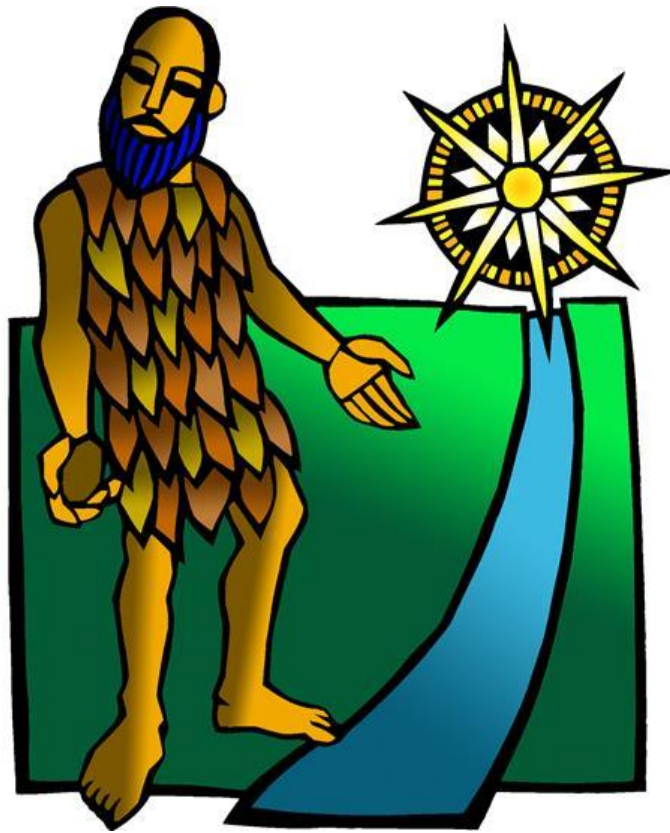


# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025 - 9:00am



Burke Lutheran Church

**Reconnect.**

5720 Portage Rd / Madison, WI 53718-2761

608-244-8486 / burkelutheran@att.net

[www.burkelutheran.org](http://www.burkelutheran.org)

***“Preach. Teach. Reach.”***

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*Please rise.*

## GATHERING SONG

### Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

#### *Refrain*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on

Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law

in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. *Refrain* Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

© 2001 Blackwell Science Ltd, *Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics*, 26, 175-180

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

P People of joy, God desires people who hear and respond with thanksgiving to the promise of salvation.

## C Make us those joyful people!

P    God longs for people who will not wallow in the world's sorrows, but seek out joy for the joyless!

**C Make us those joyful people!**

**P** God yearns for people who struggle past daily discouragements to inspire joy in the friends of God.

**C Make us those joyful people!**

**P** Let us pray together...

**C God of joy, we praise you for giving us the joy of eternal life with you.  
Bring light to our path as we await the king who is coming. Amen.**

(Light the candle of joy.)

## Emmanuel

The musical score for 'Emmanuel' is written in 4/4 time on a single treble staff. It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains two measures of music with the lyrics 'Em-man - u - el,'. The second line contains two measures with the lyrics 'his name is called' and 'Em-man - u - el;'. The third line contains two measures with the lyrics 'God with us,' and 're - vealed in us;'. The fourth line contains two measures with the lyrics 'his name is called' and 'Em-man - u - el.'. The melody is simple and repetitive, using a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,

his name is called Em-man - u - el;

God with us, re - vealed in us;

his name is called Em-man - u - el.

Text and music: Bob McGee  
Text and music © 1976 C. A. Music

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

R     <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R     The word of the Lord.

C     **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalms 146:5-10*

R     <sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

C     <sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

R     <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

C     <sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

R <sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

C <sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

*James 5:7-10*

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

R <sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise.*

## GOSPEL VERSE



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

*Matthew 11:2-11*

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

P <sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

*Pastor Bryan Lagerstam*

*Please rise.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

### *Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by GCP Publications, 5536 NE Brooks, Portland, OR 97213.  
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## THE CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

R Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

R Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

R Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

R Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss especially, Lisa, Mark, Mary, Tim, Bill, Carla, Diane, Paul, Pat, and all those we name upon our lips or in our hearts. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.** (*Greet one another with God's peace.*)

*Please rise.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION & HYMNS

#### Holy Holy

*Words and Music by  
Jimmy Owens*

##### VERSE



1. Ho ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,  
2. Gra cious Fa - ther, gra - cious Fa - ther, we're so  
3. Pre cious Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus, we're so  
4. Ho ly Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it, come and  
5. Hal le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le -

ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y; And we lift our hearts be - fore You as a  
blessed to be Your chil - dren, gra - cious Fa - ther; And we lift our heads be - fore You as a  
glad that You've re - deemed us, pre - cious Je - sus; And we lift our hands be - fore You as a  
fill our hearts a - new, Ho - ly Spir - it; And we lift our voice be - fore You as a  
lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; And we lift our hearts be - fore You as a

to - ken of our love, ho - ly ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.  
to - ken of our love, gra - cious Fa - ther, gra - cious Fa - ther.  
to - ken of our love, pre - cious Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus.  
to - ken of our love, Ho - ly Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it.  
to - ken of our love, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

CCLI Song # 18792  
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CCLI License # 2289397

# Let There Be Peace On Earth

Words and Music by  
Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

## VERSE 1

1. Let there be peace on earth and let it be - gin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Fa - ther, broth - ers all are we. Let me  
walk with my broth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

## VERSE 2

2. Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now.  
With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:  
To take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly. Let  
there be peace on earth and let it be - gin with me.  
let it be - gin with me.

