



JANUARY 2025

OUR STAFF

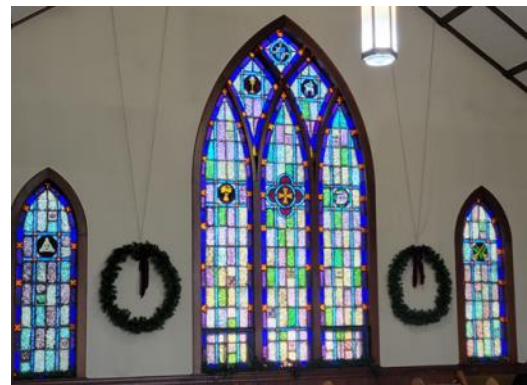
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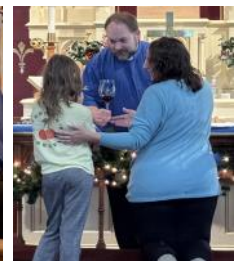
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COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS AT BURKE LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Congratulations on the
Frist Communion of
Timothy Lagerstam,
Adelay Nielson,
And Ella Nielson**



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRYAN

Dear friends,

Merry Christmas!

As you read this, we are sometime in the 12 days of Christmas, this short but wonderful season of the year celebrating the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. We celebrate the day of Christmas on December 25 because, at some point, that was assumed to be the winter equinox, or the darkest day of the year. So we celebrate the light that breaks into the darkness until January 6, the day of Epiphany.

One of my favorite ways to remember this Christmas season is using that fun children's song, "The 12 Days of Christmas." The gift given each day by "my true love," who is God our heavenly Father, can be used to remind us of the basics of our faith.

The partridge in a pear tree reminds us of Jesus who came into this world to teach us to love one another even to the point of being crucified on the cross, often referred to in scripture and tradition as the tree of life.

The two turtledoves are those who tell us the story of God's love for us, the two parts of the Bible, the Old and New Testaments.

The three French hens represent the three primary virtues that God shows us and God's Spirit grows in us, the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

The four calling birds are the four who sing the song of God's great love for us, the four Gospels that tell us the stories of Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five gold rings remind us that the story of God's love is even older than Jesus and this story has always been precious and special, especially in some of the most troublesome times that our ancestors in the faith experienced and shared how they kept the faith in the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The six geese laying eggs, literally giving birth to the new creation, remind us of the six days of creation at the beginning of Genesis, the story of God loving the world and everything into existence.

The seven swans swimming remind us of how we are supposed to love each other with the seven spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion (Romans 12:6-8).

The eight maids remind us of the attitudes we cultivate knowing that God is at work in us and in this world, what we call the Beatitudes that Jesus proclaimed: blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are the merciful, blessed are those who are pure in heart, blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake on Jesus' account (Matthew 5:1-12).

The nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the Holy Spirit that are born in us when we live out God's love for us and the

world: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

The ten lords leaping are the Ten Commandments that guide and rule our behaviors with others so that all know God's love through our care for them: You shall have no other gods, do not make idols, do not take the Lord's name in vain, remember the Sabbath day, honor your father and mother, do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not covet (Exodus 20:1-21).

The eleven pipers proclaiming the good news of God through Jesus' love are the eleven faithful apostles named through the Gospels: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon the Zealot, and Thaddaeus (Matthew 10:1-4).

And finally, the twelve drummers drumming out the rhythm of our lives remind us of the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed:

God is our Father almighty, the creator of heaven and earth;

Jesus Christ is God's only Son, our Lord;

Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary;

Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, and he descended to the dead;

On the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead;

God is present with us through the Holy Spirit;

This Spirit unites us in the Holy catholic Church;

This Spirit connects us with all those who have gone before in the great communion of saints;

This Spirit is the power of forgiveness for us and for everyone;

Through this Spirit, at the call of Jesus, in the love of God, all the dead will be resurrected;

There is everlasting life in and through this creating, redeeming, sanctifying God.

I pray that you are keeping this time with your family and friends in ways that remind you of God's love and peace, and I pray that you find some ways to share the grace of God with others. I thank you for all the cards and gifts you have shared with me this season.

I'm looking forward to seeing what blessings God's grace will pour out upon us all in the next year.

God bless,

Pr. Bryan

FOOD PANTRY

January Food Pantry Focus: January focus is “Meals in a Can,” such as soups, stews, chili, canned meat (tuna, chicken), canned vegetables, canned fruit, etc. Cans with pop tops are especially welcomed. Please place your non-perishable goods in the ‘Donations’ basket in the entryway and it will be delivered to the pantry.

BIRTHDAY BAGS FOR RIVER FOOD PANTRY.



List of contents and bags are located in the entryway.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

The next Men’s Breakfast is Wednesday, January 8 at Gus’ Diner, Hwy 19, Sun Prairie, at 9:00am. Stop in for a cup of joe, a hearty breakfast and connect with brothers in Christ.



QUILTING

Every Wednesday at 9:00am. Everyone is welcome, no experience needed.

JAM Youth Education Classes

At Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church

J.A.M. (*Jesus And Me*) is religious youth education geared towards children aged 3-years-old to 4th grade. Class time consists of a bible story, crafts, games, music and prayers. JAM meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., September through mid-May.

