

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!

Many of us have a hard time saying yes to God. There are numerous stories in the Bible about reluctance. Jeremiah protested, "Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy" (1:6). When the Lord sent Jonah with a message for Nineveh, "[he] set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord" (Jonah 1:3).

In a culture that places so much value on things, it is refreshing to see someone generously distribute their wealth and time. Who would demonstrate such generosity, but God?

Jesus says, "Each [received] according to his ability" (Matt. 25:15). This shifts the focus to the recipients, in particular, the one who received one talent. He receives the most attention.

He has ability, but instead of living up to expectations, he fails in his duty. He buries his talent and justifies his actions by turning on his benefactor. "I knew that you were a **harsh** man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed" (Matt. 25:24). But the real reason for inertia is, "I was **afraid**, and I went and **hid** your talent in the ground" (Matt. 25:25).

Sadly, we know people who bury their talents. Every family has one. They always have an excuse. They will not

volunteer themselves, but pass judgment. The truth is they are afraid of commitment and do not want to be bothered. They love being the way they are – minimally committed.

There are things that belong under the ground. We bury seeds when planting crops. Roots belong under the ground to make trees healthy and strong. We bury the dead as a proper way to dispose of the body. We bury some things, but not our talent. Talents do not belong under the ground.

I urge you not to bury your talents out of fear. Instead, follow God, who became incarnate for our salvation.

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December/January

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

December Birthdays



- 3 Larry Gonnello, Sr.
- 8 Samantha Cummings
- 8 Jean Henderson
- 10 Wanda Clemons
- 12 Susan Marple
- 13 Chris Gannan
- 18 Earlene Anderson
- 19 Joyce McFadden
- 24 Patrick Letzig

2016 Council Officers

Kathy Nevans
President

Ann Riddell
Vice President

Kris Riddell
Treasurer

Chris Gannan
Secretary

Carolyn Tyler
Financial Secretary

Pastor's Article Cont'd



Be bold, for God has set an example for us in Jesus Christ. Be generous because our God empowers us to be generous.

Notice how eagerly the other two servants received gifts and began to share them. How excited they are to report that by sharing their gifts, they multiplied them. It goes without saying that grace received and acknowledged changes our life and behavior.

To those who believe that salvation cannot be lost, Jesus—Emmanuel, God with us—says that we participate in the life of our Savior when we

receive and steward our gifts and when we do not, there is no place for us in the Kingdom of God. “As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 25:30).

Today, we hear from a generous God that Kingdom people are blessed with talents. St Paul said, “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Cor. 12:7). Gifts received in baptism are to be gratefully stewarded. Stewarding our gifts is living without fear,

making the Lord happy, practicing discipleship, living a life of forgiveness and joy. Stewarding our gifts is building the Kingdom and living in anticipation of Advent.

On His return, may Christ say to each of you, “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:23).

Merry Christmas and A Spirit-filled New Year!

Pastor C.

January Birthdays



- 1 Gertrude Rewoldt
- 22 Pat Welch
- 27 Norma Brooks
- 30 Shirley Johnson

Dec. Worship Assistants

Assisting Ministers

- Dec. 3 Jerry Nevans
Dec. 10 Bob Harvey
Dec. 17 Ken Riddell
Dec. 24 Kathy Nevans
Dec. 31 United Service

Readers

- Dec. 3 Kathy Nevans
Dec. 10 Eleanor Kramer
Dec. 17 Morrie Carlson
Dec. 24 Samuel Cummings
Dec. 31 Richard Miller

Ushers

- Dec. 3 Kris Riddell &
Sam Cummings
Dec. 10 Theresa Tuttle &
Kathy Musson
Dec. 17 Eleanor Kramer
& Jerry Nevans
Dec. 24 Diane Babbitt &
Joyce McFadden

Acolytes

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

Message from President

Blessings to you and your family during this season of Advent and Christmas,

I love this season, call me crazy but I really do love this time of year. I know it can be outrageous, expensive, exhausting and a lot of work, but I still love the spirit of Christmas. I try hard to adjust my schedule to the extra “doings” of the season, like baking cookies, sending cards, decorating at home and at church but I always try to set aside time to just sit, listen, watch and truly enjoy the season. Jerry has decorated a huge 25-foot pine tree in our back yard for me for the last several years. I LOVE IT. I go out on my deck and just stare at it and if it is too cold, I look from the comfort of my couch, positioned so I can see the beauty of that tree. That’s my Christmas gift from him, it takes him time, effort and a lot of climbing up and down a 20-foot ladder. I am very blessed.

