

# **The Covenant Renewal Service**

**Providence Reformed  
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126  
314-843-7994 [www.providencestlouis.com](http://www.providencestlouis.com)



**Trinity Season**  
*July 8, 2018*

# Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Join us downstairs for coffee after this morning's service.

All Sunday School classes are suspended for the summer months. You are invited to stay after the service for a bit and enjoy coffee and conversation down in the Fellowship Hall. Our Evening Prayer Service is at 6 PM tonight, followed by our first cookout on the church parking lot. Bring meat to grill, drinks, a side to share, and chairs to sit on.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: [www.providencestlouis.com](http://www.providencestlouis.com).

The **Lord's Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine (the grape juice has a darker color than the wine).

## The Tree of Life (*Front Cover*)



In the Bible, trees are given to man for food and medicine as well as beauty and shade. Trees are an emblem of God's glory in the world and so are fitting symbols of God's people. We can flourish "like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither" (Psalm 1:3). The growth of the kingdom is likened to a rising, spreading tree (Ezek. 17; Matt. 13:31-32). Adam's fall severed us from access to the Tree of Life, but united to Christ we again have access to its life-giving fruit (Rev. 22:2).

This is Trinity Season and so the color of the Table cloth and pulpit scarf is **green**, symbolizing life, growth, and the maturation of Jesus kingdom.

# The Morning Service

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The Lord's Day — July 8, 2018  
*Trinity Season*

**Preparation For Worship:** *Psalm 135*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

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## The Entrance

Prelude

Mr. Bill Hoover, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeff Meyers

[Kneeling] Silent Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship: *Psalm 135:1-3*

†Hymn #50 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

The Lord be with you!

*Ruth 2:4*

**And also with you!**

Your name, O Yahweh, endures forever,  
**your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages!**

*Psalm 135:13-14*

For Yahweh will vindicate his people  
**and have compassion on his servants!**

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord of life, by submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted up on a cross, you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Help us now to proclaim to the world the marvelous mystery of your death and resurrection, as you now live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, age after age. Amen!**

## Purification

†Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, let us draw near to God our Father with an honest heart and kneel and confess our sins, asking him to forgive us for Christ's sake:

Come let us worship and bow down.

*Psalm 95:6*

**And kneel before the Lord our Maker** [Congregation kneels]

Let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful Father, I have erred and strayed from your ways like a lost sheep. I have followed too much the devices and desires of my own heart. I have broken your gracious laws. I have left undone those things which I ought to have done; I have done those things which I ought not to have done. There is no health in me, but have mercy upon me, a miserable offender, O Lord. Spare me, heavenly Father, for I humbly confess my faults. Grant unto me the grace of repentance, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant, O most merciful God, for Christ's dear sake, that I may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of your holy name. *Silent prayer.* Amen!

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads, arise, and hear the good news. . . !

## Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**It is proper and right to do so.**

†Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†The Sanctus

*with vigor*  
*fff* Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven and earth are  
full of Your glo-ry! Ho - san - na in the High - est! Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

†Hymn of Praise: #197 "The day of resurrection" *Trinity Hymnal*

The Hebrew Scripture: *Deuteronomy 33:26-29*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The New Testament Reading: *2 Corinthians 1:3-11*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

†The Gospel Reading: *Luke 6:12-26*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,**

**Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,**

**and was made man; and was crucified also for us**

**under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;**

**and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven,**

**and sits on the right hand of the Father.**

**And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**And I look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

†The *Gloria Patri*

**Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!**

Sermon Text: *Psalms 6*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Sermon: **AT THE CLOSE OF A DISAPPOINTING DAY**

†Psalm 6

Strasbourg, Geneva, 1542

1. Chide me, O LORD, no long-er,  
Nor chas-ten me in an-ger.  
In mer-cy hear my groans;  
O LORD, see how I lan-guish.  
Heal Thou my bit-ter an-guish,  
For trou-bled are my bones.

