

From Pastor Anne

Following in Paul's Footsteps

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." Matthew 9:9.

This familiar verse is the start to the story of Jesus and the tax collector. The passage opens with clear instructions. Jesus sees Matthew, calls him, and Matthew rises to follow. There is no lengthy explanation, no detailed plan, no guarantee of where the road will lead. There is simply the invitation: "Follow me." That invitation still echoes through the Church today.

This month I will travel to Rome and Athens; places deeply connected to the story of the early Church and the missionary journeys of Saint Paul. As I prepare for this amazing trip, I find myself reflecting on what it means to follow Christ into unfamiliar places, trusting that God continues to meet us along the way.

Paul's footsteps stretched across the ancient world. He traveled difficult roads, crossed seas, preached in marketplaces, prayed with strangers, and carried the good news of Christ wherever he went. In Athens, Paul stood among philosophers and seekers, proclaiming the God "in whom we live and move and have our being." In Rome, the heart of the empire, the Gospel took root among ordinary people living faithful lives under uncertain circumstances.

None of these journeys began with certainty. They began with a call.

Matthew leaves his tax booth. Paul leaves behind his former life. The disciples leave their nets. Again and again, Scripture reminds us that faith is not primarily about having every answer. Faith is about trusting the One who calls us forward.

That can be difficult in our own time. We often want guarantees before taking the next step. We prefer clear maps and predictable outcomes. Yet Jesus continues to call ordinary people into lives shaped by mercy, compassion, and courage.

The most remarkable part of Matthew 9 is not just the call itself, but what happens afterward. Jesus sits at a table with tax collectors and sinners, drawing criticism from religious leaders. His response is both simple and profound: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Jesus reveals a kingdom centered not on exclusion, but on healing and grace.

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Synod Assembly

The Central States Synod Assembly will be held on June 6 and will be online only. Jason Ohare and Betty Barnes will be participating. Keep them in prayer as they represent our church. Pastor Anne will be in Europe and will not attend.

Osage Cluster Meeting

All women are invited to attend the Women of the ELCA Osage Cluster Meeting on Sat., June 13 at Our Savior's Lutheran in Camdenton, MO. Pr. Kim Knowle-Zeller will lead the Bible Study. Registration begins at 9:00 am. The cost is \$5. RSVP by June 9 to 417-693-8204.

Meals on Wheels

Christ and Trinity will team up with Calvary to serve Meals on Wheels again on July 13-17. We need drivers and runners for five routes. Please let Pastor Anne know if you can help serve meals to our senior neighbors.

10th Anniversary Celebration June 14th at Calvary Episcopal

Plan now to join us as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Pr. Anne's ordination. This festive worship will begin at 10:00 am and will include beautiful music and lots of guests. Pr. Harv Sanders will be our celebrant and preacher. There's nothing to bring, but a smile. This will replace our regular Sunday worship service. See the invitation on page 4.

Sunday Breakfasts Beginning June 21

A couple years ago our congregation offered free breakfasts at church on Sunday mornings, with the main idea of serving breakfasts to anyone in need. The reality, though, is that our church is not well located to serve those most in need, so we paused the breakfasts due to the meager attendance.

In April, the Mission and Ministry committee met and approved purchasing a used 2007 Ford 12-passenger shuttle bus with a wheelchair lift and space for a rider in a wheelchair. We'll use it to transport people from the parking lot at Community Cafe for Sunday breakfasts at Christ & Trinity and then back to the Community Café parking lot. The purchase fits with the committee disbursement guidelines "to support Christ & Trinity's service to its community."

We have 5 volunteers with good driving records to drive on Sunday mornings. We also have cooks. We still could use:

1. Prayers and Encouragement
2. Ideas for using the shuttle bus in addition to Sunday breakfasts.
3. Help with breakfasts, including cooking, cleanup and waiting tables. Another valuable help is to simply show up to eat breakfast and visit with our guests.

The breakfasts will be every Sunday beginning June 21st, from 9:00 am until 10:15 am.

Announcements

- Pastor Anne is offering Facebook Live Prayer and Devotions Monday-Thursday at 8 am on her Facebook page.
- Kay Strouse is expecting another grandbaby around June 20. Watch for emails regarding church office closure.
- Pastor Anne will be traveling to Europe with Julie Willadsen and Andrea Eppenauer from June 1-11. Please keep the travelers in your prayers.
- July newsletter items are due to the secretary by Monday, June 22.

From Pastor Anne, Continued

As I think about visiting places where the apostles once preached and prayed, I am reminded that Christianity spread not because people had perfect understanding, but because they encountered the mercy of Christ and shared it with others. The Church grew through hospitality, courage, and communities willing to welcome those whom society often pushed aside.

That calling belongs to us as well. Whether we travel across oceans or simply across town, Christ invites us to follow him into deeper love of God and neighbor. Every congregation, every meal shared, every act of compassion becomes part of that continuing journey.

