

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 and risen Lord and coming Savior Jesus Christ!

The Transfiguration of our Lord is a feast day that brings to a fitting climax the season of Epiphany. It was literally a 'mountain top experience' for three disciples when Jesus' divinity overshadowed His humanity before their very eyes. This revelation was so glorious that Peter wanted to memorialize it.

Like Peter, we need to see the Transfiguration as spotlight on Lent. It provides a lens for us to see Jesus' Passion and walk with Him to the cross.

As we cross the bridge from Epiphany to Lent, the mood in worship becomes somber and penitential. For the next forty days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and excluding Sundays, through Easter Day, we will be gathering for midweek and Holy Week worship services. In worship we will bury 'Alleluias' and omit the Hymn of Praise thereby paving the way for more reflective hymns and songs.

Be prepared to welcome members of St Matthew's Episcopal Church. They will be joining us for dinner and worship, and will bring gifts for REAP

and MLM too. Then, on Good Friday following their 7:15 p.m. service, you are invited to "Night Watch." As Jesus asked His disciples to watch and pray with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, they are asking us to watch and pray with them throughout the night on Good Friday. You can sign up for a one-hour watch on a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

In this solemn season of the church year, I ask you to intentionally practice 'self-giving' love.

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March 2017

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

Pastor's Article Cont'd

March Birthdays

Jerry Nevans—1
Diane Babbitt—9
Trudy Moffitt—11
Hollis Mundhenke—27



In addition to private prayers and repentance, look for opportunities at work places, in the community, as you go grocery shopping or on trips to be spontaneously generous to others. Consider these acts of 'self-giving' love to be fasting.

Finally, I look forward to seeing most, if not all, of you at midweek worship in Lent. You might make use of the following questions as we prepare to gather around the theme: **Following Jesus: A Look at Characters around the Cross.**

Have I been faithful in preparing Jesus' way? How so?
Why not?
How am I doing in my walk with Jesus?

In what ways did Jesus help me?
How is He helping me today?
What best describes my worship of Jesus?
When do I reject Jesus?
What Jesus' death means to me?
Where, when, how, and why does Jesus appear to me?

May we come with open hearts to receive The Word and may the Holy Spirit fill and renew us in love and mission.

In Christ's service,
Pastor C



2017 Council Officers

Kathy Nevans
President

Fred Hellman
Vice President

Kris Riddell
Treasurer

Diane Babbitt
Secretary

Carolyn Tyler
Financial Secretary

Council Highlights

- ◆ Easter Breakfast Proceeds will be used to purchase school supplies
- ◆ COR, Erika Saccardi, reported on Scout Troop and Pack activities
- ◆ Looking for volunteers to help serve a light lunch at Cub Pack Pine Wood Derby on Saturday, March 11. Please see Pastor if you are willing to help.
- ◆ The Raytown Arts Council asked to use our building for practices during May, June and July. Permission granted
- ◆ Altar Guild wishes to express gratitude to Mamie Robinson and Mary Kee for their gifts of new handmade altar linens.
- ◆ Chris Gannan is looking for volunteers to help with the MLM grocery distribution on April 8th. Please contact her if you can help. She needs to know how many people will be participating. We will leave the church at 8:00 and return approximately at 11:00 a.m.

Diane Babbitt, Council Secretary

Assisting Ministers

Assisting Ministers

- Mar. 5 Bob Jones
 Mar. 12 Jackie Harvey
 Mar. 19 Susan Marple
 Mar. 26 Ken Riddell

Readers

- Mar. 5 Samantha Cummings
 Mar. 12 Larry Gonnello
 Mar. 19 Kathy Musson
 Mar. 26 Eleanor Kramer

Ushers

- Mar. 5 Eleanor Kramer &
 Kathy Musson
 Mar. 12 Kris Riddell &
 Anthony Saccardi
 Mar. 19 Diane Babbitt &
 Joyce McFadden
 Mar. 26 Diane LaForte &
 Theresa Tuttle

Acolytes

- Mar. 5 Nathanael
 Mar. 12 Christopher
 Mar. 19 Samuel
 Mar. 26 Nathanael

Message from President

Two ideas keep coming to my mind as I think of the Lenten season: Kindness and Gratitude. To me they go together like Adam and Eve, peanut butter and jelly, happiness and love.

