

The Covenant Renewal Service

Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
(314) 843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



Pentecost Season

September 5, 2010

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. Please join us downstairs for coffee after this morning's service.

Sunday School classes have been suspended for the summer months. Please use the rest of the Lord's Day to show hospitality and enjoy the day of rest the Lord has provided. There will be no evening service tonight. Next week we will have Parish Group meetings in the afternoon and evening.

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.providencestl.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.)

Holy Trinity Diagram (Front Cover)



No symbol can adequately comprehend the richness of the reality and abundant life of our Triune God. The shield on the front cover depicts something of the Unity in Trinity and Trinity in Unity that is the living and true God in whom we trust. At the center of the circle is *Deus* (Latin for "God"). **Reading out from the center along the three spokes the unity of the Godhead is represented:** *Deus est Pater* = God is the Father and the Father is God, *Deus est Filius* = God is the Son and the Son is God, *Deus est*

Spiritus Sanctus = God is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is God. **Reading around the circumference of the circle the distinctions between the Persons are noted:** *Pater non est Filius* = The Father is not the Son, *Filius non est Spiritus Sanctus* = The Son is not the Holy Spirit, *Spiritus Sanctus non est Pater* = The Holy Spirit is not the Father.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — September 5, 2010
Pentecost Season

Preparation For Worship: *Psalm 149*

Organ - Mrs. Joanie Harris

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation

Call to Worship: *Psalm 149:1*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

†Hymn#70 "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

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

Congregation: **Amen!**

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

I rejoiced when they said to me,

Psalm 122:1

"Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

This is the day the Lord has made!

Psalm 118:24

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your glorious Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

The Purification

†Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and righteous, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Accordingly, the Scriptures move us in many places to acknowledge and confess our many transgressions and sins. Therefore I exhort all who are here today, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice, to the throne of heavenly grace.

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, I confess to you that I am by nature sinful and unclean, and that I am most miserably helpless before my adversaries.

I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires that I am not able to understand, but which are all known to you.

For this reason, I flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your forgiveness and deliverance, through my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Our heavenly Father, in his great mercy, has given his only Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins; so as Christ's minister and in his authority, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Rite of Christian Baptism

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 18:1-14*

Parental Vows: *Paul & Crystal Schmidt*

Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God's covenant promises in his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you now present this child to be baptized into the Christian Faith, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with him and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vows

Do you, members of this congregation and also members of the Body of Christ outside of this local church, undertake this responsibility assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Holy Baptism: *Everett Gideon Schmidt*

Prayer: *Pastor Tim LeCroy*

†We Sing: *The Lorica*

The Lorica

ST. PATRICK

Traditional Irish Melody

In unison, with energy

1 I bind un - to my - self to - day The strong Name
 2 I bind this day to me for ev - er, By power of
 *3 I bind un - to my - self the power Of the great
 *4 I bind un - to my - self to - day The vir - tues
 *5 I bind un - to my - self to - day The power of

1 of the Tri - ni - ty, By in - vo - ca - tion
 2 faith, Christ's In - car - na - tion; His bap - tism in the
 3 love of cher - u - bim; The sweet "Well done" in
 4 of the star - lit heav'n, The glo - rious sun's life -
 5 God to hold and lead, His eye to watch, his

1 of the same, The Three in One, and One in Three.†
 2 Jor - dan riv - er; His death on cross for my sal - va - tion;
 3 judg - ment hour; The ser - vice of the ser - a - phim;
 4 giv - ing ray, The white - ness of the moon at even,
 5 might to stay, His ear to heark - en to my need;

†Stanza 1 ends here; the following stanzas continue on the next page

2 His burst - ing from the spi - ced tomb; His ri - ding
 3 Con - fess - ors' faith, a - pos - tles' word, The pa - triarchs'
 4 The flash - ing of the light - ning free, The whirl - ing
 5 The wis - dom of my God to teach, His hand to

2 up the heav'n - ly way; His com - ing at the
 3 prayers, the pro - phets' scrolls; All good deeds done un -
 4 wind's tem - pes - tuous shocks, The sta - ble earth, the
 5 guide, his shield to ward; The word of God to

2 day of doom: I bind un - to my - self to - day.
 3 to the Lord, And pu - ri - ty of ran - somed souls.
 4 deep salt sea, A - round the old un - dy - ing rocks.
 5 give me speech, His heav'n - ly host to be my guard.

DEIRDRE**Traditional Irish Melody***In harmony, with breadth*

6 Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,
Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,

Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

ST. PATRICK

7 I bind un-to my-self the Name, The strong Name

of the Tri-ni-ty; By in-vo-ca-tion

of the same, The Three in One, and One in Three.

Of whom all na - ture hath cre - a - tion; E - ter - nal

Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Word: Praise to the Lord of

In harmony
my sal - va - tion, Sal - va - tion is of Christ the Lord. A-men.