I look forward to experiencing these ancient places connected to Paul's ministry, and I will return with stories and reflections to share. Yet even before the journey begins, Matthew's story reminds me that pilgrimage is ultimately less about geography and more about discipleship. Following Jesus changes us. It opens our eyes to grace already present in the world around us.

May we all continue following Christ faithfully, wherever the road may lead.

Grace and Peace, **Pr. Anne**

While Pastor Anne is Away

Pastor Anne will be on a trip to Italy and Greece June 1-11. In the event of a pastoral need, please contact council president, Beth Olson. She will also be available for communion visits, if needed. Pastor Chas Marks will be available in case of a pastoral emergency. Please contact Beth Olson or call Kay Strouse at the office.

News from the Church Council

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, May 3rd as a part of worship. Council members elected were Betty Barnes and Linda Jo Huber. A potluck lunch followed.

The 2026 council members were installed on May 17, then met after worship for the annual administrative meeting. Officers for 2026/27 will be president, Beth Olson, VP and treasurer, Linda Jo Huber. The council chose to continue supporting the following organizations for our local benevolence: Open Door (2 months), CACTUS (2 months), Child Safe (2 months), Pettis County Community Partnership (2 months), Senior Center, CASA, Meals on Wheels, and Community Café.

Mid-MO Bible Camp

Mark your calendars for July 19-24. The theme for this year is "Learning to Love Like Christ", and is based on John 15: 13: *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.* The enrollment fee is \$70 plus a \$20 deposit. Camp is open to kids 8-19 years old. The deadline to register and receive a camp t-shirt is July 5. Contact Pr. Anne for more information.

Hey Church! You've Been Busy!

In the last couple of months we, the people of Christ-Trinity, have been busy in our community. Here are some of the ways we have reached out to share the love of God.

We shared gifts of food and funds with Open Door. We extended our pastoral reach to three families in need. We welcome the congregation of Bible Baptist Church to share our beautiful building. We maintain a serene yard for prayer, reflection, and play. We welcome the scouts of Pack and Troop 61. We share our large parking lot with the school and sports teams, stock the little free library, and host friends for recreation, social events, and meetings. Thank you so much for being the Church!

Centering Prayer Workshop

Calvary will host a Centering Prayer workshop on Saturday June 27th. Mtr. Rita Kendagor is an experienced retreat leader and will lead us in a day of prayer and going deeper with scripture. Watch for the sign up. The cost to attend is \$20 and includes lunch.

Come Join the Fun!

Let's glaze some bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser! On Saturday, June 27 at 2:00 pm, meet at The Art Room, 304 W. Main Street, at 2:00. It will take approximately an hour to glaze a bowl. Little or no artistic talent is necessary. After we finish, the bowls go into the kiln for a few days, then will be used during our fundraiser later this year for Open Door. A Thrivent grant will pay for the first dozen bowls, so let Andrea Eppenauer know if you are interested. If you cannot make it for the June 27 date, we will also meet there on Friday, July 10th at 3:00. Come to both, if you wish! We will have fun and will help out with the church's fundraiser!

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.

Discernment Weekends This Summer

The synod is hosting discernment weekends this summer. Each weekend is designed for anyone who may be feeling a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit to explore ministry in any capacity (lay, ordained or somewhere in between). There will be a chance to learn about lots of different options, ask questions, and spend time in prayer thinking about God's call on your own life. The next event will be June 19-20 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 442 W US Hwy 54, Camdenton, Mo. The event is free and hotel accommodations will be provided by the synod. See attached flyer. To register, visit:

www.css-elca.org/discernment.

For questions, contact Pastor Chad Langdon at 636-699-8747 or clangdon@css-elca.org.

Can't make it to this one? There are others throughout the synod. See the website (www.css-elca.org) for other dates and locations.

Questions? Ask Pastor Anne.



Prayer Requests

Floyd Hatfield, Mel Satnan, Roger, Tim, 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!

14 Betty Barnes

17 John Willadsen

24 Patrick Harrison

June Anniversaries

14 Pastors Anne and Mike Kyle

21 Floyd and Cathy Hatfield

23 Don and Linda Jo Huber

A Single Thought

We should be guided in all our works by this one thought alone—that we may serve and benefit others in everything that is done.

--Martin Luther

Mowing Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help mow the church grounds, especially in June. There is a mowing schedule on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. All of the equipment is here at the church – we just need your time and willingness. Please sign up if you can help.

Readings for Sundays in June

June 7 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 12: 1-9
- Psalm 33: 1-12
- Romans 4: 13-25
- Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

June 14 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 18: 1-15 [21: 1-7]
- Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19
- Romans 5: 1-8
- Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8 [9-23]

June 21 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 21: 8-21
- Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17
- Romans 6: 1b-11
- Matthew 10: 24-39

June 28 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 22: 1-14
- Psalm 13
- Romans 6: 12-23
- Matthew 10: 40-42

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!*