First of all, how do you describe Kindness? According to the leading source of all knowledge (haha) Wikipedia, (an online encyclopedia) **Kindness** is a behavior marked by ethical characteristics, a pleasant disposition, and concern for others. It is known as a virtue, and recognized as a value in many cultures and religions. Aristotle, in Book II of his "Rhetoric", defines it as being "helpfulness towards someone in need, not in return for anything, nor for the advantage of the helper himself, but for that of the person helped". Nietzsche argued that kindness and love are the "most curative herbs and agents in human intercourse".

I believe that by nature and maybe nurture, we are a kind people. We try to treat people the way we want to be treated. Many go out of their way to be helpful and ask nothing in return. Several ideas of kindness that we as a congregation support is in our giving to MLM and REAP with our Lenten offerings and in our collection of school supplies. I also see kindness displayed in the sharing of fellowship every Sunday with treats and goodies. I see kindness in those who offer rides to people to come to church or a meeting, and in phone calls made to friends, checking up on them. How do you see kindness, here at Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church and at home in your neighborhood and community?

Kindness is in the sharing of one's gifts with others and expect nothing in return but honestly receive so much more than one can even image. I believe that when we are kind to each other and those all around us, we are filled with **Gratitude**. Again, from Wikipedia, Gratitude has been said to mold and shape the entire Christian life. Martin Luther referred to gratitude as "**The basic Christian attitude**" and today it is still referred to as "**the heart of the gospel.**" As each Christian believes they were created by a personal God, Christians are strongly encouraged to praise and give gratitude to their creator. In Christian gratitude, God is seen as the selfless giver of all good things and because of this, there is a deep sense of gratefulness which enables Christians to share a common bond, shaping all aspects of a follower's life. Gratitude in Christianity is an acknowledgment of God's generosity that inspires Christians to shape their own thoughts and actions around such ideals. Instead of simply a sentimental feeling, Christian gratitude is regarded as a virtue that shapes not only emotions and thoughts but also actions and deeds.

Cont'd on p. 4

Do you see where I am going with these two ideas? Possible not yet, so let me explain a little bit more. In the previous paragraph, I stated Christian gratitude is regarded as a virtue that shapes not only emotions and thought but also actions and deeds. Are you grateful because you are kind or are you kind because you are grateful? I don't know but what I do know is that God is synonymous with kindness, from John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish

but have eternal life." He gave us all eternal life, knowing that we could never be kind enough to ever repay him, but because of his Grace, we have eternal life and all God asks of us is to follow his commandments and love one another, to be kind to one another, to help our neighbor, to take care of our families, our friends and even those we do not know.



Do you see it now? Adam and Eve, peanut butter and jelly, kindness and gratitude? Can you feel it? During the Lenten season, let's all practice more Kindness, let someone go ahead of you in line at the post office, let a merging car enter in front of you, open a door for someone, bake some cookies and share them with our men and women that protect us, send a card to friend you have not heard from in a while, make a phone call, send a

letter to someone in government and tell them thank you, donate books, recycle magazines to nursing homes, clear out your attic and donate items to Blessings Abound or the Veterans, SMILE, even at a stop-light. I could write about ideas for pages and pages, but I know that this congregation has lots of ideas for Kindness.

The bulletin board across from the office upstairs is pretty much empty, let's fill it up with the kindness we accomplish during the Lenten season. Write down what you've done, don't sign it and tack it on the board. I am sure that the Kindness we do will never overtake the Gratitude we receive.

God is so kind that it is impossible to imagine His unbounded kindness! But what we can do and imagine is how our world, our community, our neighborhood, our church, our family can be so much better by **showing kindness and being filled with gratitude.**

*Peace be with you all always,
Kathy Nevans*

During Lent (**March 1-April 14**), we will be collecting PAPER PRODUCTS on Wednesdays and Sundays. We will also collect money and purchase items at Whole Sale Club. All proceeds will be donated to MLM & REAP.

List of Acceptable Items:

- Paper Towel
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex
- Baby Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Adult Diapers
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Shaving Cream
- Tooth Brush
- Tooth Paste
- Men's Shavers



Lenten Supper

Meals - 5:15 p.m.

Worship - 6:00 p.m.

