



**OUR STAFF**

**Pastor Bryan Lagerstam**  
309-236-7334  
Bryan.lagerstam@gmail.com

**Administrative Secretary**  
Laura Steig  
608-244-8486  
burkelutheran@att.net

**Maintenance Engineer**  
Vacant

**BURKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

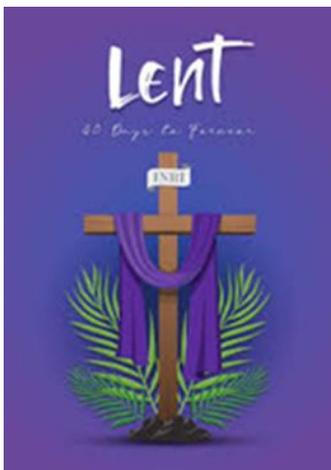
MARCH 2026



PALM SUNDAY

**BREAKFAST**

Palm Sunday Breakfast will be held Sunday, March 29, 2026, after service in the Fellowship Hall. This breakfast fundraiser helps to send our youth to Lutherdale Bible Camp and other youth group outings. The Men's Club will be looking for volunteers and donations to make this breakfast possible.



This year Lenten Services will be held each Wednesday of Lent at 12:00pm and 6:30pm. A meal will be served at each service. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for food for these meals. We hope you can join us during this very special season.

**SAVE THESE DATES:** March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25

**Palm Sunday:** March 29

**Maundy Thursday:** April 2

**Good Friday:** April 3

**Easter Sunday:** April 5



Remember to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 2:00am (or before you go to bed Saturday night).

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRYAN

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Dear friends,

On February 2, I participated in the traditional practices of my favorite holiday, Groundhog Day, by making the long journey into the deepest part of Sun Prairie (Cannery Square) to celebrate the prognostication of the most accurate rodent to ever predict the weather, Jimmy the Groundhog. Jimmy did predict an early spring, which I felt came true with the early melt of most of the snow. Sure, the temperature has turned back down to more normal ranges, but an early spring did indeed occur.

And Lent (Latin for Spring) came early this year as well, beginning on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Now, throughout March, we will continue with our mid-week worship services at both 12 noon and 6:30. You are invited to attend either one, as both will be the same each week. There is a sign-up sheet to help provide food if you are so inclined.

We are going to worship around the cross of Jesus as our tree of life, the sign of God's presence and love for us and for the world. I'll share some of the stories I've found that illustrate how Christians have viewed trees for generations, and how these stories affect our understanding of Jesus' cross. I hope you are able to join us as often as possible as we prepare our hearts to journey with our Lord to the cross we remember on Good Friday and to the resurrection we celebrate on Easter.

On the Sundays between now and Easter, we will share some of the most popular stories of Jesus bringing new life to people in need throughout the Gospel of John. Our Wednesday Bible study group, the OWLs (Older, Wiser, Lutherans) have been studying these stories, so we'll be able to share the blessing that is knowing Jesus.

There are all kinds of other events going on in our congregation and around in our communities. Please enjoy reading through these pages and add items to your calendars. We proclaim Jesus crucified, died, and risen again not just on Sunday mornings but at every opportunity to bring abundant life into the world. And this month presents more opportunities for doing just that.

God bless,

Pr. Bryan

### **Did you know?**

Groundhog Day actually started as a special Christian holy day, the Presentation of Jesus. That story is found in Luke 2:22-40. The development into the silly winter celebration that is Groundhog Day took many years and many superstitions built around the story of Jesus being the light for all the nations, and responsible for the falling and rising (literally the sleeping and the waking) of many.

## WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

March 27th at 12:00pm. They will be meeting at Texas Roadhouse East. 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, March 11 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

**March Food Pantry Focus:** "Toiletries," such as shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, hair brushes/combs, disposable baby diapers, feminine products (pads/tampons), Depends, etc. 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.



## Lutherdale Annual Meeting

The Lutherdale will have its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

**Church 101:** There are four Gospels in the Bible that tell the story of Jesus. But each one tells the story from a different perspective. There are only a few stories that are included in all four Gospels. People can get confused about this, wondering why we don't have just one official biography of Jesus. The Gospel of John gives us an answer to this: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:30-31). In other words, the purpose of each Gospel is to tell the story in a way that is supposed to generate faith in Jesus.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Lisa Thompson

Mark Gehrke

Tim Lothe

Bill Schmidt

Paul Fritz

Shannon Schlimgen

Tom Hughes

Cindy Sommer



**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.*

## CALLING ALL MEN; MARCH 20-22, 2026

One Year to Live (OYTL) Men's Event at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center  
1834 Illinois Route 2 in Oregon, Illinois (about a 1 1/2 hour drive)

Check out this 2 minute video on YouTube by Pastor Matt Pooch from St. John's Lutheran Church in Evansville.

<https://youtu.be/xVosynJX2xU>

Registration forms are available on the table by the front door. Please contact Paul Beckman at 608-279-0744 with questions.

## MAINTENANCE ENGINEER NEEDED



Burke is in need of an individual to help clean the church! This includes vacuuming, dusting, mopping floors, washing windows and doors, cleaning restrooms, making sure restrooms have needed supplies, replace light bulbs as needed, add salt to water softener, remove trash and take to curb, etc. They may also be asked to set up tables and chairs for various events. Job is approximately 10-15 hours per week. If you are interested or know someone

that might be interested please contact the church office or let a Council member know.

Until someone is hired we may need some volunteers to help. Let the church office know if you are willing to help out to do one or more tasks.

