



DECEMBER 2025

#### OUR STAFF

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#### BURKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Join us for Christmas Eve  
Worship  
3:00pm & 7:00pm**

### **Your Ideas are Needed!**

Burke is again eligible to apply for a special grant through the Madison Community Foundation.

We are in need of volunteers to help us brainstorm ideas. The grant can support new programs or expand on an existing program that has been successful. It cannot be used for annual operating costs or capital projects. Grant is for approximately \$10,000.

If you are interested please contact Angie Lenzendorf, Mary TeWinkel or the church office. Plans are to meet after church services on Sunday, January 11th. So put on your thinking caps and come share your thoughts and ideas. Together we can come up with a great plan.

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRYAN

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Dear friends,

Over the last month, we've been talking about our response to God's great mercy through the work we do together here at Burke Lutheran Church. The council asked us all commit to our cooperation here through our financial pledges for next year. Our final count looks to be 28 families who have pledged over \$76,000 to the work of God for next year.

I know that not everyone is able to make a pledge for next year. Please know that you are treasured and valued here just as you are, no matter how much money you are able to contribute. And I also see all the other contributions that are made of your volunteer time and abilities. I continue to pray that you find all the ways to respond to God's great mercy for you through our Lord Jesus here in this place and everywhere you go.

And I pray that you experience God's great mercy in this next month, as we hold our Advent worship services which lead us to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Advent will build slowly over time this year so we will have time to be amazed at the great mercy that God prepares for us in this time of waiting and watching. This time of waiting is not the passive, counting-down-the-clock type of waiting. We will be actively preparing for Christmas, for Jesus' birth, and for Jesus' eventual return.

I pray that you will be able to join us here during this month as we watch and wait together for Jesus.

God bless,

Pr. Bryan

**Church 101:** The Christian Church has its own calendar, which overlays but does not match with our regular calendar. We begin our church year four weeks before Christmas with a short, 4-week season called Advent.

## WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Friday, December 12 at 12:00pm. They will be meeting at Texas Roadhouse. Please join us for the monthly celebration. Happy Birthday to all who have a birthday this month.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast is Wednesday, December 10

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.



## FOOD PANTRY

**December Food Pantry Focus:** "Protein," such as canned tuna, chicken, beans, peas, nut butters, rice, etc. Cans with pop tops are especially welcome. 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.

## 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.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Lisa Thompson	Mark Gehrke	Mary Brantmeyer
Tim Lothe	Bill Schmidt	Galen Peterson
Jarod Lyle	Ardith Hanson	



**Our Prayer List:** Contact the church office with prayer concerns. Unless otherwise advised, names remain on our list for four weeks.

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

## Did you know...?

The four Sundays of Advent each have their own theme and emphasis. The first Sunday of Advent focuses on hope. The second Sunday focuses on peace. The third Sunday emphasizes joy. And the theme of the fourth Sunday of Advent is love.

## CRAFT & BAKE SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to all those who made this Craft and Bake Sale such a success. Without those who donated their crafts, baked goods, food for lunches, and time to set up and clean up, this wouldn't have been such a great event. Much gratitude goes to all those that helped with the Lefse making! They were completely sold out by 11:00am!

Many thanks to all the bakers, helpers, and to all those who came and supported this event. There were so many that it's hard to name them all! Thanks to all the vendors who shared their talents!

A special thanks to Gary Brown, Ron Hennings, Dave Wisner, and Pastor Bryan for making sure everything was ready for the event and helping to clean up.

**GLORIA LUNDQUIST** was the lucky winner of the beautiful Raffle Quilt!





## ANNUAL REPORTS - DUE JANUARY 8, 2026

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE - **SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026.**

The Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 18th** following the 9:00am service. Agenda items include election of officers and board members, Board and Committee reports, the 2026 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.

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**The Cemetery Association** will be holding their annual meeting immediately following the Annual Congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

### 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 can check Burke's Facebook page, Burke's website, or call the church office at 244-8486. Thank you, and God's peace be upon all that you do.

#### Did you know...?

The word Advent means "becoming" or "arriving." We read stories leading up to Jesus' birth. But we also focus on Jesus second coming, while we wait in hope, peace, joy, and love.

#### A HUGE THANK YOU TO SHARON HUGHES

Thank you, Sharon for your dedication of making sure Veterans and their families who sacrificed and continue to sacrifice so much for our country are always remembered!





## DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Quilting, 9:00am OWLs, 1:30pm JAM, 6:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship, 9:00am Coffee Hour, 10:00am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Open Forum, 6:30pm Council, 6:45pm	<b>10</b> Quilting, 9:00am Men's Breakfast, 9:00am JAM, 6:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship, 9:00am Coffee Hour, 10:00am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Quilting, 9:00am BLCW, 10:30am OWLs, 1:30pm JAM, 6:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship, 9:00am Coffee Hour, 10:00am	<b>22</b> Preach Board, 10:00am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service, 3:00pm & 7:00pm	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship, 9:00am Potluck, 10:00am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

Save the Dates: January 18 - Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 24-25 - Pastor on Vacation  
January 30 - Game Night

Happy Birthday				Happy Anniversary	
December 1	DeAnn Ludwig	December 26	Justine Jones	Michael & Jenny Brown December 4, 1992	
December 5	Kathy Sandridge	December 26	Nancy Schmidt		
December 9	Donna Frederick	December 27	Jared Larson		
December 11	Christopher Truitt	December 29	Brandon Hauge	Alex & Amber Kirchstein December 10, 2022	
December 13	Pat Graham	December 29	Galen Peterson		
December 15	John Schramer	December 30	Angie Lenzendorf	Christopher & Holly Truitt December 17, 1993	
December 15	Stephanie Larson	December 30	Randy Copenhefer		
December 20	Nancy Dean	December 31	Mary Brantmeyer		
December 21	Linda Wendt	December 31	Melissa Dobbs		
December 24	Kayilee Brown				

	December 7 9:00am Service	December 14 9:00am Service	December 21 9:00am Service	December 28 9:00am Service
Organist/Pianist	Susie Kittel Moore	Susie Kittel Moore	Gloria Lundquist	Susie Kittel Moore
Music Leader	Dave Wisner	Dave Wisner	Dave Wisner	Dave Wisner
Communion Asst	Julie Clark	Barb Hennings	David Hanson	Jean Schnick
Communion Prep	Jean Schnick	Gloria Lundquist	Jeannette Gehrke	Jean Schnick
Lay Reader	Tim Wachs	Barb Hennings	Deb Brown	
Ushers	Bob Lenzendorf David Hanson	Steve & Donna Frederick	Roger Kittleson Rick Brandon	Karl & Shari Patzer
Coffee Hour	Donuts	Donuts	Donuts	Potluck
Counters	Deb Brown Rose Haney	Gloria Lundquist Deb Brown	Sharon Hughes Jean Schnick	Sharon Hughes Jean Schnick

<b>Christmas Eve (Wednesday)</b>	<b>December 24 3:00pm Service</b>	<b>December 7:00pm Service</b>
Organist/Pianist	Gloria Lundquist	Susie Kittel Moore
Music Leaders		
Communion Assistant		
Communion Prep.	Gloria Lundquist	
Lay Readers		
Usher		
Usher		

### **Worship Leaders Needed**

Individuals are needed to serve as worship leaders on Christmas Eve. If you are willing to usher, be a lay reader, help with communion, etc., please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

**Church 101:** We decorate our church with blue colors in Advent, the traditional color of hope and expectation. Blue is supposed to remind us of the night sky just before dawn, as we are waiting patiently for the light of the world to come to us at Christmas.