

# Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church

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## Trinity Tidings

### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saints,

Greetings in the name of our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and coming Savior Jesus Christ!

November 18, 2018 was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jonestown. Jonestown was home to the Peoples Temple cult and got its name after their leader Jim Jones, who ordered Temple members to commit suicide. It all began when five people, including U.S. Congressman Leo Ryan and three members of the press, were shot and killed. By the end of the day, the death toll exceeded 900 US citizens, including 300 under the age of 17. They died from Kool-Aid laced with cyanide, tranquilizers, and sedatives.

Jim Jones put Guyana on the map a little over a year after he migrated with several hundred of his followers to Guyana. But there is a brighter side to Guyana known for its British and

Dutch, and to a lesser extent French and Spanish colonial heritage. It is the only English-speaking country in South America that is rich in natural resources, mainly its pristine rainforest, sugarcane plantations, rice fields, bauxite (principal ore of aluminum), gold and oil reserves.

The unfamiliar story about Guyana is its Lutheran her-



itage. When Bohemian, Jan Hus (b 1371) was condemned by the Council of Constance on July 6, 1415 and was being burnt at the stake, he prophesied, "In 100 years, God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed" (The Bible Museum, "John Hus," *Greatsite Marketing*, <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/john-hus.html>). In Bohemian, *Hus* means goose. Therefore, Guya-

nese Lutherans render the prophesy thus: "You may roast this goose, but in a hundred years a swan will arise whose voice you will not still" (Paul B. Beatty Jr., *A History of the Lutheran Church in Guyana* (Guyana: The Daily Chronicle, 1970), 129.).

On October 15, 1743, Ebenezer Lutheran Church was established in Guyana almost a year after Henry M. Muhlenberg arrived in America (Theodore E. Schmauk, *A History of the Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania 1638-1820* vol. 1 (Philadelphia: General Council, 1903), 152.). This congregation was organized by Dutch migrants and maintained by lay initiative (Beatty Jr., *A History of the Lutheran Church in Guyana*, 12.). They practiced the faith as they did in Europe and identified themselves as believers of the Evangelical Unaltered Augsburg Confession

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Feb/Mar 2019

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**Our Mission:**  
**"Seeing God's**  
**Plan,**  
**Answering God's**  
**Call,**  
**Doing God's**  
**Work"**



- 2 Jon Marple**  
**5 Frances Smith**  
**14 Carol Barth**  
**15 Fred Hellman**  
**15 Doris Merrick**  
**18 Kathy Musson**



### 2019 Council Officers

Susan Marple  
President

Morrie Carlson  
Vice President

Kris Riddell  
Treasurer

TBD  
Secretary

Carolyn Tyler  
Financial Secretary

## Pastor's Article Cont'd

(Howard R. Kunkle, *Under the White Swan The Story of the Lutheran Church in the Guianas* (New York: United Lutheran Church in America Board of Foreign Missions, 1959), 15.).

The Swan, Bible and the Cross brought by Dutch Lutherans is an enduring symbol connecting Lutherans in Guyana with their evangelical heritage in Europe and beyond. The swan is understood to be Martin Luther.

The Guyana Mission Network (GMN), which began in 1990 by a group of former ELCA missionaries to Guyana and migrants of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) in the Midwest, became an outreach of BRT in October 2017. GMN accompanies the ELCG in its mission by providing support for pastors, other church workers and seminarians, projects of congregations and the wider church. Over the years, GMN has provided

financial support to the ELCG Annual Youth Camp and covered the costs of rebinding hymnals, and purchasing Bibles, theological textbooks, and Christian educational materials for the ELCG.

With the passing of Pastor Paul A. Tidemann (who served at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, MN), Pastor and the Rev. Dr. Winston D. Persaud (Professor, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA) now serve as co-coordinators. We provide counsel, oversight and stewardship of gifts sent to BRT for GMN. We work closely with BRT's treasurer and BRT provides each donor with a statement of receipt similar to what members receive for their annual contribution to BRT.

Jones' church existed as a self-contained and self-governing unit, but Christ

established the church to be one body in which believers care for one another in the spirit of love. The Peoples Temple moved away from this principle, isolated itself and consequently many innocent lives perished.