March 8 - Chili (Men's Group)

March 15 - Taco Bar (Choir)

March 22 - Lasagna (Church Council)

March 29 - Baked Potato Bar (TLCW & Ruth Circle)

April 5 - Subs and Chips (Altar Guild & Care Team)



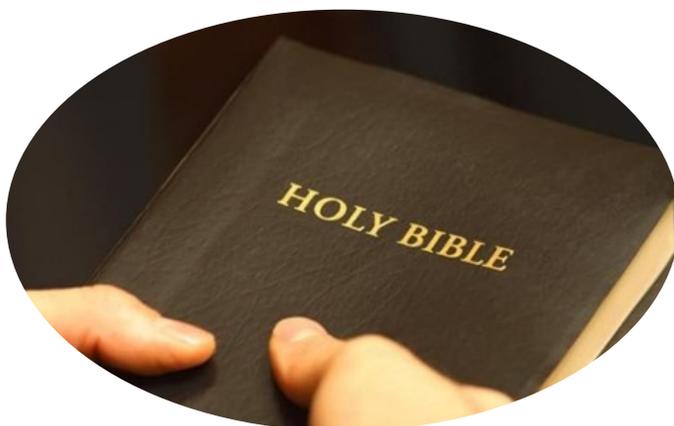
Book Club

Join us for Book Club

on **Friday, March 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.**

Cummings' family home

We are reading the Bible, the Book of Genesis.



TLCW

March 21, 2017 - 1:30 p.m.

Regular Workday. 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. Thank you! Potluck lunch at noon. Everyone welcome.

Pat Welch

Parish Nurse

As March comes in, so does the Lenten season. A Shrove Tuesday Dinner at St. Matthews Episcopal church will lead us to the Ash Wednesday service and our 40 day journey to Easter. The service schedule sounds very interesting and oh, the dinners prior to them!! Our offering of paper goods, etc. for the needy will be much appreciated. Thank you in advance. Helping this month with the food distribution was amazing. Also, we are serving over 200 people at the two Saturday morning breakfasts. Visits to the shut-ins this month have been very meaningful to me; and to see Hollis at Sunday service was a wonderful surprise. So enjoying the Wednesday Bible Study. Each week I find out so much about other religions and I am grateful to be a Christian. As I am writing this, I have just finished watching the movie "CARS" which to me is about putting others before ourselves. Pretty powerful, because I strive for that, yet my selfish nature often gets in the way. That is another thing I am working on this season and beyond. As I am looking through the March calendar of Health, I find I missed Random Acts of Kindness Week in February, so please forgive me and add it to anytime you want.

Also March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness, Workplace Eye Health and Safety, and Inhalant and Poison Awareness Month. Poison control number is 1-800-222-1222. I get this information from such sites as The National Council for Behavioral Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Upcoming:

National Pancake Day at IHOP the donations you give help children battling critical illness.

Girl Scout Cookie sales

Pinewood Derby

Dear God, help me to live more faithfully every day. Hear my prayer in Jesus' name. Amen (Feb. 1st Christ In Our Home)

Linda Hokenson

Prayer Chain

Wanda Clemons, Martha Mitchel {Raymond Jones' sister}, Richard Miller, Chris Jones, Hollis Mundhenke, Les Tebenkamp {Mary Burge's brother}, Mike Singh {Samantha's uncle}, Lucy Stillwell {Margaret Grote's mother}, Lisa Coan {Kathy Musson's friend}, Lois and Amy Chanslor {friends of Anne McCoy}, Deb and Larry Gonnello, Peggy Shoemaker, Rock Rickel {Susan's cousin}, Elden Grittman, Roy Javner {friend of Jerry Nevans}, Frances Smith, Allison Box {Jaunita Box's granddaughter}, Rick Miller {Larry Moffitt's friend}, Bonnie Besch {Linda Gippner's sister-in-law}, Mary Kee, Vivian Moffitt, Norma Phillips, Cera Hawkins {Inge Howard's granddaughter}, Maureen Barnett Moore, Vitula Zimmerschied {Joyce McFadden's mother}, Bev Lavitt, Louise Latta {Linda Gippner's aunt}, Angela Beaman {Gonnello's daughter}, Jean Henderson, Pat Jones and Ruth Davis.



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 20th** of each month. Space limitations may require editing of material.

Church Schedule

Sundays:

Adult SS - 8:00 a.m.

Youth SS - 8:30 a.m.

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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