



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,

April 2026

As we said in church today, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" – and we rise in him from whatever dark places have held us. That is a promise from God, who always keeps promises. Just yesterday, Holy Saturday, I heard two of the students of the Lutheran Lay Academy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) preaching this promise at a memorial service of thanksgiving for the life of the late Rev. Leroy Nicholson. Since my primary responsibility here in Guyana is to strengthen the ELCG's Lay Academy in order to prepare more people more thoroughly for leadership in the congregations, their fine and faithful leadership made me thank God that the work is bearing fruit!

I celebrated Easter Sunday with two congregations of the ELCG: St. Luke, in the small town of Philippi; and St. James, in the equally small town of Whim. Both congregations are part of St. Michael parish, where the parish council is led by



From left to right: A photo of the late Rev. Leroy Nicholson, pastor of the ELCG; Shelon Bruce, current student and future pastor of the ELCG; Sherwin Nicholson on the keyboard, son of Rev. Nicholson; and Nalini Benjamin, current student and future pastor of the ELCG.



Marika Grimmond, a former student of the Lutheran Lay Academy, and now a nurse. In the photo, she is pictured greeting the congregation of St. Luke, following our Easter Sunday worship.

Since there are presently not enough leaders to minister to all the congregations in all thirteen of the church's parishes, I have recently been given responsibility for preaching and administering the Lord's Supper in four parishes, rotating between them on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month. I am in St. Michael parish on the first Sunday, traveling to St. Barnabas, St.

Luke, and St. James congregations, one after the other. I am in St. Matthew and Ascension parishes on the third Sunday, where I start at Holy Communion congregation (in St. Matthew parish) and then alternate between King of Glory and Ascension congregations (in Ascension parish). Whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month, I am at St. John parish, which contains the three congregations of St. Peter, St. Bartholomew, and St. John. (While I normally keep my newsletters to two pages, I have added a third page this time, with a map of all the Lutheran congregations in Guyana in 1969, highlighting the ones I visit as a supply preacher. Some of the congregations on the map have closed since 1969.)

I will introduce you to just a couple of the congregations that I visit as supply preacher. The last time I was at Holy Communion church, it was Lent, and in this photo, you see a faithful member preparing the sanctuary for worship that day. Holy Communion is in the village of Victoria, a suburb of the capital city, Georgetown. The village was established just after the emancipation of the enslaved Africans in 1838, when a community of formerly enslaved people pooled their hard-won resources and bought the land in order to start their own small businesses. It must have taken enormous courage and industry.



Every other month on the third Sunday, I rush out of Holy Communion after worship to make it (always late!) to King of Glory, about 50 minutes away. I am thankful for a new highway that enables me to avoid driving through Georgetown to get to the new high-span bridge over the Demerara River that takes me to West Coast Demerara, where King of Glory is located.



There are times at King of Glory when no adults come to the service, but there are always three committed teens there, cleaning the church building and setting up for worship, just in case. If no adults come, we have Sunday School together. Here they are: Emily, Ashton, and Ethan, on the day when we studied the story about Jesus teaching his disciples to serve one another instead of competing with one another for glory. I told them that I think cleaning the church, as they do, is a good example of such service.

While I cannot introduce you to all the congregations, I hope this sampling gives you a glimpse into the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, your brothers and sisters in the risen Christ.

With much gratitude for your companionship,

Carolyn

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Location of Congregations and Preaching Points of the Lutheran Church in Guyana 1969.

From: Paul B. Beatty, *A History of the Lutheran Church in Guyana* (Skeldon, Berbice: 1970), Appendix V.

P.S. In addition to prayer, here are ways to support me financially.

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