ANNUAL REPORTS - DUE JANUARY 8, 2025

Please complete your annual report and turn in to Laura no later than Wednesday, January 8.

ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025.

The Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 26th following the 9:00am service. Agenda items include election of officers (Secretary & Vice President) and board members, Board and Committee reports, the 2025 budget, election of Audit and Nominating committee members and representatives to Lutherdale, Oakwood and the Synod Assembly.

Please consider serving on one of the boards. Here is a brief summary of what each board works on:

Preach - Anything related to our worship service, selecting hymns, decorating the sanctuary, etc.

Teach - Anything related to teaching for adults or children.

Reach - Anything related to reaching out . . . this could be within our congregation or outside of it.

Property - All things related to caring for our popery/buildings. There are many willing to help with the work but we need a board to help manage what needs to be done.

PRAYER CONCERNS

During the month of January we remember the following individuals in our Sunday prayers:

Lisa Thompson
Marie McCoy
Charlotte Woolf

Mark Gehrke
June Chadwick

Tina Lee
Chris McFarlin



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

INCLEMENT WEATHER 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. Please save our handicap 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.

Please welcome Colin Hamrick, Burke's new Maintenance Engineer. If you see him around, please say Hi.



Colin & Augie

Our new promotional sign on northbound Hwy. 51 is up! It's located on the west side of the street as you're heading North toward I90. It's located just past Madison Block & Stone. If you're heading that way, please be sure to keep an eye out for it.



BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Which three men, in different periods, stood almost alone in their godliness, among a crooked and perverse generation?
2. What tribe had no inheritance in the land of promise?
3. How many Philistines did Samson slay with a jaw bone?
4. Of which person who was not of Abraham's seed did God say, "I will make him a great nation?"
5. What was the garden of Eden guarded with to prevent future access to the tree of life?
6. What queen of Bible times is described by the epithet "that wicked woman"?
7. Who was the first Christian convert in Europe?

JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship, 9a Coffee Hour, 10a	6	7 Council, 6:30p	8 Men's Breakfast, 9a Quilting, 9a Bible Study, 1p Bible School, 6:30p at NCMLC	9	10	11
12 Worship, 9a Coffee Hour, 10a Confirmation at Burke, 5:30p	13	14	15 Quilting, 9a Bible Study, 1p Bible School, 6:30p at NCMLC	16	17	18
19 Worship, 9a Coffee Hour, 10a	20 Preach Board, 10a	21 Foundation Meeting, 7p	22 Quilting, 9a Bible Study, 1p Bible School, 6:30p at NCMLC	23	24	25
26 Worship, 9a Potluck, 10a Annual Meeting, 11a	27	28	29 Quilting, 9a Bible Study, 1p Bible School, 6:30p at NCMLC	30	31	

<p>Save the Dates: January 1 - New Year's Day January 16 - National Nothing Day January 18 - National Religion Day January 19 - World Snow Day</p>	<p>January 23 - National Pie Day January 24 - National Fun at Work Day January 26 - BLC Annual Meeting January 27 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day</p>
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Happy Birthday!

January 3	Linda Peterson	January 19	Judy Martin
January 4	Julie Clark	January 21	Jamie Truitt
January 5	Gary Brown	January 22	Janeen Otis
January 7	Charley Hanson	January 24	Emory Lietz
January 9	Hunter Hanson	January 27	Randy Showers
January 12	James Ekern	January 29	Robert Boettcher
January 15	Mariah Lenzendorf	January 30	Janice Peterson
January 17	Donna Showers	January 30	Mark Klang
January 17	Kim Hanson	January 31	Roger Martin
January 18	Libby Brown		

Happy Anniversary!

Dawin & Nancy Thompson January 16, 1971



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JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

	January 5 9:00am Service	January 12 9:00am Service	January 19 9:00am Service	January 26 9:00am Service
Organist/Pianist	Gloria Lundquist	Susie Kittel Moore	Gloria Lundquist	Susie Kittel Moore
Music Leader	Chris Grefe Dave Wisner	Praise Band	Chris Grefe Dave Wisner	Praise Band
Communion Assistant	Julie Clark	David Hanson	Jean Schnick	Julie Clark
Communion Prep	Gloria Lundquist	Jeannette Gehrke	Gloria Lundquist	Jeannette Gehrke
Lay Reader	Tim Wachs	Mady Moreno	Sharon Hughes	Julie Clark
Ushers	Bob Lenzendorf David Hanson	Steve & Donna Frederic	Roger Kittleson Rick Brandon	Karl & Shari Patzner
Coffee Hour	Donuts	Donuts	Donuts	Potluck
Counters	Gloria Lundquist Rose Haney	Gloria Lundquist Deb Brown	Sharon Hughes Jan Peterson	Sharon Hughes Jan Peterson Jean Schnick

TRIVIAL ANSWERS

1. Noah, Daniel, and Job (Ezek 14:14)
2. Levites (Deut 8:1, 5)
3. 1,000 (Judg 15:15)
4. Ishmael (Gen 17:20)
5. A cherubim and a flaming sword (Gen 3:24)
6. Athaliah (2 Chron 24:7)
7. Lydia (Acts 16:14)