

From Pastor Anne

Loving the day anyway

Most of us probably remember the worship we shared on the fifth Saturday of September last year. The service was over at Calvary, and we were also joined by our friends from Burns Chapel. Bishop Paul Jones preached a wonderful message on the joy and blessings that come when we dwell in unity with our neighbors. We had beautiful music, learned that a bold “Amen!” can enliven a sermon, and broke bread with friends, old and new.

Like so many of us, Maxine Haller (now of blessed memory, may she rest in peace) was really looking forward to that Sunday. Maxine only made it to worship occasionally, but on this day, she rose early, prepared a dish to share, and headed off to Church. But we didn’t see her that day. You see, as it is so easy to do, Maxine forgot who was hosting worship and headed off to Christ-Trinity for Church instead.

So, what happened to Maxine that day? Well, the good folks from Bible Baptist Church, the congregation who shares our property on Sunday afternoons were using the Church all day and celebrating with a harvest festival. When Maxine arrived at Christ-Trinity, casserole dish in hand, she was greeted by some lovely Ukrainian women who welcomed her, introduced her to a translator, and shepherded her throughout a day of worship and feasting and celebration. So many people, all speaking another language. Lots of beautiful music. Tables full of delicious food. She was so excited by the adventure, and I was so glad to hear about her wonderful day!

Some of us in the same situation might have hustled over to Calvary and joined the service late. Some might have been discouraged and simply gone back home. But that’s not what Maxine did. And this is a good time to tell you that Maxine had led an adventurous life before retirement, traveling across Europe and South America, often by bike. But what does any of this have to do with us?

For me, it all has to do with Maxine’s reaction to her day. You see, one of Maxine’s last visits to Church turned out to be an adventure! Maxine didn’t look at that day as *the time she went to the wrong Church*. She didn’t wander back home in disappointment. She didn’t fall into embarrassment. Instead, she decided to live that Sunday to the fullest and I found a powerful lesson in that.

We were blessed with wonderful worship and fellowship that day and Maxine was blessed with the same. It was not what she planned on, and it was nothing like what she expected, and yet it was fulfilling, and enriching, and enjoyable, anyway. *Continued on next page*

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.

Meals on Wheels

Christ and Trinity and Calvary team up to serve Meals on Wheels again on July 14-18. We need drivers and runners for five routes. Please let Pr. Anne know if you can help.

Good Book Club Readings for Summer 2025

Reading the Bible is one of the best ways to grow spiritually, especially if you are able to join in the company of fellow travelers on the journey. The Good Book Club offers you a chance to join with others—whether locally in your church or globally online—for an immersive experience in a book of the Bible. The next offering from the Good Book Club is *Summer 2025: Summer with Psalms*.

This June and July, each of us can choose our own adventure and either read a selection of psalms (Track 1) or all of the psalms (Track 2).

You will find a Summer with the Psalms reading schedule on the table in the Fellowship Hall and attached to the Newsletter email, as well. You will find the Good Book Club online at:

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/>

The website offers a sign up for those who would like to receive reading reminders online.

News from the Church Council

The council met on June 15th. The water leak in the fellowship hall has been investigated and fixed by Jason. We will worship at Calvary on June 29th. Bible Baptist Church will use the building all day on June 29th. There will be a VBS at Calvary later this summer. Pr. Anne will be at camp on July 20-24.

From Pastor Anne, Continued

Sometimes the events of our lives go on as planned and sometimes they just don't. Sometimes we are faced with an unexpected joy and sometimes we face great sadness. In all our days, the good ones, the rough ones, and the unimaginably sad ones, God is with us. It is my prayer that we will feel God's presence every day.

Announcements

- Pastor Anne will offer laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Sunday, July 6th following worship.
- Pastor Anne will be out of the office July 20-24 to attend Mid-MO Bible Camp.
- August newsletter items are due to the secretary by July 28th.
- Feed the Hungry Sunday is on Sunday, July 27th. We are collecting pasta and pasta sauce this month for Open Door.
- In June, we collected \$51.63 in Noisy Offering. This money is donated to ELCA World Hunger. Thank you!
- This month the local benevolence offering will be given to Meals on Wheels.

Steering Committee Recommendations

The Steering Committee presenting the following recommendations to the council and also at the May 4th Annual Meeting:

- 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. It is time to list the property for sale. We have asked Glen Ewing for a recommendation of how to list and who to list with. He is working to help us set an appropriate sale price.

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Prayer Requests

Greg Wehrman, Floyd Hatfield, Helen Ewing, Sara, Connie Shoemaker, Lavern, Debbie Dollinger, Amyah Smith, Marcy Cash, Richard Dean, Shirley and Bill Neff, Scott Arnold, Rick Morrison, Jill, 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!

- 15 Milena Stevens
- 25 Jason Ohare
- 25 Hannah Satnan
- 31 Miley Hayes

July Anniversaries

- 9 Brandon & Staci Harrison
- 27 Robert & Alicia Hartley

Readings for Sundays in July

July 6 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

- Isaiah 66: 10-14
- Psalm 66: 1-9
- Galatians 6: [1-6] 7-16
- Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

July 13 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

- Deuteronomy 30: 9-14
- Psalm 25: 1-10
- Colossians 1: 1-14
- Luke 10: 25-37

July 20 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 18: 1-10a
- Psalm 15
- Colossians 1: 15-28
- Luke 10: 38-42

July 27 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 18: 20-32
- Psalm 138
- Colossians 2: 6-15 [16-19]
- Luke 11: 1-13

Recommendations, Continued

- d. We will establish a reunion committee to plan an event, during autumn 2025, possibly on Reformation Sunday. This event may coincide with a 50th anniversary celebration event for Debbie Mueller.
- e. We will establish a property disposal committee to distribute items prior to sale. This will look different if the property is sold as a Church than if it is sold for another purpose.
- f. 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.

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!*