**My soul is troubled greatly.  
O hasten Thou to aid me.  
Why dost Thou tarry, LORD?  
Turn back and show Thy favor;  
Me in Thy love deliver, According to Thy word!**

**How can the dead adore Thee  
Or bring their thanks before Thee,  
Or praise Thy holy Name?  
I'm weary with my moaning,  
Worn out with constant groaning  
And overcome with shame.**

**All night, instead of sleeping,  
I drench my couch with weeping.  
With grief my eyes grow weak,  
Since foes with hate surround me**

And without ceasing hound me;  
My ruin they all seek.

Depart from me, transgressors.  
Flee now, all you oppressors:  
The LORD did heed my cry!  
He heard my supplication,  
My plea for consolation,  
And with His help is nigh.

The LORD heard when I pleaded  
And my appeals He heeded.  
My foes shall be ashamed,  
For sudden fear shall shake them,  
And panic overtake them.  
Their doom has He proclaimed.

## **The Tribute Offering**

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

† [Hands Raised] The Doxology

*Trinity Hymnal*, p. xvi

† Offertory Prayer

Heavenly Father, as you have given yourself to us in the person of your dear Son, so we now offer up to you ourselves through our tithes and offerings. Accept these gifts in union with the sacrifice of Christ our Lord. Grant that they may be used for the advancement of your kingdom throughout the world.

Congregation: **Amen!**

And now we continue to pray as our Lord has taught us...

† [Hands Raised] The Lord's Prayer

## **The Sacrifice of Peace**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Bread of Life

Communion Hymn: #262 "God in the Gospel"

*Trinity Hymnal*

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Wine of Gladness

† The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): Luke 2:30-32

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the**

**Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

†Pastoral Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, we have set all our hopes on your promises, since you have promised to be our Savior and deliver us from our sins as well as from all of our enemies; now help us to live in such a way that you are honored both in this life and the life to come; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

## **Benediction**

†Hymn #200 "Come, ye faithful, raise the strain" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude

## **The Evening Prayer Service**

July 8, 2018 – 6 PM

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 11:16-24*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn #463 (*Psalms 130*) "From out of depths"

*Trinity Hymnal*

Opening Prayer & Hymn Singing

Scripture Reading & Message

Pastor Meyers

Prayer Requests & Prayer

†Hymn #349 "This night, O Lord, we bless thee"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction & Dismissal

## **Catechism of the Week**

### **The Heidelberg Catechism**

Q. 91. What do we do that is good?

A. Only that which arises out of true faith, conforms to God's law, and is done for his glory; and not that which is based on what we think is right or on established human tradition.

# Announcements

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## **Nursery Volunteers Today:**

Morning Service – Randy & Carolyn Stone  
Sunday School – Sunday School is suspended for the summer

## **Nursery Volunteers Next Week:**

Morning Service – Emily Spear

**Evening Service Tonight** — Our Evening Prayer Service meets tonight at 6 PM with a cookout immediately following on the church parking lot. Bring some meat to grill, drinks, a side to share (if you want), chairs, etc.

**New Covenant Child** — Congratulations to Matthew & Catie Hon! Eva Pauline Hon was born on Thursday, July 28. She was 6lbs, 15oz, and 19 inches long. Mother and daughter are both doing well! If you can help provide some meals for Matthew and Catie Hon, please contact Barb Hoover (314-504-3488).

**Men's Summer Discussion Fellowship** — The men's summer Bible study/fellowship continues on Wednesday, July 11. The meeting place will be announced via email. **We are reading and discussing of John Frame's new book** *Christianity Considered: A Guide for Skeptics and Seekers*.

**Facebook & Website** — Check out our Facebook page for links to interesting articles and other information. Our church website is [providencestlouis.com](http://providencestlouis.com). You can find sermon files and the directory there in the "members only" section. If you'd like the password to that section, please contact Pastor Meyers (and you don't need to be a member to get the password, just a regular attender).

**Summer WIC Event** — There will be a book discussion dinner Saturday, July 28, 6:30 pm at the home of Debbie Keane, 130 Tall Oaks Dr, Eureka. We will have an extended version of our regular book discussions including dinner, games, & prizes, along with the fun and lively discussion that we always enjoy! Plan to come - even if it's your first time! We will be discussing Tim Keller's Prodigal God. Don't miss out on the fun! Save the date now! Sign up sheet will be available July 10.