Now, Jerry likes the baking that I do. He doesn’t know a cookie, dessert, or bread that he won’t eat, EXCEPT for things with chocolate in them. So, I modify recipes, using butterscotch or white chocolate so he can truly enjoy. That’s my Christmas gift to him, an endless supply of treats for a couple of weeks each year. I know he is grateful.

I am grateful for my husband, my family and my friends, especially for all of you at Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church. As members, we’ve been through so much together and each project, collection, clean up day, choir practice, breakfast, meeting and worship brings us even closer as our bond grows and grows. Thank you for your time, your talents and your treasure that you so generously give serving the needs of God’s people. We are a Blessed congregation with love that overflows, we may not always agree but we always put others’ needs before ours. I am grateful for that kind of intimacy, that kind of friendship that we have as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

So, as we celebrate yet another Christmas, I also celebrate another year of having all of you in my life. I have received the greatest gift of all, the love of Christ and your acceptance of friendship. God Bless You All.

Peace unto you,

Kathy Nevans

Announcements/Thank You

- ◆ Thank you to Fred Hellman and Ken Riddell for serving faithfully on Council.
- ◆ Congratulations to Morrie Carlson, Lu Eshelman, Jan Felzein, and Jerry Nevans on being elected to Council for a term of 2018 – 2020.
- ◆ The Disaster Fundraiser Breakfast brought in \$602.00. Thanks to Chris and Cecil Gannan, Ken Riddell and Kathy and Jerry Nevans for all their work in making this a success.
- ◆ Thanks to all the women and men who came out to decorate our church home this past week.
- ◆ Annual reports are due December 20

2018 FLORAL ARRANGEMENT spots are available, please sign up.

2018 SANCTUARY CANDLES spots are available, please sign up.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING PART I will be on Sunday, January 21, 2018 immediately following worship. Potluck Brunch – bring a dish to share! We need committee reports for Bulletin of Reports on or before, Wednesday, December 20.

If you have not submitted your PLEDGE CARD, you can mail them or better yet bring it with you and put it in the Offering Plates. Your pledge will be recorded on your Financial Giving Report to remind you of your commitment.

Carol Singing

Join us for Soup and Carol Singing on **Sunday, December 17**. Gather following worship for a Soup Lunch and we will carpool and depart church at 12:30 p.m. to our home-bound members



Christmas Store



MLM Christmas Store serves approximately 1,000 needy families in the Kansas City Metro area. We need you to help bring Christmas cheer to these families

by contributing **GIFTS** (indicated on the Christmas tree in narthex) and **COOKIES** (take cans from the narthex) **BRING GIFTS AS SOON AS YOU GET THEM and COOKIES ON SUNDAY, December 3!**

Christmas Store December 6 thru 9

Ruth Circle

We would like to invite the congregation to join them on a one-hour tour of Bingham Wagoner Estates on **Saturday, December 16**. Carpool from church 10:30 a.m. Holiday tour is \$6 per adult. Call Carolyn Tyler 358-6074.



DONATION to Mother’s Refuge, a home for unwed mothers. We give diapers, wipes, clothing etc. for babies during the year. We want to give mothers a gift for Christmas. There are 9 to 10 mothers at this time. Anyone wishing to help can contact Carolyn Tyler at 358-6074 by **Sunday, December 10**.

We want to invite all women to our Ruth Circle Meetings. We meet the 4th Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church. We meet for devotion, fellowship, and food (no crafts etc.) Sometimes we have speakers, do day trips, or just go to lunch. We donate to REAP and Mother's Refuge. Contact Carolyn Tyler 358-6074 with any questions or suggestions.

Carolyn Tyler

Prayer Chain

Jaxon Liam Carroll and Collin Simeon, {Felzien’s great grandsons}, Jennifer Greenlee {Mary Johnston’s granddaughter}, Wessyn Robinson {Girl Scout}, Will Babbitt {Diane Babbitt’s husband}, Ann Riddell, Mary Gonnello, Darlene Metcalf {Kathy Nevans’ mother}, Bob {Mary Burge’s friend}, Nancy Ferguson, Larry Biggs, Pastor Eisenbraun, Don Eversmeyer {friend of Linda Hokenson}, Megan Walsh, Alesa, Symantha and Makayla Edwards {friends of Megan Walsh}, Karl Anderson {Tawanda’s husband}, Dolly Darson {Samantha Cummings’ mother}, Rachel Fleming {Home nurse of Megan Walsh}, Martha Mitchel {Raymond Jones’ sister}, Richard Miller, Hollis Mundhenke, Les Tebbenkamp {Mary Burge’s brother}, Mike Singh {Samantha’s uncle}, Lisa Coan {Kathy Musson’s friend}, Amy Chanslor {friend of Anne McCoy}, Deb and Larry Gonnello, Peggy Shoemaker, Elden Gritman, Roy Javner {friend of Jerry Nevans}, Frances Smith, 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, and Pat Jones.



Jan. Worship Assistants

Assisting Ministers

- Jan. 7 Ken Riddell
- Jan. 14 Jackie Harvey
- Jan. 21 Susan Marple
- Jan. 28 Chris Gannan

Readers

- Jan. 7 Bob Jones
- Jan. 14 Morrie Carlson
- Jan. 21 Chris Gannan
- Jan. 28 Samantha Cummings

Ushers

- Jan. 7 Eleanor Kramer & Kathy Musson
- Jan. 14 Theresa Tuttle & Jerry Nevans
- Jan. 21 Diane Babbitt & Joyce McFadden
- Jan. 28 Eleanor Kramer & Kathy Musson

Acolytes

- Jan. 7 Nathanael C.
- Jan. 14 Samuel C.
- Jan. 21 Nathanael C.
- Jan. 28 Samuel C.



Parish Nurse

Hope all had a pleasant, restful Thanksgiving holiday. Our evening service was a blessing as usual and getting to see folk from St. Matthews and the super music was inspirational. That carried over to the next Sunday service which again continues to keep me in awe. How about those kids!!!! I was able to see both my boys together on Thanksgiving.

We can now look forward to the Advent-Christmas season. I got my first taste by helping to decorate the sanctuary. Samantha's Aunt Esther, helped, also. Hope we can get her back every year! Wait until you see it.! On the agenda is Caroling. The homebound look so forward to this. I still remember when you all came to my parents' home, then to the care center. Thank you in advance for this great work each year. Then I spent some time packing the cookies you sent for MLM Christmas store. We will be taking our items down on December 3rd. We have the families in Raytown we are helping with the holidays, also. Once again, a BIG thank you to all!! I would like to add the "kindest" little Lutheran church to our" friendliest little Lutheran church in Raytown."

Onto the "health" minute. I continue to see the " Must wash hands signs " ... well we have a week for Handwashing Awareness in December plus National Influenza Vaccination week is hooked in at the same time.

Then for the New Year we have Healthy Weight week the 21st to the 27th, and World Leprosy Day January 28, to name a few. I am glad it is only one week, Ha! According to a website- lepra.org.uk - the last Sunday in January was chosen by French Humanitarian Raoul Follereau in 1953. From what I read it is still out there, but curable if caught early enough.

We welcomed two new Eagle Scouts into Troop 469-- Fred Farrand, and Tom Bettis.- Their guest speaker was none other than LeRoy Felzien. The Cub scout pancake breakfast was delicious !Hopefully, that will continue to be an annual fundraiser. I have been asked to become the COR(chartered organizational representative) for the troop and pack. Hope I can keep up with the job holders who have come before me. Thank you to the church for this opportunity.

Hope all reading it are finding the book, " Here I Stand" interesting. I sure am. It has been a very interesting 500th anniversary year.

Upcoming events:

Dec. 4 Troop/Pack Caroling at Bowen Towers

Jan. Mother-Son Banquet

Feb. Scout Sunday and Cub Scout banquet

Somewhere in there will be Girl Scout cookie sales

'I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." Martin Luther

Linda Hokenson

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:

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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