This is not the only story or final story of migrant Christians. The GMN in partnership with BRT bears witness to the story of God's redeeming love that transcends geographical or national, cultural and ethnic lines. In this story, "each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:7). By accompanying our sisters and brothers in the ELCG, together with migrants of the ELCG (GMN), we "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Pastor C.

## March Birthdays

- 1 Jerry Nevans**  
**9 Diane Babbitt**  
**11 Trudy Moffitt**  
**26 Andrea Rafter**  
**27 Hollis Mundhenke**



## Two Adult Rule

### For the Safety of Children, did you know that BRT has a “Two Adult Rule”?

It is BRT’s goal that a minimum of two unrelated adult workers will be in attendance at all times when children are being supervised during BRT’s programs and activities. Some youth classes may have only one adult teacher in attendance during the class session; in these instances, doors to the classroom should remain open and there should be no fewer than three students with the adult teacher. BRT does not allow minors to be alone with one adult on BRT’s premises or in any sponsored activity unless in a counseling situation. This rule applies to organizations who use BRT premises for their activities, including the Scouts and Cub Pack.



## President’s Article



### What does spirituality mean to you?

*Your spirit is the part of you that is seeking meaning and purpose. That’s the one way someone can relate to that. Another way to understand spirit is that it’s the part of you that is drawn to hope, that will not give in to despair. The part of you that has to believe in goodness; that has to believe in something more. – Caroline Myss, The Wisdom of Sundays.*

While some people dread the fall colors and shorter days that come with the changing season, I always look forward to the prospect of renewal that begins with Reformation, continues through the Christmas season, Epiphany, Lent and ends with Good Friday. I enjoy days stuck inside during those four months, like a seed hiding beneath the cold earth, spending time renewing relationships with family and friends that I’ve been too busy during the spring, summer and fall to slow down and visit with. I also inevitably end up pondering the renewal that’s taking place in the physical world, and in the spiritual world. I wonder if any of you ever ask the question, what does spirituality mean? If each of us could share, what would you tell me spir-

ituality means to you? I really like this thought by Caroline Myss that intones a spirit of hope, in believing in goodness and that there has to be something more. Of course, the cornerstone of being a Christian is believing that there is something more: more love, more hope, more salvation, more grace, all because of Jesus Christ. Next time you have a minute and think about it, I’d love to hear what spirituality means to you. For me, spirituality is a mysterious sense that even in the darkest hour, something good is going to happen. That spirituality comes from my faith and has been an anchor in my life. “Therefore we do not despair, but even if our physical body is wearing away, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

This year we will continue the tradition of gathering on Wednesdays to celebrate Lenten fellowship and worship. The Council has decided that the congregation’s Lenten offering will be gathering personal supplies (see suggested list below) so that BRT can share MORE with those who have LESS. Gathering on Wednesdays to share a simple meal and pray together is part of the annual transformation that takes us from a cold seed buried in the ground to the joy of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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In addition, I'd like to challenge each of you to bring a friend, a neighbor, a stranger or a loved one to join us for dinner and worship on a Wednesday night during Lent. This is what I call "SHARING it forward". Reconnect with a lost contact and share that hope, that goodness, the joy of something bigger with a person who may not know that there's something better out there that will ease their pain, destroy their despair and sooth their anxiety.

### Basic Needs Campaign (Lenten Offering)

- Bar Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- Lotion
- Sanitary Paper Products

*Susan Marple*

## TLCW

TLCW will meet **Tuesdays, February 19 and March 19 at 1:30 p.m.** Needed as always Best Choice UPC codes, plastic and/or GROCERY SIZE bags, personal items (not covered by Food Stamps—tooth paste & brushes, deodorants, Kleenex, paper towels). We receive \$\$ for the codes and other items go to the MLM Food Pantry.

We will also have a Candy Meeting on **Monday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m.**

## 2019 Council

- Morrie Carlson
- Samantha Cummings
- Jan Felzien
- Chris Gannan
- Jackie Harvey
- Susan Marple
- Russ Musson
- Jerry Nevans
- Kris Riddell
- Carolyn Tyler

## Feb. Worship Assistants

### Assisting Ministers

- Feb. 3 Chris Gannan
- Feb. 10 Bob Harvey
- Feb. 17 Susan Marple
- Feb. 24 Ken Riddell

### Readers

- Feb. 3 Scouts
- Feb. 10 Kathy Nevans
- Feb. 17 Bob Jones
- Feb. 24 Morrie Carlson

### Ushers

- Feb. 3 Jerry Nevans & Scouts
- Feb. 10 Diane Babbitt & Joyce McFadden
- Feb. 17 Eleanor Kramer & Kathy Musson
- Feb. 24 Kris Riddell

### Acolytes

- Feb. 3 Nathanael C.
- Feb. 10 Samuel C.
- Feb. 17 Nathanael C.
- Feb. 24 Samuel C.

