

The Peace

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us take a few moments to greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

Doxology

Great Thanksgiving

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Communion

pages 496 and 497

This Sunday we again offer healing prayer, anointing, and laying on of hands for healing. You may also ask to be anointed on behalf of another who needs healing or is troubled.

Prayer After Communion

God of mercy, God of grace, we bless and praise you for nourishing us with this Easter feast of redemption. Fill us with your Spirit, and make us living signs of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Community Sharing

Offering

Hymn Of Response We Give Thee But Thine Own 360

Hymn Of Dismissal For Your Generous Providing URW 82

Dismissal With Blessing

Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor; and may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Next Week's Readings: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Preaching This Week: Eric Nord

Preaching Next Week: Judy Cox

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Call To Worship Come, Sing With Joy To God URW 292

Greeting

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the people.

We will sing praises to you among the nations.

Hymn Of Praise Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above URW 70

Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power

and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all his praise? Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them; that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage. ... Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly. They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image. They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. Therefore he said he would destroy them—had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

URW 100

Second Lesson

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which

surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

URW 402

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

R: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

R: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Prayers Of The People

TOWARD A THEOLOGY OF HEALING, BRIEFLY

Healing is a feature of full salvation; like salvation, it results from God and God's church working together. Healing is the work of the church, and takes place under God's sovereignty in the church's life and worship. The church supports the healing ministry of family, friends, and medical professionals in prayer and by visiting the sick. It provides regular services of healing following the pattern in James 5: “[The] sick ... should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.” Under God’s sovereign care will every prayer be answered as we request, every time, right away?—probably not. Some will be healed by medicine, some by rest, recuperation and care, and others by better habits and new information. And some will be healed by the working together of the sovereign action of God through the engagement of the faith of the church and the laying on of hands. Some will not be healed in this life; all can be saved.

“God heals sometimes, God saves always.” (Sam Wells)

THEOLOGY OF PREACHING AT ST. PAUL’S

St. Paul’s submits to the authority of Christian Scripture. We preach from the lectionary, attending to the full witness of the Bible. In our preaching, we practice a “rotating pulpit” approach because we believe diverse Christian perspectives and voices are gifts from God. In hearing God’s word preached by pastors and lay people, students and professors, old and young, women and men, we become the people of God. We celebrate the ways in which the Holy Spirit challenges, comforts, surprises, confronts, and embraces us through the sermon. Our faithful response to what God is saying to us requires honesty, humility, and courage. Even in our human and feeble efforts to speak on God’s behalf, God proves faithful in addressing us, helping us become the reconciled and restored people of God in our time and place.

ST. PAUL’S PRAYS WITHOUT CEASING

Join us in Morning Prayer **Monday-Friday 7:30-8:00am** in the sanctuary for prayer, Scripture and Communion.

GODLY PLAY TRAINING NEXT WEEKEND

Might YOU enjoy spending an hour Sunday mornings **sharing the stories of God and the Church’s traditions with our children?** You might belong on our Godly Play team as a storyteller! **Godly Play Training (required of storytellers)** will be offered in **Freeport, IL, from this Friday, Oct. 20 (1:00pm) to Sunday, Oct. 22 (4:30pm).** **St. Paul’s pays all costs**—meals, registration, lodging, and transportation. For more details please email stpaulsfmc@gmail.com--**registration closes tomorrow!**

COMPANIONSHIP TRAINING SAT., OCT. 28

Companionship/listening training will be offered **Saturday, Oct. 28, 10-12**, with coffee and breakfast from 9:30-10. Learn about practices of **hospitality, neighboring, journeying side by side, listening, and accompanying.** A special emphasis will include “**empathic listening**” (listening to understand). **Email stpaulsfmc@gmail.com to register**, or with questions.

BOXES OF MACARONI & CHEESE WANTED!

Please help us as we begin to collect **350 boxes** of **macaroni and cheese (7.25 oz.** size, please) to contribute to the **Holiday Food Baskets**, which the Bond County Ministerial Alliance provides to families in need shortly after Thanksgiving. These will be collected in the mural room.

