

News from Christ & Trinity

January 2026

Monthly Newsletter

From Pastor Anne

Life is Better Together

I wonder if you remember a sermon you heard in September 2024. Now, keep in mind that I suspect few of us, yours truly included, remember the sermon we heard last week, unless it was a wiz-bang message. The sermon I am referring to was preached by Bishop Paul Jones of Burns Chapel Freewill Baptist Church. It was the first time that all three of our congregations shared worship and it was a memorable day.

The primary text of the sermon was Psalm 133. It is called a wisdom psalm, and the opening verse says *How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.* What a glorious message for all time, and especially in these times. It reminds us of the blessings that come to a community that chooses togetherness over separation and cooperation over competition. The community could be a family, a congregation, a town, or neighborhood, and beyond. This kind of unity often starts locally and spreads.

Over a year ago representatives from these three congregations began to meet with the dream of bringing Christians together from all corners of our community for a shared worship service. Just like we do on fifth Sundays, it is our dream to bring all the Churches in Sedalia together for one, big Sunday morning worship. We call ourselves the Psalm 133 Committee and have met at least monthly for over a year. Our numbers have grown to include about a dozen congregations who are all in with this plan and we are working to involve everyone we can. A generous benefactor has agreed to fund the venue, and we have reserved the Mathewson Center for Sunday, October 4, 2026. Worship is planned for 10:00 am, and just like we already do on fifth Sundays, we are asking other congregations to leave their buildings for one day and join us in worship and witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus. Oh, what a glorious day it will be when all God's children live together in unity!

Pastor Anne

Ladies Bible Study

Join us for an hour of Bible study led by Pastor Anne in the fellowship hall. We'll meet on Thurs, January 15th at 2pm. All women are welcomed. Ladies from Calvary and Immanuel will also be attending. Copies of the Bible study will be available.

Souper Bowl of Caring

We will collect canned soups for the Souper Bowl of Caring from January 1 – February 8, 2026. All soup will be donated to Open Door. You may place cans of soup in the shopping cart by the coat rack.

Congregational Budget Meeting

The next cong. meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11th following worship. The council will present the proposed 2026 Budget. A Zoom call line will be set up for those who cannot attend in person.

Canceling In-Person Worship for Dangerous Weather

The council and Pastor Anne will decide about canceling **in-person** worship when the weather presents dangerous travel conditions. The roads will be assessed after 7:00 am and the decision about continuing with worship or canceling for the day will be made by 9:00 am. The announcement will be made by email, by changing the phone message at Church, and through our Facebook page. Most importantly, don't travel for Church if it does not seem safe to you.

We will hold morning prayer via Facebook and Zoom if in-person worship is canceled. The zoom link information appears at the top of this page.

January 4 Worship

Come and celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany at Christ and Trinity on January 4th at 11:00 am. We will welcome The Rev. Canon Chas Marks of the Diocese of West Missouri as preacher and presider. He is an assistant to the Episcopal Bishop of West Missouri and a dear friend of Pastor Anne.

News from the Church Council

The council met on December 22nd. The draft budget was approved and will be presented to the congregation on January 11th. Plans for snow removal (Bible Baptist Church has offered to handle snow removal), shopping for a more affordable copier, developing a safety plan, and planning for the June 2026 Synod Assembly (online) were discussed. The scouts will have a lock-in on January 3rd. Bible Baptist Church will use the building on Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and NY Day.

Announcements

- Pastor Anne will offer laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Sunday, December 11th following worship.
- Pastor Anne is offering Facebook Live Prayer and Devotions Monday-Thursday at 8 am on her Facebook page.
- February newsletter items are due to the secretary by Monday, January 26th.
- The church office will be closed December 25 – January 2 for the Christmas holiday.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

We will resume our Bible study on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm. You may join by using the following Zoom link or by calling the phone number and entering the meeting ID and passcode. All are welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5381659387?pwd=dIBWOTdGKzZFWkJER0xLbUxqem1aZz09>

Meeting ID: 538 165 9387, Passcode: 2101

Or, phone in by dialing 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 538 165 9387 Passcode: 2101

Warming Shelter

Pastor Anne is leading a warming shelter team again this year. Our team is made up of folks from several Churches and will serve 3 times a month on pre-assigned nights IF the weather meets the threshold for opening the shelter. Volunteers serve in pairs, and the shifts last 4 hours. Want to serve or find out more? Talk to Pr. Anne.

