

# 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)



**Pentecost Season**  
*September 2, 2012*

# 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.

**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. Enjoy the day of rest with family and friends.

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.)

## 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

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The Lord's Day — September 2, 2012

*Pentecost Season*

**Preparation For Worship:** *Deuteronomy 6:1-6*

Organ - Mrs. Joanie Harris

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

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## The Entrance

Prelude

Mrs. Joanie Harris

Welcome & Announcements

[Kneeling] Silent Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Pastor: Let us rise and worship God, in the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen!**

†Hymn #89 "Come, thou Almighty King"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

The Lord be with you!

*Ruth 2:4*

**And also with you!**

This is the day the Lord has made!

*Psalms 118:24*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in your great mercy you adopted us for as own. Quicken your Spirit within us, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth and serve you with thankfulness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

## 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 a humble voice, unto the throne of heavenly grace.

Come let us worship and bow down.

*Psalm 95:6*

**And kneel before the Lord our Maker [Kneel]**

Let us confess our sins:

**Most merciful God, I confess to you  
that I am by nature sinful and unclean,  
and that 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 grace,  
through my Lord Jesus Christ. *Silent Prayer. Amen.***

†Pastor: Now arise and hear the good news!

Brothers and sisters, your sins are forgiven and your lives are rescued in our Lord Jesus Christ. Believe this and rejoice!

## **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 good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, who with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. 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



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

The OT Reading: *Exodus 6:2-9*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

The New Testament Reading: *Colossians 1:9-14*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

†The Gospel Reading: *John 8:46-59*

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*

Sermon Text: *Deuteronomy 5:1-7*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: NO MERE HIGHER POWER – THE FIRST WORD

II. EXPOSITION OF THE DECALOGUE

Silent Reflection on the Preaching of God’s Word

†Hymn of Response: *Luther’s sung version of the Nicene Creed*

1 We all be - lieve in one true God, Who cre - at - ed  
 2 We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ, His own Son, our  
 3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who, in high - est

earth and heav - en, The Fa - ther, who to us in love  
 Lord, pos - sess - ing An e - qual God - head, throne, and might,  
 heav - en dwell - ing With God the Fa - ther and the Son,

Has the right of chil - dren giv - en. He in soul and  
 Source of ev - 'ry grace and bless - ing; Born of Mar - y,  
 Com - forts us be - yond all tell - ing; Who the Church, His

bod - y feeds us; All we need His hand pro - vides us;  
 vir - gin moth - er, By the pow - er of the Spir - it,  
 own cre - a - tion, Keeps in u - ni - ty of spir - it.

Through all snares and per - ils leads us, Watch - ing that no  
 Word made flesh, our el - der broth - er; That the lost might  
 Here for - give - ness and sal - va - tion Dai - ly come through

harm be - tide us. He cares for us by  
 life in - her - it, Was cru - ci - fied for  
 Je - sus' mer - it. All flesh shall rise, and

day and night; All things are gov - erned by His might.  
 all our sin And raised by God to life a - gain.  
 we shall be In bliss with God e - ter - nal - ly.

## The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

†[Hands Raised] The *Doxology*

*Trinity Hymnal*, p. xvi

†[Hands Raised] The Lord's Prayer

## The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Communion in the Body of Christ

Hymn #76 "With grateful heart my thanks I bring" *Trinity Hymnal*

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Wine of Gladness

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

†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: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto your servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and also that we, being defended by you from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

## Benediction

†Hymn #53 "Hallelujah, praise Jehovah"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

# Announcements

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## **Today's Nursery Volunteers:**

Morning Service – Kheyly Murrell, Erin Van Horn, Melanie Carter

## **Next Week's Nursery Volunteers**

Morning Service – Boeve

Evening Prayer Service – Weston

**Bridal Shower** — Ladies, join us for a bridal shower for Julie Meyers on Saturday, September 8 at 10:30 AM at PRPC. Julie and Danny are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Crate & Barrel. IKEA gift cards would also be appreciated. See Donna Carter if you would like to contribute to a group gift or Lori Shaffer if you would like to assist with the shower.

**Sunday School and Time Changes on Sunday, September 9** — We will continue our 10 AM meeting time for morning worship service when Sunday school begins on Sunday, September 9th. Sunday School for both adults and children will begin at 11:40 AM after a brief time of fellowship and will end at 12:30 PM. The elders encourage everyone to start the Fall season off with prompt attendance at the beginning of the morning service. If we begin the service at 10 AM sharp we will be able to finish by 11:15.

**Note the change of date! Men of the Covenant meeting** — Plan on meeting with us on the evening of September 18 for a discussion based on Peter Leithart's new book *Between Babel and Beast: America and Empires in Biblical Perspective*. Pastor Meyers should have some copies available for purchase (\$20). Feel free to purchase the book from another source if you can find it. We'll be talking about Part 1 (pp. 1-53), which is an outline of the theology of "empire" in the Bible, from Babel to Jesus' ascension. You won't have to read the book to benefit from the discussion. Pastor Meyers plans to have 3 MOC meetings to talk about each of the three parts. TBA on the meeting place.

**A New Members & Inquirers Sunday School class** will begin on September 9th at the home of Pastor Meyers. The class will start at 11:40 AM and will conclude at 12:25 so that parents may return to pick up their children from the nursery. If you are a recent visitor or a relatively new member that has not taken this class in the past, you should have received an email from Pastor Meyers inviting you to attend.



