

From Pastor Anne

Update from Pastor Anne

Two years ago in September I became a member of the Diocese of West Missouri staff. I have worked in a “quarter time” position as the Vocations Missioner, shepherding people who are discerning a call to ordination. In that role I work with individuals and congregations, plan and participate in various meetings, organize and participate in ordinations, and more. It has been both a busy and fulfilling call.

I continue to be blessed to be your pastor and to serve Calvary as well. It is an honor to be called to serve at this altar and in our community. I look forward to more years working in this vineyard with you.

Bishop Amy Meaux has recognized that my work exceeds that of a quarter-time position and plans to increase my compensation to half-time. She realizes that I am already fulfilling that most of the time. An added dimension to my work will include representing her at Churches around the diocese from time to time.

The council and I discussed this at our July meeting, including what it will look like going forward. Beginning later this year, or in January, I will be away from my two congregations on one Sunday per month. On those Sundays we will have services led by various members of the congregation, just like we do when I am on vacation.

This change also means a further easing of the finances for both congregations. The diocese will not only cover half of my wages, but they will also begin to cover half of my health insurance costs, too.

Just as we did when our two congregations came together in a shared ministry, now eight years ago, we continue to find creative ways to be the Church. I pray that all we have done and will continue to do, will be to God’s glory.

Please do not hesitate to visit with me if you have questions about these plans.

Faithfully, and with love, Pastor Anne

Paper Towels Needed

We are accepting donations of paper towels to use in the kitchen and bathrooms. Please place your items in the tub located in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Sweet Hour of Prayer

We meet on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm to pray for our church and our community. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Blessing of the Brains

On Sunday August 24, Pastor Anne will bless the brains of all who are returning to the classroom. This includes all students, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, and more.

Steering Committee Recommendations

The Council and the Steering Committee have updated the following recommendations:

- a. We have an important messaging to carry forward, which is that the sale of the building does not represent closing this congregation. Christ-Trinity Lutheran Church will become a congregation which is not a property owner.
- b. Foundation repair bids are for between \$58,000 and \$63,000. These bids will be disclosed to the seller. The work will not be done at this time.
- c. Glen Ewing has helped us set an appropriate sale price.
- d. A reunion committee, led by Andrea Eppenauer is now planning an event for autumn 2025, possibly on Reformation Sunday. This event may coincide with a 50th anniversary celebration event for Debbie Mueller.
- e. A property disposal committee to distribute items prior to sale has been established. Betty Barnes is leading that effort. This will look different if the property is sold as a Church than if it is sold for another purpose.

We have notified Bible Baptist Church of our intention to sell the building. The steering committee recommended that the buyer must secure their own financing and the council concurs.

Women's Conference

All women are invited to participate in a Women's Conference hosted by Burns Chapel. The conference will be held on Saturday, September 13th and topics will include *Women's Roles In The Church Today* (Pr. Anne Kyle) and *How Can We Serve The Church and God Better?* (Sister Ann Graff). The conference runs from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and includes lunch. There is no cost to attend. Burns Chapel is located at 207 E. Pettis Street. Please let Pr. Anne know if you plan to participate.

Announcements

- Pastor Anne will offer laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Sunday, August 3rd following worship.
- Kay Strouse will be out of the office August 4-8. The office will be closed.
- September newsletter items are due to the secretary by August 25th.
- Feed the Hungry Sunday is on Sunday, August 31st. We are collecting canned meats this month for Open Door.
- We will collect the Noisy Offering on Sunday, August 31st. This money is donated to ELCA World Hunger.
- This month the local benevolence offering will be given to Community Cafe.

News from the Church Council

The council met on July 20th. God's Work, Our Hands will be Sunday, September 7th. Andrea is working on an idea that supports the Empty Bowls fundraiser. August 31st will be a normal Sunday, here at Christ-Trinity, at 11:00 am. We will welcome Burn's Chapel and Calvary on September 28th. The time of worship is TBD. Empty Bowls Fundraiser for Open Door is planned for Saturday, November 15th. The council continues to work with a local congregation concerning the sale of the property.

Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to all who helped deliver Meals on Wheels over the summer. It is a wonderful and loving ministry!

Prayer Requests

Greg and Tricia Wehrman, Mike Kyle, Floyd Hatfield, Helen Ewing, Marlyn Kern, Sara, Kerry, Connie Shoemaker, Lavern, Bill Neff, Scott Arnold, Rick Morrison, Gerald Hunton, Carol Benner, Gwen Eppenauer.

Continue to pray for our home-bound members: Sandra Graf, 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!

- 14 Paul Stevens
- 16 Jerry Reese
- 19 Kay Strouse
- 20 Olivia Harrison
- 27 Connie Williams

August Anniversaries

- 10 Paul & Connie Williams
- 31 Steve & Karen Randall

Praying Our Way Forward

As we discern together our best way forward as a congregation, I ask for all of us to be in prayer for God's hand in all that is before us and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I have added a prayer to our weekly worship and would like us to use this prayer at home to help us keep our eyes ever on Jesus: *Let us pray. O God, you have drawn us together into this community of faithful disciples. Help us to keep following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever we are. We ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the wisdom, the will, the courage, and the strength to follow where the Spirit guides us. In Jesus' name. Amen!*

Readings for Sundays in August

August 3 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

- Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-23
- Psalm 49: 1-12
- Colossians 3: 1-11
- Luke 12: 13-21

August 10 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 15: 1-6
- Psalm 33: 12-22
- Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16
- Luke 12: 32-40

August 17 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

- Jeremiah 23: 23-29
- Psalm 82
- Hebrews 11: 29 – 12: 2
- Luke 12: 49-56

August 24 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

- Isaiah 58: 9b-14
- Psalm 103: 1-8
- Hebrews 12: 18-29
- Luke 13: 10-17

August 31 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

- Proverbs 25: 6-7a
- Psalm 112
- Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16
- Luke 14: 1, 7-14

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Mark your calendars for September 7. Watch for more details in the September newsletter. We hope to see you there as we study God's word and serve as His hands in our community!

A Single Thought

Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer