

From Pastor Anne

Easter People and the Empty Tomb

We will enter April in the midst of Holy Week. We will gather in various ways to mark our annual observation of Jesus' last meal with his friends, his suffering and death, and ultimately, to celebrate the most profound event in Christian faith – Jesus' resurrection.

At the heart of our Easter lies the empty tomb, a symbol of new beginnings, hope, and divine promise. This sacred site not only altered the course of history but continues to inspire and strengthen our faith today.

The empty tomb tells a powerful story. Early on the first day of the week, a group of faithful women walked to the tomb expecting to anoint Jesus' lifeless body. Instead, they encountered something unimaginable: the stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled away, and the body of Jesus was gone. They were scared and confused when an angel appeared, proclaiming, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28:6). This moment marks a turning point. Despair becomes joy, death becomes life, and hopelessness replaced by hope.

The emptiness of the tomb serves as a reminder that God's love transcends all circumstances, even death. Jesus' resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith, affirming that death does not have the final say. The empty tomb symbolizes that God is actively at work in the world, bringing forth new life and possibility where we least expect it.

Eastertide, those great fifty days, invites us to participate in the story of the empty tomb. Just as the women were compelled to share the good news, we proclaim the joy of the resurrection in our lives. It is a dynamic reality that encourages us to live boldly in faith and to embody the hope that Jesus offers to all. Each encounter we have, each act of kindness we perform, and each moment of love we share can be a reflection of that hope.

As Easter people we are renewed and transformed to consider the 'tombs' in our lives—those places filled with fear, grief, or despair. It is in these spaces that Christ invites us to experience His resurrection power. Through prayer, community, and supporting one another, we can find healing and restoration. The empty tomb reminds us that, much like the disciples who initially struggled to comprehend this miraculous event, we too can navigate our own challenges with the assurance that God, who raised Jesus from the dead, is with us when we struggle.

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Women's Bible Study

CT, Calvary and UCC women meet for an hour of Bible study led by Pr. Anne in the fellowship hall. We'll meet on Thurs, April 23rd at 2 pm. Call Pr. Anne at 2 pm that day to participate by conference call. Copies of the Bible study will be available.

2026 Annual Congregational Meeting

The 26th Annual Meeting of Christ-Trinity Lutheran Church will be held as a part of worship on Sunday, May 3rd beginning at 11:00 am. A potluck lunch will follow – meat provided. Plan now to attend.

Mowing Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help mow the church grounds. There is a mowing schedule on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. All of the equipment is here at the church. Please sign up if you can help.

The Sacred Triduum (Three Days)

These three days mark the sacred time which includes the last supper, Jesus' crucifixion, and the day he laid in the tomb. It is a time to reflect and remember and pray. Join us as we observe this special time in preparation for Jesus' resurrection.

Maundy Thursday is on April 2nd and will be observed with the Eucharistic Meal. We will share a carry-in soup supper and Holy Communion in the fellowship hall at Christ-Trinity. The meal begins at 6:00 pm and will include music by the Ensemble and the combined choir. We will share our meal and conclude with Holy Communion before our procession into the sanctuary for the solemn stripping of the altar.

Please look for sign-up sheets to help with food (soup, bread, dessert) and to help strip the altar in preparation for Good Friday. See Andrea Eppenauer for more information on the meal.

Good Friday is on April 3rd and includes two services:

- Noon: Stations of the Cross at Calvary
- 7:00 pm: Tenebrae Service of Jesus' Last Words from the Cross at Christ-Trinity

Holy Saturday is a time for private reflection and prayer.

Celebrate Christ's Resurrection On Easter Day!

Easter is on **April 5th**. Worship is at 11:00 am. We will share our shouts of *Christ is risen!* and celebrate the greatest gift ever given. Invite family and friends to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

The Baptism of Karley Marie Randall

We will welcome Karley Marie into the body of Christ and the mission we share at her baptism on Easter Day. Join us as we gather at the font and praise God for the gift of baptism and the resurrection of our Lord.

Announcements

- Pastor Anne is offering Facebook Live Prayer and Devotions Monday-Thursday at 8 am on her Facebook page.
- We collected 35.03 for the Noisy Offering in March. This money will be sent to ELCA World Hunger.
- May newsletter items are due to the secretary by Monday, April 27th.