**Meaning of Marriage Fall Book Study** — This fall the session encourages the congregation to consider attending a small group book study examining the meaning and importance of Christian Marriage. We will be reading and discussing Tim Keller's new book "The Meaning of Marriage." There will be several small groups available for you to join (all discussing this book), each meeting on different nights of the week and in different locations (beginning in mid-September and ending before Thanksgiving). You don't have to be married to participate in and benefit from this study! More details to come shortly. Please see Pastor Anderson if you have any questions.

**Fall Bible Study for ALL Women** — The starting date for this fall's Bible study is September 13, 2012; 9:30 until 11 AM. Plan to attend this special time of study, spiritual growth, and great fellowship (with good coffee, tea and home made goodies). Childcare will be provided. Sign up at the WIC table in the narthex and please include your children's names that will be attending with you. If you have any questions, call Dottie Devlin (314-541-4134).

**Back to School Breakfast** — Women in the church are invited to a Back to School Breakfast on Saturday, September 22, 9-10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be eating, visiting and praying for this school year. Volunteer babysitters are needed. Any questions ask Anne Hiers or Ken Pratt.

**Coffee Set Up Volunteer Needed** — Thanks to the Gibbs & Pratts for their faithful service by making coffee. We are now looking for new volunteers. Volunteers need only to come in one half hour early to prepare the coffee, clean up afterward, and only serve once a month. If you are interested see Rosamma Weston or Tracy Boeve.

**Directory Update** — Please note Jeremy & Brandy Sexton's cell numbers had been printed incorrectly. Here are the correct numbers:  
Brandy's cell 314-882-6358, Jeremy's cell 314-882-6398

## **Church Calendar**

Sept 8	Bridal Shower for Julie Meyers
Sept 9	Sunday School Resumes
Sept 11	Men of the Covenant
Sept 13	Ladies' Bible Study Resumes
Sept 22	Ladies' Back to School Breakfast
Sept 23	Parish Groups Meet

# **Sermon Notes and Prayer Requests**

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# **The Lord's Service Explained**

## **The *Sursum Corda***

After we receive the forgiveness of sins, God's purified people are invited to come nearer. Just as the sacrificial animal is brought near the altar in preparation for his being drawn into the fire as food for God and, likewise, just as the Ascension follows the Purification, so now the Christian worshiper ascends into heaven to praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to hear the Lord's verbal instruction in preparation for his fellowship meal with God. Appropriately, therefore, the *sursum corda* (Latin: "lift up your hearts") comes at this point in the service.

The "heart" here stands for the center of the whole man. The purpose of the *sursum corda*, therefore, is not to elicit an "emotional" response. We are not being summoned to work up "feelings" about the Lord. We may experience certain emotions at this point in the service or not. But how we feel must be transcended by what we know by faith is happening in the liturgy. When the pastor calls out, "Lift up your hearts," the congregation is being summoned to accept by faith our heavenly positioning in Christ. The Lord has forgiven us and now invites us "in close" to praise him and hear his life-giving Word. This is objectively true whether we feel like it or not. Although everything may still "look" the same, by faith we understand that the roof of the church has been rolled back not only to expose the heavenly service in progress but also to incorporate us into it. Cherubim and seraphim, angels and archangels, together with the church triumphant are now "visible" to the eye of faith. Heaven and earth are now joined and we have been ushered into the festal assembly gathered around the throne of the Lamb (Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 4-5). We lift up our hearts to the Lord!

Following the *sursum corda*, the people give thanks to God the Father for his glorious grace. This prayer, led by the pastor, reminds them that they are now joining in the chorus of praise before the throne of God. When one makes the ascent into God's presence one starts singing. Singing is a means of ascent. This is when the music and singing began in the temple liturgy—when the Ascension begins (see 2 Chron. 29:27-28). Now is when we sing the Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy") and another hymn that provides the congregation with the opportunity to participate in the praise offered around the throne of God and the Lamb in heaven. Hymns of praise based on the Rev. 4:8 ("Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty"), Rev. 4:11 ("Worthy are you, our Lord and God"), or Rev. 5:9 ("Worthy is the Lamb who was slain") are particularly appropriate.

## **Catechism of the Week**

### **The Heidelberg Catechism**

Q. 45 How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

- A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death.  
Second, by his power we too are already resurrected to a new life.  
Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

# 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.)	314-814-5213	Monte Shields (Clerk)	314-849-0597
Jason Carter	636-257-2441	Allan Wamsley	314-560-9602
Richard Hiers	314-543-3010		

## The Deacons

Jack Boeve (Chairman)	636-461-1398	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bryan Carter	636-271-7288	Pat Staebel	314-303-4369
Rick Gibbs	636-451-3463	Paul Svezia	314-406-9101
Dan Hayes	314-984-9814	Bob Wooldridge	314-963-9671
Daryl Hoegemann	314-962-4874		

## Women in the Church Officers

President: Lu Greeno	618-538-5885	Bethel:	Cassie Linton, Denise Gerstung, Crystal Schmidt, Marianne Pitts, Vivienne Greeno
Vice President: Dottie Devlin	314-821-0360		
Secretary/Treasurer: Erin VanHorn		Kitchen: Rosamma Weston	314-205-2018
Prayer Chain: Doris Daily	314-961-8799	Tracy Boeve	636-461-1398
Carolán Van Heest	314-966-5732	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Brenda Svezia	svezia@sbcglobal.net	Deborah Shields	314-849-0597
Nursery: Christine Greeno	618-514-0935	Wedding Coordinator: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Melanie Greeno	518-926-9046		

## 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	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
Pastor of Congregational Care & Discipleship		Melanie Carter (Secretary)	636-271-7288
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)		
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)		

## Pastoral Interns

Matt Teeselink	563-579-3674	Steve Schleppehorst	217-257-2592
Ryan Van Horn	314-620-3744		

## 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