**VBS Teachers and Volunteers** — Looking for a great ministry opportunity this summer? Volunteer for VBS! We typically serve 60-100 kids each year and need your help! There are a variety of ways to be involved - no commitment is too small. See Anna More for more details or to volunteer. 314-600-3525 or [annahoegemann@gmail.com](mailto:annahoegemann@gmail.com).

## **Vacation Bible School 2018: Important Dates —**

July 8th - VBS staff meeting in the choir room immediately following morning worship.

July 15th - teacher work day for classroom set-up, 2-4 pm

July 16-20 - VBS, 9am-noon

July 20 - VBS closing program, 7pm

This year's Vacation Bible School will take place July 16-20, and your help is needed. If you are interested in volunteering, speak with Anna More. This year's Vacation Bible School will support HOPE Community Project. HOPE is hosting a Savers Fundrive (we did this last year too!). Donations of clothing and household goods will be weighed and Savers will pay cash for every ounce we bring in! See Debbie Keane or Anna More for details.

**Baby Shower for Anna More** — Ladies, please mark your calendars for a Baby Shower for Anna More on Thursday, August 2 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Carol Moore. Anna is registered at Amazon and Buy, Buy, Baby. Please see Barb Hoover or the WIC Table to sign the clipboard to attend and/or provide help. Thank you!

## **Church Calendar**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Today             | VBS Staff meeting after morning service<br>Evening service at 6 PM<br>Cookout afterward |
| July 10           | Deacon's Meeting  |
| July 16-20        | Vacation Bible School   |
| Saturday, July 28 | WIC Book Discussion   |
| Sunday, August 5  | Fellowship Brunch after morning service   |

# The Lord's Service Explained

## *The Absolution*

After kneeling to confess our sins we rise to hear the declaration of forgiveness, often called "the absolution." To be absolved from the guilt of our sins is a formal, ministerial declaration of God's forgiveness. This gracious declaration of God is proclaimed by the minister, usually with a simple traditional formula of absolution or a short portion of God's Word that announces God's grace to those that confess their sins and trust in Jesus.

The intent of the absolution at the beginning of the Christian liturgy is to communicate very simply and powerfully to the gathered church that God in Christ forgives us and now receives us into his glorious presence. Forgiveness is announced by the Pastor who has been ordained by God to represent Christ to the people during the worship service. John Calvin applies John 20:19-23 to the ordinary office of the ministry:

We now see the reason why Christ employs such magnificent terms, to commend and adorn that ministry which he bestows and enjoins on the Apostles. It is, that believers may be fully convinced, that what they hear concerning the forgiveness of sins is ratified, and may not less highly value the reconciliation *which is offered by the voice of men*, than if God himself stretched out his hand from heaven. And the church daily receives the most abundant benefit from this teaching, when it perceives that her pastors are divinely ordained to be sureties for eternal salvation, and that it must not go to a distance to seek the forgiveness of sins, which is committed to their trust.

Therefore, the word of forgiveness from the Pastor is a gift to the congregation so that they don't have "go to a distance to seek the forgiveness of sins."

The absolution is not a mini-sermon. It doesn't contain "illustrations" or quotations from famous Christians. This is not the place for the Pastor to tell stories or create rhetorically artful phrases in order to adorn the declaration and "make it stick." Why not? Because the absolution is designed to be heard by the congregation as the voice of their heavenly Father. It is not about some interesting or compelling personal story told by the Pastor or some cool quotation from a clever Christian author or theologian. We leave the voice of Augustine or John Calvin or C.S. Lewis out of it. The Pastor is not speaking on the authority of some Christian expert; neither is he speaking on his own authority. He should not be propping up God's declaration of forgiveness with either the authority of famous Christians or of a heart-warming story. If any of that is appropriate in Christian worship, it belongs in the sermon.