*Please rise.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

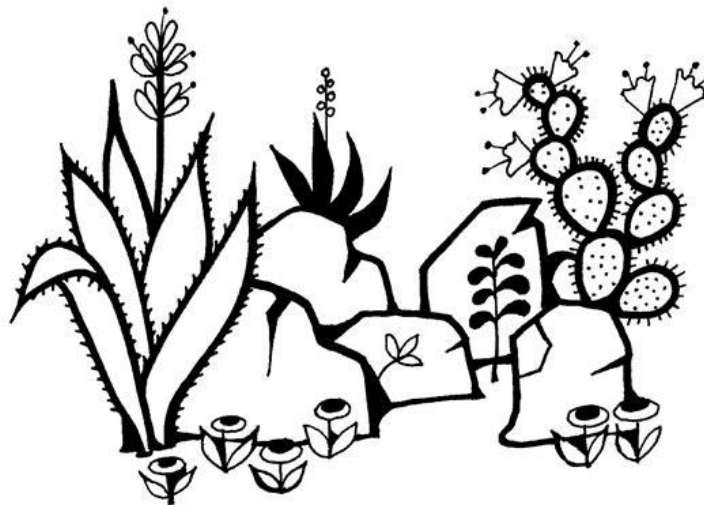
P Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## BLESSING

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

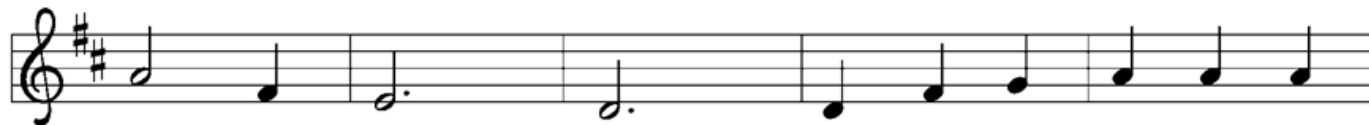


## SENDING SONG

### I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

#### *Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Tune: Kathleen Thompson, b. 1954  
Music: HOLISTYON: Kathleen Thompson  
Text and music © 1970, 1979 Calvary  
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are looking for volunteer Lay Readers for the Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 28th. If you are interested, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

## DISMISSAL

P     Go in peace. Christ is near.

C     **Thanks be to God.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU ARE VISITING TODAY: Thank you for joining us at Burke for worship and fellowship! Please sign a card in the pew and/or the visitor book in the narthex.

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

We teach that Jesus is truly present in the bread and the wine. All are invited to the table to share God's grace. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray for those who desire it, as well as gluten-free wafers.

*Please fill out a communion card  
and place it in the offering plate if  
you are communing today.*

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## OUR STAFF

### **Pastor**

Bryan Lagerstam

309-236-7334

Bryan.lagerstam@gmail.com

### **Administrative Secretary**

Laura Steig

608-244-8486

burkelutheran@att.net

### **Maintenance Engineer**

Colin Hamrick

## PRAYERS & CARES

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**A Nursery (Youth Room)** for children under six is located down the hallway near the church offices. Activity bags are available in the Narthex for children at worship.

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

Lisa Thompson  
Tim Lothe  
Paul Fritz

Mark Gehrke  
Bill Schmidt  
Diane Wendt

Mary Brantmeyer  
Carla Housner  
Pat Graham

## Congregational Opportunities

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**QUILTING:** Every Wednesday at 9:00am.

**OWLS:** Wednesdays at 1:30pm.

**JAM at NGMLC:** Every Wednesday at 6:30pm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Bulletin Announcements:** Bulletin deadline is noon on Tuesdays. Send them to [burkelutheran@att.net](mailto:burkelutheran@att.net) or drop them off at the office.

**Hospitalized?:** Please let the hospital staff know you are a member of Burke Lutheran Church so we are notified.

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### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 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.

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**Burke Lutheran Cemetery Association Annual Meeting** will be held immediately following the Burke Lutheran Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026.

**December Food Pantry Focus:** Dember focus is: “Protein,” such as canned tuna, chicken, beans, peas, nut butters, rice, 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.

### **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
3. Turn it into the church office.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE: Noon on Tuesdays LIGHT OF LIFE DEADLINE: 25th of the month**

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## **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.

## THIS WEEK AT BURKE

<b>Sunday, December 14</b>		Confirmation at Burke, 5:30pm
<b>Monday, December 15</b>	Preach Board, 10:00am	
<b>Tuesday, December 16</b>		Council Meeting, 6:30pm
<b>Wednesday, December 17</b>	Quilting, 9:00am BLCW, 10:00am	OWLs, 1:30pm JAM, 6:30pm
<b>Sunday, December 21</b>	Worship, 9:00am	

## WORSHIP LEADERS

	<b>December 14 - 9:00am Service</b>	<b>December 21 - 9:00am Service</b>
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Susie Kittel Moore	Gloria Lundquist
<b>Music Leaders</b>	Dave Wisner	Dave Wisner
<b>Communion Asst</b>	Barb Hennings	David Hanson
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Gloria Lundquist	Jeannette Gehrke
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Barb Hennings	Deb Brown
<b>Usher Team</b>	Steve & Donna Frederick	Roger Kittleson Rick Brandon
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Donuts	Donuts
<b>Counters</b>	Gloria Lundquist Deb Brown	Sharon Hughes Jean Schnick

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

<b>Sunday 9:00am</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>
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