New in the New Year

Many of you have heard me say that Bishop Amy Meaux (Episcopal) has asked me to join her staff half-time. I have been the missioner for vocations in the Diocese of West Missouri for a little over two years now in a “quarter time” position. The reality is that it has taken many more than 10 hours a week to do that work and now the diocese has right-sized my position.

So, what does that mean for Christ-Trinity? Not too much will change. I am still your pastor. I will still preach and preside. I will still visit the sick and those who cannot get out for worship. I will continue to manage most of the administrative duties that pastors enjoy. I will still be active in the community. In this role I will be taking one Sunday a month away from worship. On those Sundays I will either be traveling with Bishop Amy, visiting another congregation, or taking a rest. On those Sundays we will have Service of the Word lead by someone in the congregation.

So, what else does this mean? As you will hear at the budget meeting on January 11th, this will mean that a greater portion of my salary and benefits will be paid by the diocese. The financial saving to our two congregations will be considerable. These times when many of our congregations are smaller and have fewer financial resources, we are meeting that challenge with this creative plan. I am so happy and blessed that I can continue to be your pastor!

January Building Usage

There are many groups who will be using our building this month. Bible Baptist Church will worship here on January 1st at 10:00 am, and each Sunday at 2:00 pm. Our scout Troop 61 will have their annual lock-in on Saturday, January 3rd. The She Shed AA group will continue to meet on Sundays at 5:00 pm, and the teacher sorority ADK will meet here on Monday, January 26th.

2026 Altar Flowers

The sign-up sheet for altar flowers is posted in the fellowship hall. Altar flowers are \$20 for two arrangements. On the day of your donation, take your flowers after worship and enjoy them in your home, or give them to someone special.

Please fill out an altar flower form, located just below the sign-up sheet, to ensure that your flower donation is acknowledged in the bulletin. Forms and payments may be placed in the secretary's mailbox. Note: Make checks payable to Christ and Trinity.

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. *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 and strength to follow where the Spirit guides us. In Jesus' name. Amen!*



Prayer Requests

Glen Ewing, Greg and Tricia Wehrman, Mike Kyle, Floyd Hatfield, Marlyn Kern, Ryan Peters, Amanda, Betty, Connie Shoemaker, Lavern, Scott Arnold, Rick Morrison, Gerald Hunton, Carol Benner, Gwen Eppenauer.

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

- 9 Getayawckal Ariaya
- 15 Mike Olson
- 18 Steve Randall
- 22 Alyssa Ream
- 26 Hadley Randall
- 26 Staci Harrison
- 30 Larry Barnes

No Anniversaries in January

A Single Thought

The meaning of life. The wasted years of life. The poor choices of life. God answers the mess of life with one word: grace.

-- Max Lucado

Readings for Sundays in January

January 4 – Feast of the Epiphany

- Isaiah 60: 1-6
- Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3: 1-12
- Matthew 2: 1-12

January 11 – Baptism of Our Lord

- Isaiah 42: 1-9
- Psalm 29
- Acts 10: 34-43
- Matthew 3: 13-17

January 18 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 49: 1-7
- Psalm 40: 1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
- John 1: 29-42

January 25 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 9: 1-4
- Psalm 27: 1, 4-9
- 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
- Matthew 4: 12-23

Worship Volunteers

Have you considered serving during worship on Sunday mornings? Would you like to learn how? We need folks to read the prayers, read the scriptures, light the candles, serve communion, and usher. Sign up in the fellowship hall. For more information, speak to Andrea or Pr. Anne.