From Pastor Anne *Continued*

May our Easter joy dwell in the knowledge that the tomb is empty indeed. Let it inspire us to rise from our own tombs of doubt and fear, stepping into the light of Christ's love and resurrection. In this spirit of resurrection joy, let us share our stories, our faith, and our hope with one another and with the world around us, embodying the transformational power of the empty tomb in our everyday lives. Alleluia! **Pr. Anne**

One Community Worship

One Community Worship is coming up on Sunday, October 4th. We will join congregations from all over Sedalia and Pettis County for a Sunday morning worship prayer and singing and joy. Pastor Anne is among the planners of this event. There will be both a community choir and orchestra to provide our music, and The Rev. Dr. Drew Hill will be our preacher.

Talk to Pr. Anne to learn more about how to be involved or simply mark your calendar for 10:00 am on Sunday, October 4th for One Community Worship at the Mathewson Center in Sedalia.

O how good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

d365 Online Devotions for Youth and Young Adults

There is an online or app based daily devotion for youth and young adults called d365. It is meaningful and easy to follow and offers a thoughtful way to build the habit of daily devotions. The app features a reflective, five-step process of Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go.

Pause: an invitation to stop and enter a time of reflection.

Listen: the daily scripture verse or passage.

Think: the devotional thought for the day with a question to ponder.

Pray: a short prayer to prompt readers to continued prayer and reflection.

Go: a closing blessing to send readers into the rest of their day

Pastor Anne has enjoyed this devotional for years. Look for the app on your smartphone or visit www.d365.org.

News from the Church Council

The council met on March 15th. Pr. Anne is working with Larry Barnes and Mike Olson on a safety plan. Synod Assembly will be held on June 6th. Jason Ohare and Betty Barnes will attend. The assembly will be one day long and will be held via Zoom. The annual congregation meeting will be held on May 3rd. A potluck lunch will follow. Fried Chicken will be provided. Plans for a May 31st 5th Sunday combined worship hosted by Christ-Trinity are underway.

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.

Wednesday Bible Study

We will resume our Bible study on Wednesday, April 15th 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

WELCA Spring Cluster Meeting

The WELCA Spring Cluster Meeting is on Saturday, April 25th at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville, MO. Registration begins at 9:00 am, and the cost is \$5, which includes lunch. Mary Kern has made a red/white/blue throw blanket that will be raffled off. All ladies are invited to attend.

Supporting Our Community

In 2026, we are starting a new schedule of donating food items and hygiene products to support several groups in the community. Here is the schedule for 2026:

Jan/Feb: Souper Bowl for Open Door

Apr/May: Peanut butter, jelly, and boxes of macaroni and cheese for the summer lunch program

Aug/Sep: Hygiene products and non-perishable food items for the SFCC Student Needs Pantry

Oct/Nov: Empty Bowls Fundraiser for Open Door

This month, we are collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly, and boxes of macaroni and cheese. Place your items in the shopping cart in the narthex.

We hope you'll be involved in supporting these worthy groups.

Prayer Requests

Floyd Hatfield, Mel Satnan, Marlyn Kern, Ryan Peters, Betty, Lars and Kay, 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 Mouniratou from Burkina Faso, and those who serve our country in the armed services, peace corps and missions.

Happy Birthday!

4 April Ream
11 Linda Turley
23 Lauren Stevens
24 Melany Satnan
27 Leslie Johansen

No April Anniversaries

A Single Thought

How necessary it was that Christ the Mediator should be both God and man; for unless he had been man, he would not have been a fit sacrifice; and unless he had been God, that sacrifice would not have been of sufficient virtue. --**William Ames**

Travel Plans for June

Pastor Anne will be traveling with Julie Willadsen and Andrea Eppenauer. We will travel from June 1-10 and our tour includes sites in Italy and Greece. The group will experience Vatican City, St. Peter's Basilica, and so much more. Please keep the travelers in your prayers.

Readings for Sundays in April

April 4 – Easter Day

- Acts 10: 34-43
- Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
- Colossians 3: 1-4
- Matthew 28: 1-10

April 12 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

- Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
- Psalm 16
- 1 Peter 1: 3-9
- John 20: 19-31

April 19 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

- Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
- Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
- 1 Peter 1: 17-23
- Luke 24: 13-35

April 26 – 4th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 2: 42-47
- Psalm 23
- 1 Peter 2: 19-25
- John 10: 1-10

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!*