



Light *of* Life

DECEMBER 2020

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, November 24

7:00pm-Drive-In

Please join us for a drive-in worship of readings, carols and candlelight as we celebrate Jesus's birth!



Offering Envelopes

The 2021 offering envelopes have arrived. We hope to have them ready for pick up by December 10. If you are in the church area stop by to pick yours up.

Thanks to all those who have continued to support our work here at Burke by mailing in or dropping off contributions.

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

Sunday Drive-In Worship Cancelled

With increased covid numbers and colder weather here it has been decided that we will no longer have drive-in services on Sunday.

Check out the website to watch the on-line service.



Annual Reports

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

No annual meeting is planned at this time.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROBERT.....



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Holiday season is upon us once again, yet this year it looks a lot different. In years past I have often complained about all the cheesy Christmas decorations and present ideas that flood the store shelves starting around mid-October yet this year they have given me an odd sense of comfort. Seeing the items flood the shelves at the local supermarket or department store brings me a sense of normalcy in a time where it seems as if everything is anything but normal. Instead of the usual dread that normally accompanies my thoughts as we enter into the holiday season these familiar trappings of holidays past gives me a sense of hope that one day things will actually return to some version of normalcy.

This sense of hope that is beginning to trickle into my body is actually quite appropriate at this time because we have just entered into the season of Advent and the first candle on our advent wreath is centered around hope. While we wait in hopeful expectation of the birth of our savior we also graced with news of possible vaccines that may be available in the near future, thus freeing us from the grip of this terrible disease that has hurt so many of our brothers and sisters. We hold on to the hope that in the meantime our loved ones not yet affected by this disease will stay safe, as we do what we can to make ourselves and our families safe. We have hope that God will continue to guide our hearts and minds as we continue to navigate this confusing and increasingly anxious time that we are all trying to get through, together.

The second candle on our Advent wreath symbolizes peace, It represents the peace that can be found through faith. Peace is a hard thing to come by in 2020, unrest seems to seep into everything around us. Not only are we trying to navigate through a pandemic but we also had to deal with social upheaval surrounding controversies regarding sexuality, race, policing, and a major election that was very conten

tious. Yet despite all this we are reminded to seek peace through God, to not feed into the strife that surrounds us. Too often it is easy to attack those with whom we disagree, rather than recognize that we are all children of God, and we are all hurting. When we feed into toxic behavior, then all we do is create more toxicity and nothing is resolved. In all things seek peace and understanding, rather than just a desire to be right.

The third candle represents Joy, the joy that comes with the birth of our savior and the many other blessings that we have each received. As we navigate through this season (and lets face it, an entire year) of waiting we are called to remember the joy that God has put in our lives. Each and every one of us is blessed in so many ways throughout our lives and this is the perfect time to remember to give thanks for all those blessings. To often we get caught up in the negative things going on around us and we forget to remember all the good things we have.

The last candle represents love, the love that God continues to rain down upon us each and every day as we rest in the knowledge that we are forgiven. It is through that love that we are emboldened to spread love to all those we encounter both physically and virtually. This year showing love looks a lot different. Instead of embracing each other and enjoying large family feasts, we are instead asked to show our love through remaining socially distant and wearing masks. In this way we can keep each other safe and honor the hard work that health professionals are doing on our behalf. If you are choosing to gather with others this holiday season please show them love by getting tested and socially isolating until you gather, if this is impossible then remember that there are many other ways to let people know you love them.

Peace and blessings as you continue to navigate this bizarre holiday season and remember that I am just a phone call away if you need me for anything.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Robert



PRAYER CONCERNS

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

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Tina Bauman | Lisa Thompson | Stuart Svoboda | Sean Graham | Lucy Wisner |
| Bev Lowe | Harper DeBauche | Kay Gritzmaeker | Chris McFarlin | Family & Friends of |
| Helen Knuteson | Rudy Nielsen | Diane Moore | Paul Beckman | Marvin McCoy |

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



River Food Pantry Christmas Gifts

You can help make this Christmas a little brighter for children in need! Burke is again seeking gifts for 30 children. Following is the list of children, their ages and gender.

