

From Pastor Anne

No Shame in Lent

Entering the season of Lent is sometimes thought of as entering a wilderness of shame. Jesus was driven out to the wilderness after his baptism, but there was no shame in his time of seeking a closer understanding of God's will. Lent can seem like a dark season in the Church, one in which our sinful nature is emphasized. We might easily wrap shame up in all of that and feel like God has a laser focus on our shortcomings, our sin. But listen to the words of the first prayer we will share on Ash Wednesday. *Almighty and ever-living God, **you hate nothing you have made** and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.*

It is as if our liturgy anticipates our shameful feelings and lets us rest in the faithfulness of God's love for us, even as we kneel before the altar and confess our sin. That said, the readings appointed for Ash Wednesday and the litany of penitence we will share can point toward a burden of shame as we pray in community and ask, as our final petition: *Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.*

Perhaps what these prayers and petitions are telling us is that anger, displeasure, and disappointment are real. They're real between people, and they're real between us and God. But love is just as real. Being disappointed or even angry with someone does not mean that we hate them or stop loving them. And, falling short of the mark can never, ever mean that we fall short of the love of God. Never.

The love God has for us is real and the love God has for us is not wrapped up in some kind of worthiness test. The love God has for us is wrapped up in grace, freely given. Within the promises of baptism we give voice to our striving to be the kind of people that God, by his grace, is calling us to be.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent.

Ladies Bible Study

Christ-Trinity and Calvary ladies will meet twice this month, on Thursday, March 6th and 20th. Our Bible study is led by Pastor Anne. Please bring your March/April copy of *Gather Magazine* to the meeting. The study we will use is called *Just Love*, and copies of the Bible study will be available. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes at Calvary

Head on over to Calvary Episcopal on Tuesday, March 4th from 5:00 – 6:30 pm for the annual Shrove Tuesday Celebration. There will be plenty of pancakes, sausage, Mardi Gras beads, and good music!

We will collect a free will offering with profits going to outreach. Bring a friend!

Ash Wednesday

Join us for a shared Ash Wednesday service on March 5th, beginning at 7:00 pm. The service will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church, 713 S Ohio. The service will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.

Mardi Gras Pancake Luncheon

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, March 2nd for pancakes and sausage! Lent begins on March 5, so let's have some fun to celebrate. There will be plenty of pancakes and sausage for everyone, so bring your friends and family.

Wednesday Lenten Soup and Study

Bible study moves to Wednesday evenings in Lent from March 12th - April 9th. We will have soup at 6 pm, then begin our study at 6:30. Andrea is helping Pr. Anne with a better system for those who want to join via Zoom video/call. We will be studying the words of Jesus. A red-letter Bible (words of Jesus in red) will be helpful but not required.

A sign-up sheet to provide soups, bread, and desserts each week is available in the church fellowship hall. We hope to see you there!

Psalm 133.1 Committee

Brian Smith, Pr. Anne, Brent Bates, Bp. Paul Jones, and Nathan Crowe have established the Psalm 133.1 Committee to plan for a service of Christian unity to be held on January 25, 2026 at the Mathewson Center. Our mission is to be a living witness to Psalm 133, vs 1 which says *How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity*. Our vision is for our community to unite at 10:00 am Sunday in a service of Christian worship.

Bp. Paul Jones, in his sermon at Calvary on 9/29/2024, reminded us that Sunday morning is the most segregated time in our country. Our dream is that people from all Churches in Sedalia will join us for a common worship that day.

Attention Church Committees:
Please submit your end-of-the-year
reports to the secretary for the Annual
Report – deadline April 1.

Announcements

- Pastor Anne will offer laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Sunday, March 2nd following worship.
- The church office will be closed March 19-21.
- April newsletter items are due to the secretary by Monday, March 24th.
- Feed the Hungry Sunday is on Sunday, March 23rd. We are collecting canned vegetables this month. We will also collect the Noisy Offering on March 23rd.
- This month the local benevolence offering will be given to Child Safe.

5th Sunday at Burns Chapel

Plan now to attend worship on Sunday, March 30th, 10:00 am at Burns Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, 207 E. Pettis St., Sedalia. Pr. Anne will preach and Bishop Paul Jones will preside. There will be a potluck meal following worship. Our friends at Burns Chapel can't wait to welcome us! Worship will be available on Facebook Live.

Thank you Linda!

Linda Boe has made the decision to “retire” from sending greeting cards for WELCA and organizing the shut-in cards. She has done a wonderful job and we thank her for her dedication! Christine Gail has taken on this project, and we thank her for her willingness to serve!

A Single Thought

Difficulties make us either better or bitter.

Unknown

Prayer Requests

Linda Boe, Floyd Hatfield, Helen Ewing, Nelson Eckhoff, Connie Shoemaker, Lavern, Debbie Dollinger, Amyah Smith, Marcy Cash, Shayla Mitchell, Richard Dean, Shirley and Bill Neff, Scott Arnold, Rick Morrison, Gerald Hunton, Carol Benner, Gwen Eppenauer.

Continue to pray for our home-bound members: Sandra Graf, Nadine Fingland, Marene Levin, and Val Hoon.

Let us also remember Getayawckal Ariaya from Ethiopia, and Mouniratou from Burkina Faso; and those who serve our country in the armed services, peace corps and missions.

Happy Birthday!

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 7 | Patrick Robinson |
| 11 | Chaz Satnan |
| 13 | Val Hoon |
| 14 | Sandy Graf |
| 14 | Riley Wehrman |
| 16 | Glen Ewing |
| 28 | Julie Willadsen |
| 29 | Barbara Freund |

Anniversaries

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 9 | Patrick & Angela Robinson |
| 25 | Rusty & April Ream |

Synod Assembly June 5-7

The Central States Synod Assembly will be held on June 5-7, 2025 in Olathe, Kansas. A new bishop will be elected. Bp. Candea does not plan to run again. Pr. Anne plans to attend. Our congregation is eligible for two lay persons to attend, as well. Please talk to Pr. Anne if you are interested in participating in the assembly.

Readings for Sundays in March

March 2 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

- Exodus 43: 29-35
- Psalm 99
- 2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2
- Luke 9: 28-36 [37-43a]

March 9 – 1st Sunday in Lent

- Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
- Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10: 8b-13
- Luke 4: 1-13

March 16 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

- Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1
- Luke 13: 31-35

March 23 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

- Isaiah 55: 1-9
- Psalm 63: 1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
- Luke 13: 1-9

March 30 – 4th Sunday in Lent

5th Sunday Worship at Burns Chapel

- Joshua 5: 9-12
- Psalm 133
- 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
- Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

News from the Church Council

Council met on February 16th. Plans for Lent were discussed. A Lenten offering will be collected for Meals on Wheels, both at worship and at the Wednesday evening soup suppers. There will be a Mardi Gras pancake lunch on Sunday, March 2nd.