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ST. PATRICK, 372-466; Tr. CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER, 1885

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Ascension

The Hebrew Scriptures: *Joshua 7:1-26*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Acts 4:34–5:11*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *John 8:42-45*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†The *Gloria Patri*

Sermon Text: *Acts 4:34–5:11*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: **IS NOTHING SACRED ANYMORE?**

XIII. EXPOSITION OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

† [HANDS RAISED] The *Doxology*

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

† Prayer for the Church

O God, in mercy remember your inheritance, and do not forget your beloved church. You are our Redeemer and the one who lifts up our head, and under the shadow of your wings we shall find our shelter and our rest.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hear our petitions.

Preserve, O God, your church in holiness and truth, in unity and peace. May she ever advance the honor of her Lord, forever represent His sacrifice, glorify His Person, and advance His kingdom, that being accepted by you, and filled with the Spirit, she may partake of her Lord's glory.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hear our petitions.

Give the spirit of justice and righteousness to all Christian rulers and magistrates; grant that people may obey them, and that they may obey you. Especially we pray for our President and Congress, that they might conform their judgments more and more to your holy law, and further your kingdom in this world, the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hear our petitions.

Give to your servants, pastors, elders and deacons, the spirit of patience and humility, of holiness and diligence, of prudence and courage, to declare your will by a pure life and wise words, that they may minister to the good of souls, and find the reward of the Master's approval at His coming.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hear our petitions.

Give protection to all widows and orphans, patience and submission to the sick, consolation to the afflicted, that they may be rewarded by your comforts for the days wherein they have suffered adversity [*here the congregation may offer sentence prayers for friends and loved ones*].

Have mercy upon us, O God, and hear our petitions.

Give unto our enemies your forgiveness, charity towards us, and love for Thee. Bring the nations to repentance, and all your saints to perfect love and holiness; bring the world to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and all the benefits of His passion; to the glory of His name.

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers.

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

We Feast at the Lord's Table

Hymn: #100 (*Psalms 132*) "Arise, O Lord"

Trinity Hymnal

Pastoral Benediction: "Now may the body and blood of our Lord. . ."

Congregation: **Amen!**

†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 hast 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.

Psalms 136:1-3

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

Pastoral Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death and from the fear of all our enemies. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn#247 “Come, O come” *Trinity Hymnal* (Tune of #127)

†The Lord’s Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Postlude

†Greet One Another!

Sermon Notes & Prayer Requests

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nursery Volunteers, Thank You!

Today's Volunteers:

Morning Service – Wood

Evening Service – No Evening Worship

Next Sunday's Volunteers:

Morning Service – Hiers

Sunday School – Gerstung

Evening Service – Montgomery

Women's Fall Bible Study — Ladies! Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 9th, from 9:30 -11 AM and plan to join us as we continue studying the Book of Acts with Pastor Meyers. Please sign up at the WIC Table in the Narthex if you are interested and especially if you need childcare (which is provided). Questions? Contact Judy Linton.

Providence Fall Men's Retreat — On Friday, September 10th, starting at 7 PM, and 11th, from 9 AM - 1:30 PM, Providence will hold a retreat for men in the church. The cost is \$10, and the speaker will be Luke Brouwer. Luke is a Covenant seminary graduate and Ministry Director for Sanctuary St. Louis, a local Christian ministry. The topic for the retreat, which will be held at the church building, will be "True Masculinity." All men are welcome, including non-Providence members!

Sunday School — It's that time again! We look forward to another year of God's blessing on the Christian education of our children beginning September 12th. Our memory booklets are in draft for this year and will be ready for distribution the first week of Sunday School, along with the recitation schedule.

Parish Groups — On Sunday, September 12, our regular evening service and cookout time will be suspended so that our parish groups can meet together after the morning service for a meal, fellowship and prayer. Please plan on eating with your parish group that day!

Welcome Baby Judah Barry Anderson! — Congratulations to the Anderson Family on their newest addition of Judah Barry. Judah was born on September 1, at 6:40 AM weighing 7 lbs, 13 oz.

Welcome Baby Charlotte Greeno! — Congratulations to the Greeno Family on their newest addition of Charlotte Renae Greeno. Charlotte was born on August 23rd. She weighed 9 lbs, 6 oz and measured 21 inches.

Welcome Baby Everett Schmidt! — Congratulations to the Schmidt Family on their newest addition of Everett Gideon Schmidt. Everett was born on Monday, August 23rd. He weighed 8 lbs, 5 oz and measured 20.5 inches.

Announcements

Choir — The fall Choir season is coming, and we'd love to have you join us! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 P.M. during the school year (September-May). Our first rehearsal will be September 15. We sing during morning worship several times a month and also during three special evening services: Reformation Sunday (Oct. 31), Christmas Lessons and Carols (Dec. 19), and Good Friday (Apr. 22). The choir is open to all adults (including college-age; please come!) and high school juniors and seniors. We always have room for new members, so come and give it a try! For more information, contact Bill Hoover (314-540-2427, billhoover@fastmail.net). P.S. - If you are an accomplished instrumentalist, please let Bill know; several of our pieces have instrumental accompaniment.