**“A daily devotion is worth more than a New Year’s Resolution.”**



Ash Wednesday  
March 6 @ 6:00 p.m.

Lent Mid-week  
Dinner - 5:15 p.m. Worship 6 p.m.  
March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

Maundy Thursday - April 18  
& Good Friday - April 19  
7:00 p.m.



**Saturday, March, 9 set  
your clocks  
ahead 1 hour!**

## March Worship Assistants

### Assisting Ministers

- Mar 3. Bob Jones
- Mar. 10 Jackie Harvey
- Mar. 17 Kathy Nevans
- Mar. 24 Ken Riddell
- Mar. 31 Susan Marple

### Readers

- Mar 3. Larry Gonnello
- Mar. 10 Kathy Nevans
- Mar. 17 Chris Gannan
- Mar. 24 Bob Jones
- Mar. 31 Samantha C.

### Ushers

- Mar 3. Jerry Nevans
- Mar. 10 Joyce McFadden & Diane Babbitt
- Mar. 17 Jerry Nevans
- Mar. 24 Eleanor Kramer & Kathy Musson
- Mar. 31 Diane Babbitt

### Acolytes

- Mar 3. Nathanael C.
- Mar. 10 Samuel C.
- Mar. 17 Nathanael C.
- Mar. 24 Samuel C.
- Mar. 31 Nathanael C.

## Prayer Chain

Anne McCoy, Carolyn Tyler, Carol Lutz {Diane Babbitt's sister}, Jay Sollenberger {friend of Bob Harvey}, Darlene Metcalf {Kathy Nevans' mother}, Aspen Deke {friend of Mary Burge}, Raymond Jones, Wanda Clemons, Glenda Reische {in-law of Carolyn Tyler}, Cliff Jones {Assistant Director – Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus}, Vivian Moffitt, LeRoy Felzien, Nancy Engel, Megan Walsh, Charles Owens {son-in-law of Mamie Robinson}, Randy York {Friend of Theresa Tuttle}, Frank Martin {Wanda Clemons' brother}, Karl Anderson {Tawanda's husband}, Martha Mitchel {Raymond Jones' sister}, Les Tebbenkamp {Mary Burge's brother}, Mike Singh {Samantha's uncle}, Lisa Coan {Kathy Musson's friend}, Larry and Deb Gonnello, Cera Hawkins {Inge Howard's granddaughter}, Norma Phillips, Vitula Zimmerschied {Joyce McFadden's mother}, Peggy Shoemaker, Roy Javner {friend of Jerry Nevans}, Frances Smith, Hollis Mundhenke, Eunice Lynn, Bev Lavitt, Louise Latta {Linda Gippner's aunt}, Angela Beaman {Gonnello's daughter} and Pat Jones.



Happy New Year We are up and running in 2019. Our Annual Meeting went well with our new president, Susan Marple. It was especially neat the way she thanked all who have been apart of the council and welcomed all the new folk. Thank you, Susan. Oh and the food was also delicious. Pastors account of how our year has gone was exceptional. Be sure to look at a copy of the Annual Report if you were unable to attend the meeting. February is American Heart Month with the annual Go Red for Women on Feb. 1st. Their website also encourages a 21 day gratitude challenge. I am going to try to follow it. Then March brings Colorectal Cancer Awareness. Hopefully all of us will keep our scheduled physical appointments. At the meeting, we learned about other volunteer possibilities.

We wish Anne McCoy a speedy recovery as well as keeping all homebound folk and others infirmed in our prayers. Especially lift up Linda Gippner in the loss of her sister-in-law. I have attended meetings for the scouts as COR and find that they will be having a combined Court of Honor (Mother-Son Banquet/Blue & Gold Dinner) on February 9th. They are also working on combining their Pinewood Derby with another Pack. I will let you know. We have served them lunch in the past and it may be something we can scratch off our list this year. Scout Sunday will be Feb 3rd, however, and they will have our coffeetime as in previous years. Please check with Raytown Chamber of Commerce for other upcoming events.

