



# Light *of* Life

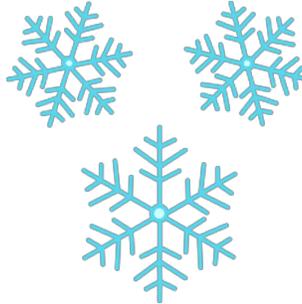
JANUARY 2021

## EPIPHANY

WED. JANUARY 6

Traditionally Christmas is meant to be a 12 day celebration beginning on December 25<sup>th</sup> and wrapping up with the celebration of Epiphany. Epiphany is when we commemorate when Jesus' was revealed to the world with the visitation by the three Magi. Through this visitation Jesus' birth was revealed to the nations and everyone now knew that a new age had dawned upon the world.

One of the central ways people celebrate Epiphany is by having a large fire where you can symbolically toss all the things that cause you suffering into the fire so that you can begin anew for the new year, in honor of the birth of Christ ushering a new age for the world. This seems like a particularly good idea for 2021 due to all that we have gone through, and continue to go through as a result of the events in 2020.



### OUR STAFF

#### Pastor

Robert Neubert,  
240-215-5176  
gumby523@yahoo.com

#### Administrative Secretary

Peri Beal, 608-244-8486  
burkelutheran@att.net

#### Maintenance Engineer

Dave Wisner

#### Nursery Supervisor

A Volunteer

#### BURKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

5720 Portage Rd / Madison, WI 53718  
608-244-8486 / burkelutheran@att.net  
www.burkelutheran.org

## 2021 ENVELOPES

The giving envelopes for 2021 are available and ready for pickup. They can be found on the island in the kitchen. Please help us get these distributed to your families. If you cannot find yours please let the church office know.



GIVING  
ENVELOPES

## 2020 GIVING STATEMENTS

In mid-January you will be receiving your giving statement for tax purposes. If you receive the newsletter via email your statement will be emailed to you; all others will be mailed. Please review the statement and if you feel there is an error contact the church office to report it.

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

## ANNUAL REPORTS

DUE JANUARY 15, 2021

All boards and groups are asked to submit their annual report to the church office by Friday, January 15. We understand there may not be a lot to report due to covid.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting typically held in January has been cancelled. It will be scheduled once it is safe to gather as a congregation.

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROBERT.....

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The New Year is upon us, images of Christmas trees, big jolly bearded guys in red suits, and hopefully a little baby laying in a manger as well have unfortunately begun to fade into the background. Yet with the New Year and the birth of that little boy there is hope, hope that emerges despite the ongoing pandemic and the miserably bitter cold that engulfs Wisconsin during this time of year, driving all those who do not own snow mobiles or a pair of skis to remain indoors since the option of fleeing south is not necessarily recommended at time. Did you know that in many ancient calendars there is no January or February? The year is still 365 days but instead of listing these months they are simply called "the days of Winter", maybe this should be how we refer to the entirety of 2020 from now on. For some the prospect of a vaccine being gradually rolled out is enough to ignite hopeful expectation for what the New Year has in store and that hope will carry them through. For others the prospect of remaining isolated behind closed doors for two or more months until the vaccine begins to roll out and the winter begins to slowly break is too much to bear and that is why we need to be representatives of that hope for each other.

In a given year the seasons can have a profound effect on ones disposition and when you add in a pandemic that has forced most of us to put large restrictions upon our social interactions, then there are bound to be people suffering from abnormally high rates of depression. For some it is no big deal yet for others the weather and social isolation have a profound effect on their physical and mental wellbeing. Seasonal depression, which typically rears its ugly head in these cold winter months can effect anyone and can be particularly debilitating on those who suffer from physical limitations, chronic depression or any other kind of debilitating disorder. The weather outside can have a deep and lasting effect on our disposition effecting not only how we interact with others, but with how we think about ourselves. The sun emerging from the clouds even on a cold bitter day can dictate whether someone has a good productive day or

not. Entire communities can be effected by the sun's presence or lack thereof, studies have shown that no matter what the temperature is outside, prolonged exposure to cloudy skies can lead to social depression which results in increased anxiety and tension between people (Oregonians like me know this well due to there being over 260 days of rain per year. In Alaska many isolated communities prohibit the sale of alcohol during the "days of Winter" due to severe depression that accompanies three months of darkness).

Fortunately or Unfortunately depending upon ones perspective this pandemic has caused many issues around depression and its many forms to come to light, and this in turn has produced greater sympathy toward those suffering from depression amongst the general population. That being said there still is a stigma that comes along with mental disorders and often our brothers and sisters suffer far more than anyone of us will ever know or ever will understand, and ultimately we don't need to. What we need to do is just be present with each other, even if that means just talking on the phone or having zoom conversations, having that little bit of human contact can mean so much to a person's entire week and all it costs us is our time.

So now that all the hoopla concerning a kid born in a feeding trough who just so happens to be the savior of the world, and some guy who breaks into houses once a year wearing the worst burglar suit ever and leaving behind more things for us to step on is over. Let's start the year by keeping that hope alive, that hope that came to us on that Christmas morning so many years ago wrapped in some old cloths and laying in a manger. Let us be manifestations of that hope for each other not just in our words but through our actions and our presence in the lives of those who desperately need someone to just be there.

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Robert

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Tina Bauman	Lisa Thompson	Stuart Svoboda
Bev Lowe	Harper DeBauche	Marilyn Wolf
Helen Knuteson	Lucy Wisner	Diane Moore
Kay Gritzmacker	Paul Beckman	Sean Graham
Dave Wisner	Virginia Steward	Lois & Paul Steiner
Nicholas Thompson	Family and friends of Rudy Nielsen	



# Church Building Updates



Straw was spread to help prevent erosion. Fortunately we got it done before the snow!