Church Calendar

September 9	Women's Fall Bible Study Begins
September 10-11	Men's Retreat
September 12	Sunday School Resumes/Parish Groups Meet

Sermon Notes & Prayer Requests

The Lord's Service Explained

We Come to Church to Receive

Some say that we don't come to church on Sunday to get anything from God but simply to give him praise. It's all about praising God, not getting something from God. But to reduce the purpose of the assembly on Sunday to "praise" is dangerously one-sided. Not only is the super-spiritual-sounding assertion that "we just gather together to give praise to God taking no interest in what we might get from him" unbiblical, it may also easily lead to arrogance, and often has. In our tradition pastors and theologians are particularly vulnerable to this distortion of the purpose of worship. The slogan "we gather for worship to give not to get" has become something of a shibboleth. We love to beat other traditions over the head with it. It makes us feel superior. As if we don't go to church because we need anything! We Presbyterians go to church to give God glory and honor, not to get something from him. This kind of thinking is extremely dangerous.

For us, as *creatures* of God, there can be no such thing as "disinterested praise." We simply cannot love or praise God for who he is apart from what he has given us or what we continue to receive from him. We are not his equals. The notion that pure love and worship of God can only be given when it is unmixed with all thoughts of what we receive, has no biblical grounding. To be sure, it sounds very spiritual and pious. It even comes across as self-denial. "We just want to praise you for who you are, God. We love you and praise you, O God, not for what we get from you, but just for who you are." Sound's pretty pious, right?

In fact, however, there is no such worship in the Bible for the simple fact that we cannot approach God as disinterested, self-sufficient beings. We are created beings. Dependent creatures. We must continually receive both our life and redemption from God. Our "worship" of God, for this reason, necessarily involves our passive reception of his gifts as well as our active thanksgiving and petitions. We cannot pretend that we do not depend upon him. We will always be receivers and petitioners before God. Our receptive posture is as ineradicable as our nature as dependent creatures. On Sunday we put ourselves in a position to be served by him. Recognizing this is true spirituality. Opening oneself up to the need for God's service is the first movement in our "worship," indeed, the presupposition of all corporate worship. It is faith's posture before our all-sufficient, beneficent Lord. Praise follows after this and alone can never be the exclusive purpose for our gathering together on the Lord's Day.

Catechism of the Week

The Heidelberg Catechism – Q. 90

Q. How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

A. That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	John Moore	314-984-9869
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Ken Pratt	314-416-1176
Rev. Josh Anderson (Assoc)	314-968-5114	Monte Shields	314-849-0597
Jason Carter	636-257-2441	Brad Wood (Clerk)	636-587-9211
Joel Montgomery	314-984-8074		

The Deacons

Jack Boeve (Chairman)	636-461-1398	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bill Coller	314-726-6799	Paul Svezia	314-406-9101
Rick Gibbs	636-451-3463	Rodney Weedman	314-846-0210
Dan Hayes	314-984-9814	Bob Wooldridge	314-963-9671
Daryl Hoegemann	314-962-4874		

Women in the Church Officers

President: Denise Gerstung	314-821-9324	Nursery: Kathy Pratt	314-416-1176
Vice President: Judy Linton	636-349-9028	Anne Hiers	314-543-3010
Secretary/Treasurer:		Bethel: Rachel LeCroy	314-604-2089
Lori Shaffer	314-843-1964	Kitchen: Rosamma Weston	314-205-2018
Committee Coordinator:		Tracy Boeve	636-461-1398
Rhonda Hoard	636-938-3575	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
WIC advisor: Joanie Harris	636-394-6896	Joanie Harris	636-394-6896
Prayer Chain: Doris Daily	314-961-8799	Amanda Cone	314-497-7950
Carolann Van Heest	314-966-5732	Wedding Coordinator:	
Brenda Svezia	svezia@sbcglobal.net	Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Missions: Debbie Keane	636-938-3108		

Church Staff

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Rev. Tim Weston	314-205-2018 (Home)
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Pastor to International Students	814-2019 (Cell)
Rev. Joshua Anderson	314-814-5213 (Home)	Rev. Timothy LeCroy (Ast. Pastor)	314-604-2088
Associate Pastor	314-814-5213 (Cell)	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)	Melanie Carter (Secretary)	636-271-7288
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)		

Pastoral Interns

Phillip Bozarth	270-313-6245	Scott Pitts	314-974-1364
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Home and Foreign Ministries

Ross Dixon	RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia
Garrett & Michelle Crow	Santa Clarita, CA	John & Cathy Rug	Chile
Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Lian & Clara Tombing	India
Bryan Walker	US Army Chaplain	Marcus Toole	Canada
Daniel & Stephanie McKinney	Salt Lake City	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (St. Louis)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Dan & Becky Young	Mexico