with people is via phone, Zoom calls, and in-person with masks and social distancing. If I haven't called or talked to you recently know that I really hate phones but I love to hear from all of you so if you have a moment drop me a line. It has been truly heartbreaking to only be able to visit people via phone, and unfortunately that was not able to work in many instances. For many of our members the isolation brought on by the pandemic has been very hard to bear and it has taken a great toll on their mental and physical health. It is a powerful reminder to us all that if you are able to reach out to someone, please do.

As construction continues to move forward on our building, and the government slowly rolls out the vaccine it is my hope, and the hope of many others that we will be able to gather again as a congregation really soon, until then may God continue to bless you and keep you all your days. Amen.



Rejoice in  
HOPE,

be PATIENT in  
suffering,

persevere in  
PRAYER.

*Romans 12:12 NRSV*