Brick work was done to fill in the open spaces where the door to the basement was previously located. Cornerstones has been put in place. Thanks to those who helped get the old mortar off those bricks; they were needed.



Painting in the narthex is almost complete. We might need some help painting, let us know if you are willing to help.

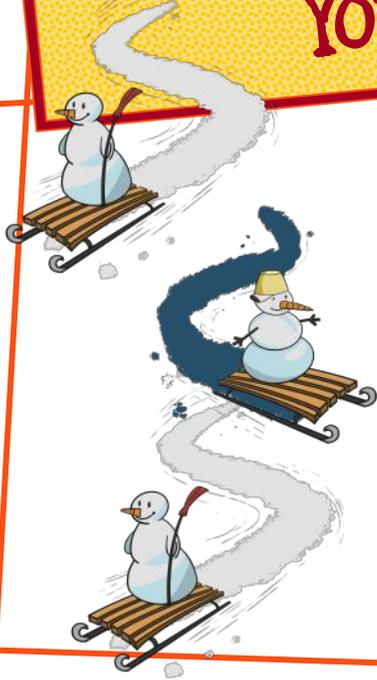


The light fixtures and the ceiling fans have been re-wired and hung. The electrician said there was evidence of a small fire in the attic around the wiring so we are lucky the church didn't burn down.



The newly exposed stained glass window from the pipe room. Bruce Bosben is working to strip old paint off the window frame.

# Youth & Kids Corner



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Serving on your Teach Board:

*Chairperson: Open position*

*Council Representative: David Hanson*

*Superintendent: Jean Schnick*

*Treasurer:*

*Secretary:*

## BUTTER BRAIDS UPDATE

We raised \$429 from the sale of butterbraids this year! Thanks to everyone who purchased—all funds raised goes towards Youth Retreats & Confirmation Camp!

Special thanks to Angie Lenzendorf for coordinating all the details for the sale.

## FOOD PANTRY

January's focus is on "Meals in a Can", such as soups, stews, chili, canned meat (tuna, chicken), canned vegetables, canned fruit, etc. Please place items in the designated basket in the Fellowship Hall or drop off in the office and it will be delivered to the pantry. Cash contributions are always accepted.



## QUILTING

The quilters are back! We will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 6, 9am. Please join us for a morning of sewing and fellowship. No experience is needed.



## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to all who donated funds or purchased gifts for children of families at the River Food Pantry. In total we provided 30 gifts to 11 families. The River Holiday Gift Program reached 550 children this year.

Those contributing were: Bruce Bosben, Kim & Dave Hanson, Bill & Nancy Schmidt, Ron & Barb Henning, Diane Moore, Shirley Bostad, Patrice & Rob Neubert, Chris & Diane McFarlin, Tom & Linda Hanson, Bob & Jeannette Gehrke, Cyndi Dahm, Al & Linda Klinger, Sharon & Tom Hughes, John & Linda Schramer, Linda & Dick Hughes, Mary TeWinkel and Jean Schnick



## 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**

# JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 On-Line Worship	4	5	6 Quilting 9:00am Confirmation, Small Groups	7 On-line Bible Study, 1pm	8	9
10 On-Line Worship	11	12 Council, 6:30pm	13 Quilting 9:00am Confirmation, Small Groups	14 On-line Bible Study, 1pm	15 Annual Reports Due	16
20 On-Line Worship	18	19 Foundation, 7pm	20 Quilting 9:00am Confirmation, Small Groups	21 On-line Bible Study, 1pm	22	23
24 On-Line Worship	25	26	27 Quilting 9:00am Confirmation, Small Groups	28 On-line Bible Study, 1pm	29	30
31 On-Line Worship						



Save the Dates: January 15 Annual Reports due!



## Happy Birthday!

Have a birthday in January?  
 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 January!

January is a time when many people make New Year's Resolutions or think about things they have done or want to do. This calendar is filled with ideas to help others or yourself feel better. Put the calendar in a place you will see everyday and see how many things you can complete!

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> Watch the on-line worship service and relax today!	<b>4</b> Call another member of Burke just to see how they are doing. 	<b>5</b> Think of someone you are proud of and tell them.	<b>6</b> For Epiphany, light a fire in your fireplace, have a bonfire or light a candle! 	<b>7</b> Check out the On-Line Bible study at 1pm today.	<b>8</b> Take a long walk outside.	<b>9</b> Make a list of 10 things you want to do this year.
<b>10</b> Watch the on-line worship service and relax today!	<b>11</b> Create something and then give it away.	<b>12</b> Send a text to someone who makes you smile and tell them why.	<b>13</b> Share a photo of something you are thankful for on social media.	<b>14</b> Tell someone you are proud of them.	<b>15</b> Do something for yourself today! Read, take a nap, relax!	<b>16</b> Bake a special treat and take to a neighbor. 
<b>17</b> Watch the on-line worship service and relax today!	<b>18</b> No complaining day! Each time you want to complain, say something you are thankful for.	<b>19</b> Call a relative you haven't talked to in a long time.	<b>20</b> Buy a canned food item to donate to the food pantry. Drop off at church. 	<b>21</b> Share a family story with your children or a friend.	<b>22</b> Set time aside to play a game with a family member.	<b>23</b> Set time aside to play a game with a family member. 
<b>24</b> Watch the on-line worship service and relax today!	<b>25</b> Relax and eat a piece of chocolate. 	<b>26</b> Leave a note or send a note of encouragement to a friend or family member.	<b>27</b> Do a random act of kindness.	<b>28</b> Thank an essential worker.	<b>29</b> Give a small gift to someone for no reason at all. 	<b>30</b> Go through your closet and find something to donate.
<b>31</b> Watch the on-line worship and read through your "Thankful" Journal.						