Please select a child and call the church office with the Gift # you have selected. If you get the answering machine please do not purchase your gift until it is confirmed. We don't want duplication,

If you would like to participate but are unable to go out and purchase a gift you can contribute \$30 and a member of the congregation will purchase it for you. Please mail or drop off donations at church. Cash will make the process easier but if you prefer to write a check please make it out to Mary TeWinkel.

Here are the guidelines: Do not exceed \$30 for the gift.

Gift can be wrapped or unwrapped. If more than one item is purchased for the same child please put into one package.

Please write the number of the gift and a description of the gift on the outside, we will add the child's name.

Gifts need to be returned to church by Sunday, December 13, earlier is better.

Gift #	Age	Gender
1	Already	Adopted
2	Already	Adopted
3	Already	Adopted
4	15	Female
5	3	Female
6	9	Male
7	13	Male
8	18	Male
9	16	Female
10	10	Male
11	3	Female
12	2	Male
13	1	Female
14	4	Female
15	8	Female

Gift #	Age	Gender
16	Already	Adopted
17	Already	Adopted
18	6	Female
19	13	Female
20	Already	Adopted
21	4	Female
22	4	Male
23	1	Male
24	8	Male
25	13	Male
26	9	Male
27	Already	Adopted
28	17	Female
29	14	Female
30	4	Female

Building Updates

Everyday we get a little closer to having the building complete. We soon will be able to move all the things from the trailer into the church. If you are willing to help contact the church office and we will let you know when we are ready to move. Here is a peak at some of the things that have been happening.



This stencil design was found on the wall behind the organ pipes. We believe it is from the original church.



All the organ pipes have been removed and taken away for cleaning. The organ console has also gone for updates. Everything should be back by the end of January.



Sanctuary work has included building a ramp to the altar, opening up doors on each side of the altar, cutting the opening for the organ pipes plus much more!



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 (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 turn it into the church office with Attn: Peri

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesdays

LIGHT OF LIFE DEADLINE: 15th of the month

Youth & Kids Corner



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Serving on your Teach Board...

Chairperson: Open

Council Rep: David Hanson

Superintendent: Jean Schnick

Treasurer: Open

Secretary: Open



BUTTERBRAIDS UPDATE!

There's only a few days left to order! The last day is Wednesday, December 2. You can order online those yummy braids made from quality ingredients; flour, sugar, and butter. Visit our website and click on the link, then select a youth to purchase from and pay online. Delivery will start December 20. Thanks for helping us raise funds for Youth Retreats and Confirmation Camp!

If you have questions please contact Angie Lenzendorf at (608) 692-5055.

Confirmation

Congratulations to Clara Neubert, Abby Harris, Danni Queiser and Carter Truitt for completing their confirmation program.

It was a windy and chilly day but they all did a great job sharing their Faith Statements.



FOOD PANTRY

The River Food Pantry is again accepting food items. Our December focus is on Proteins: canned tuna, chicken, beans, peas, nut butters, rice, etc. Please place items in the designated basket in the Fellowship Hall and it will be delivered to the food pantry. If you prefer to give a monetary donation you can write checks out to Burke Lutheran and we will make sure the River Food Pantry receives.



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 by calling 244-8486 or sending us an email at burkelutheran@att.net. Thank you for helping us stay in touch!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Advent		1	2 Confirmation, Small Groups	3 On-line Bible Study, 1pm	4	5
6 On-Line Worship	7	8 Council, 6:30pm	9 Confirmation, Small Groups	10 On-line Bible Study, 1pm	11	12
13 On-Line Worship River Food Pantry Gifts due!	14	15 Foundation, 7pm	16 Confirmation, Small Groups	17 On-line Bible Study, 1pm	18	19
20 On-Line Worship	21	22	23	24 No Bible Study Drive-In Worship, 7pm	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27 On-Line Worship	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

Save the Dates: January 15 Annual Reports due!



Happy Birthday!

**Have a birthday in December?
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 December!**