**Church 101:** The Gospel of John was the last story of Jesus included in the Bible, written about 90 years after Jesus lived and died.



# MARCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship, 9:00am Coffee Hour, 10:00am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Quilting, 9:00am Lenten Services, 12:00pm & 6:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving, 2:00am Worship, 9:00am Coffee Hour, 10:00am Confirmation at Burke, 5:30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Open Forum, 6:30pm, Council, 6:45pm	<b>11</b> Quilting, 9:00am Men's Breakfast, 9:00am Lenten Services, 12:00pm & 6:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship, 9:00am Coffee Hour, 10:00am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Quilting, 9:00am Lenten Services, 12:00pm & 6:30pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Sew Day at Burke, 9:00a - 3:00p	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship, 9:00am Potluck, 10:00am	<b>23</b> Preach Board, 10:00am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Quilting, 9:00am Lenten Services, 12:00pm & 6:30pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> BLCW Lunch, 12:00pm	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship, 9:00am Palm Sunday Breakfast, 10:00am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

Save the Dates: April 2 - Maundy Thursday  
 April 3 - Good Friday  
 April 5 - Easter Sunday

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary	
March 1	Grace Lietz	March 16	Bob Lenzendorf
March 2	Linda Hanson	March 17	Cedar Mascari
March 3	Dan Lothe	March 18	Ron Skinvik
March 3	Joseph Weinberger	March 20	Al Klingler
March 5	Chris Otis	March 21	Cassie Johnson
March 6	Michelle Krisher	March 21	Dennis Jones
March 8	Jase Kittleson	March 22	Helen Sampson
March 8	Lucas Krisher	March 22	Jenny Nielsen
March 8	Novalee Kittleson	March 24	Aysha Romeis
March 9	Darwin Thompson	March 24	Tammy Lehr
March 9	Sandy Lothe	March 27	Amy Proebstle
March 13	Everleigh Crosby	March 31	Megan Peterson
March 15	Megan Schultz		
			Al & Linda Klingler March 3, 1962
			John & Barbara Lusk March 3, 1990

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

## Devotion From Susie Kittel Moore

*But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*  
*Isaiah 53:5*

Have you ever had a crisis of faith? Perhaps something terrible happens that defies your belief in the existence of God. It may be simply a niggling doubt that feeds on itself until you come to the conclusion that faith is a fairy tale or a grasping for meaning in life that just isn't there. I was once confronted with a crisis like this--it's not a fun place to be.

I have a little book entitled "Halley's Bible Handbook" which was presented to me on Feb. 24, 1963, by the "Burke Lutheran Sunday School for having attended Church and Sunday School fifty four (54) Sundays." Being a typical 12-year-old, I was not particularly thrilled with this book, and it sat on a shelf unexamined for at least 10 years. But then that crisis of faith crashed in on me, and, as I floundered alone in that dark, lonely hole, somehow I opened that boring handbook and learned some astounding facts, which have anchored my faith ever since.

In short, I learned that, as Henry H. Halley writes: "The Bible, composed by many authors, over a period of many centuries, yet ONE BOOK, is, in itself, the outstanding Miracle of the Ages, bearing aloft its own evidence of its Superhuman origin." Over and over, the Old Testament specifically predicts details of Christ's coming to the world, where he will be born, his mission, his death, and his resurrection. The New Testament records the fulfillment by Jesus Christ of all these prophecies.

The prophet Isaiah wrote about Jesus 600 years before His birth! Isn't that exciting? That award I got from the Burke Sunday School so many years ago wasn't so boring after all.

**Thank you, Lord, for revealing your love to us through the authors of the Bible, and inspire us to find You there. Amen.**

Susie Kittel Moore

**Church 101:** The last Sunday of March this year, March 29, is Palm and Passion Sunday, which starts holy week by remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem surrounded by palm leaves and praises, but concludes with the whole passion story.



On Sunday, February 22, 2026, a joint worship service was held at Burke Lutheran Church with Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church. Thank you to all who attended, the confirmation students for their hard work, and the combined choir for the beautiful music.

	March 1 9:00am Service	March 8 9:00am Service	March 15 9:00am Service	March 22 9:00am Service	March 29 9:00am Service
Organist/Pianist	Gloria Lundquist	Susie Kittel Moore	Gloria Lundquist	Susie Kittel Moore	Gloria Lundquist
Music Leader	Dave Wisner Jean Schnick	Dave Wisner Gloria Lundquist	Dave Wisner Jean Schnick	Dave Wisner Rick Brandon	Dave Wisner
Communion Asst	Julie Clark	Sharon Hughes	David Hanson	Jean Schnick	Julie Clark
Communion Prep	Jeannette Gehrke	Gloria Lundquist	Jean Schnick	Jeannette Gehrke	Gloria Lundquist
Lay Reader	Sharon Hughes	Tim Wachs	Deb Brown	Julie Clark	Congregation
Ushers	Bob Lenzendorf David Hanson	Steve & Donna Frederick	Roger Kittleson Rick Brandon	Karl & Shari Patzner	
Coffee Hour	Donuts	Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	Potluck	Youth Easter Breakfast
Counters	Gloria Lundquist Rose Haney	Gloria Lundquist Deb Brown	Sharon Hughes Jean Schnick	Sharon Hughes Jean Schnick	Sharon Hughes Gloria Lundquist

**Did you know?**

The ashes that we mark ourselves on Ash Wednesday are made by burning the palm branches of the previous Palm Sunday.