BRINGING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

If you have skills you could bring in **directing vocal music**, and/or **playing keyboard and guitar**, St. Paul’s would gladly and thankfully receive them! Please email Pastor Judy at stpaulsfmc@gmail.com

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN BOND COUNTY

Our local food pantry urgently needs **soups, canned pasta meals, mac-n-cheese, and peanut butter and jelly.** Please place your **non-perishable** donations (food and toiletries) in the **box** in the mural room.

TRIVIA FUNDRAISER FOR THE SIMPLE ROOM

The **Simple Room's** 3rd Annual **Trivia Night & Silent Auction** Fundraiser will be **Sat., November 4th**, in the First Christian Church Gym (1100 Killarney Dr.) 8 - 10 people per team, \$10 per person. Doors open at 6:30pm, trivia starts at 7:00pm. Soda and water for sale; bring snacks.

Limited childcare will be available, by previous arrangement, for children already potty-trained; call 618.664.2894 or email info@simpleroom.org to reserve a childcare spot(s).

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

You may send aid to those recovering from the hurricanes in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean via the (FMC-USA) Bishops' Relief Fund. For more information see these websites:

<http://fmcusa.org/fmmissions/puerto-rico-hurricane-relief-fund/>

<http://fmcusa.org/blog/2017/09/09/hurricane-irma-update-pray-and-give/> as well as this one:

<http://fmcusa.org/blog/2017/09/06/free-methodists-provide-harvey-relief/>

HELPING EDEN'S GLORY

Eden's Glory needs the following, to help sustain its ministry that provides housing and support to victims of human trafficking for their mental, spiritual and physical healing and restoration:

- Adult t-shirts (no white and no side seams)
- Small 6 oz. empty water bottles
- Volunteers to help make dog toys
- Materials for jewelry making (clasps, beads, string, etc.)
- Cushions for material and batting
- Bottle caps from Prairie Farms milk (put in empty milk jug at the back of the church)
- Adult new or barely worn socks, ONLY LONG WOOL OR THICK SOCKS, NO WHITE PLEASE

WELCOMING OUR CHILDREN TO GODLY PLAY

Our **preschool and elementary-age (3+)** children are warmly invited to join in Godly Play Sundays **on the lower level** at **9:45am**. Godly Play creatively and imaginatively engages them with the church's stories, rituals and rites, preparing them to join in the worship and life of the church.

ADULT/COLLEGE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our **Adult/College Sunday School** meets at **10am** Sundays in the lower level. YOU are invited to join our multi-week study on **Mission led by Dr. Mathias (Matt) Zahniser**.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL(S)

Our Youth Sunday School(s), led by **Pastor Niquita and our sexton Kat Westbrook**, meet in the Teen Room and the mural room Sundays at 10am.

PLEASE HELP BUILD OUR ONLINE DIRECTORY!

You are invited to join our **new online church directory**, hosted on our new website: stpaulsfmc.org

On our homepage, you will see at the top right the heading **MORE...**; when you hover over it, a box labeled **Congregation Area** pops up. (On your phone, Congregation Area is the last of the menu options.) Click on that, and you'll be prompted to enter our password, which is: **stpfamily**

This password gives you access to the **St. Paul's Private Congregation Area**. Clicking on the **Directory Survey** button (inside the box in the upper left corner entitled **New Church Online Directory**, or first item on your phone) will take you to a simple form to fill out, in as much detail as you choose. (The only required information is your name and preferred mode of contact.)

This directory information WILL NOT be publicly available on the church's new website, **but will remain password-protected in the Congregation (only) Area**. Please complete this survey for EACH family member separately, including children.

Making this a photo directory will help us all put names with faces! So please, when you've filled out your form(s), **email photo(s) [of each family member]** to us at

stpaulsfmc@gmail.com or file.meg@gmail.com

If you'd rather **submit your directory information on a paper form** (and receive a **print copy of the directory**), please contact Pastor Judy at stpaulsfmc@gmail.com