Upcoming volunteer events: candy-making, MLM breakfasts, food distributions, help with Raytown schools... ....I am certain I have missed a bunch of choices.

Upcoming: Rice-Tremonti Soup/Crafts  
Munch Madness

Holy One, send your Spirit to work mightily in us and direct our ways. In Jesus' name. Amen (January 12th, Christ in Our Home)

*Linda Hokenson*

## Thank you

I missed getting this written for the last Tidings. I want to thank everyone for your prayers and support during Will's illness and passing. I cannot put into words what this church family means to me. The Taco lunch was perfect. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. I ask you for your continued prayers as I find a new normal to my life. God's blessings to each of you.

*Diane Babbitt*

Sincere thanks from the Cumming's family to our BRT family for the generous Christmas Gift! As always, we are truly appreciative of your continued love and support!

## Trinity Tidings

This is a monthly publication of Blue Ridge Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Articles or information pertinent to the life and mission of the congregation may be submitted to the Church Office **by the 20<sup>th</sup>** of each month. Space limitations may require editing of material.

## Church Schedule

### Sundays:

Worship - 9:30 a.m.

### URGENT NEED OF PASTORAL CARE CALL:

Office:

816-353-5446

Pastor:

816-785-4006

## Church Staff

Orin W. Cummings  
*Pastor*

Jackie Harvey  
*Choir Director*

Mary Burge  
*Organist*

Bob Harvey  
*Contemporary Worship*

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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 p.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship <div style="text-align: center;"></div>						
					<b>1</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b>  Troop 469 Overnight at BRT
<b>3</b>  SCOUTS SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service	<b>4</b>  7:00 p.m. Scouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  10:00 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>7</b>  7:00 p.m. Cubs	<b>8</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>9</b>  8:00 a.m. St Matt's Men's B/Fast, Gingers  5:30 p.m. Blue & Gold/Crossing Over Ceremony
<b>10</b>  5 <sup>th</sup> Sun after EPIPHANY 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service	<b>11</b>  7:00 p.m. Scouts	<b>12</b>  10:00 a.m. Care Team  	<b>13</b>  10:00 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>14</b>  7:00 p.m. Cubs  <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	<b>15</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>16</b>  Flying Solo – St Matthew's
<b>17</b>  6 <sup>th</sup> Sun after EPIPHANY 9:30 a.m. Blended Service	<b>18</b>  7:00 p.m. Scouts	<b>19</b>  1:30 p.m. TLCW	<b>20</b>  10:00 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>21</b>  7:00 p.m. Cubs	<b>22</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  7 <sup>th</sup> Sun after EPIPHANY 9:30 a.m. Brief Liturgical Service	<b>25</b>  7:00 p.m. Scouts	<b>26</b>  11:00 a.m. Ruth Circle Luncheon  	<b>27</b>  10:00 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>28</b>  7:00 p.m. Cubs	<b>FORGIVENESS is an arm of LOVE</b>	





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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 p.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>TRANS-FIGURATION</b> 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service	7:00 p.m. Scouts		10:00 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Choir	7:00 p.m. Cubs	OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 a.m. St Matt's Men's B/Fast, Gingers 
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun in LENT 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service	7:00 p.m. Scouts	10:00 a.m. Care Team 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	10:00 a.m. Al Anon 5:15 p.m. Lenten Meal & Worship 7:00 p.m. Choir	7:00 p.m. Cubs	OFFICE CLOSED	Flying Solo – St Matthew's
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun in LENT 9:30 a.m. Blended Service	Raytown School District Spring Break Begins	1:30 p.m. TLCW	10:00 a.m. Al Anon 5:15 p.m. Lenten Meal & Worship 7:00 p.m. Choir		OFFICE CLOSED	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun in LENT 9:30 a.m. Brief Liturgical Service	7:00 p.m. Scouts	11:00 a.m. Ruth Circle Luncheon 	10:00 a.m. Al Anon 5:15 p.m. Lenten Meal & Worship 7:00 p.m. Choir	7:00 p.m. Cubs	OFFICE CLOSED	
31	<i>From my mother's womb you, Lord, have been my strength – Psalm 71:6</i>					
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun in LENT United Service TBA						