The Pastor simply and powerfully proclaims the forgiveness of sins and each member of the congregation is thereby challenged to *believe* that this is God's word of assurance to them personally. Feeling forgiven or sensing it in some mystical way *may* happen during the absolution, but it is not to be expected. By *faith* we trust we are forgiven by God even, maybe especially when we have no immediate sense or feeling that it is so. This is what true faith is all about.

# Officers and Resource People

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## The Session (Pastor & Elders)

|                        |              |                    |              |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers | 314-374-5258 | Ken Pratt          | 314-803-2340 |
| Tom Hanley             | 314-750-0203 | Monte Shields      | 314-681-1378 |
| Robert Murphy          | 314-705-7445 | John Moore (Clerk) | 314-849-0597 |
| Joel Montgomery        | 314-795-5678 | Jason Carter       | 636-222-8655 |

## The Deacons

|                      |              |                 |              |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Daryl Hoegemann      | 314-714-9270 | Todd Tageson    | 314-892-8982 |
| Liessman Sturlaugson | 314-323-5589 | Phillip Johnson | 314-502-3828 |
| Skip Jaeggi          | 314-631-4394 | Bob Wooldridge  | 314-369-5204 |
| Dan Hayes            | 314-807-6129 | Alan Handermann | 314-651-5010 |

## Women in the Church Officers & Department Heads

|  |              |  |              |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| President: Bo Hanley                                 | 314-283-0674 | Nursery: Ginny Sturlaugson             | 281-898-8192 |
| VP: Marylynne Handermann                             | 828-231-0490 | Bethel: Cassie Linton, Denise Gerstung |              |
| Secretary: Debbie Keane                              | 314-249-3108 | Kitchen: Kathy Pratt.                  | 314-856-5778 |
| Treasurer: Luz Wooldridge                            | 314-443-8312 | Maggie Montgomery                      | 314-283-0319 |
| Prayer Chain: Debbie Zintel                          | 314-221-8913 | Hospitality: Barb Hoover               | 314-504-3488 |
| <a href="mailto:dzintel@msn.com">dzintel@msn.com</a> |              | Wedding Coordinator: Barb Hoover       |              |

## Church Staff

|  |                  |  |              |
|--|------------------|--|--------------|
| Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers                                   | 314-842-9329 (O) | Catie Skogen (Secretary)   | 214-850-1904 |
| <a href="mailto:jeffmeyers@me.com">jeffmeyers@me.com</a>   | 314-374-5258 (C) | <a href="mailto:catieskogen@gmail.com">catieskogen@gmail.com</a>   |              |
| Mr. Caleb Skogen (Youth Pastor)                            |                  | Jeffrey Meyers, Jr. (Bookkeeper)                                   |              |
| <a href="mailto:cskoge10@yahoo.com">cskoge10@yahoo.com</a> | 910-639-3239     | <a href="mailto:jeffmeyersjr@gmail.com">jeffmeyersjr@gmail.com</a> | 314-372-7005 |
| Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)                                   | 314-540-2427     |  |              |

## Pastoral Interns

|               |              |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Joel Nelson   | 573-825-1104 | Caleb Skogen  | 910-639-3239 |
| Robert Murphy | 314-705-7445 | Dylan Stinson | 615-844-8115 |

## Home and Foreign Ministries

|                            |                 |                           |                      |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Jamison & Laura Galt       | New York City   | Nick McDonald             | RUF Univ of Missouri |
| Shane & Kim Gibson         | New Orleans, LA | Graham & Sarah Purcell    | MTW (Russia)         |
| Emad & Michelle Mikhail    | Middle East     | Cody & Molly Dotson       | Brooklyn, NY         |
| Dan & Becky Young          | Mexico          | Ryan & Erin Van Horn      | Chattanooga, TN      |
| Blake & Cathy Purcell      | Russia          | Georgette                 | Burundi, Africa      |
| Brian & Jessie Steadman    | New York City   | Hope Community Project    | Haiti                |
| Khen & Ruth Tombing        | India           | Missouri Presbytery (PCA) |                      |
| (Covenant Children's Home) |                 | Theopolis Institute       | Birmingham, AL       |