

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

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 O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee 367

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: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Preaching This Week: Rick McPeak

Preaching Next Week: Sarah Stone

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

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

Greeting

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song!

Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Hymn Of Praise Come, Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain 173

Prayer

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 'This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of

Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 149

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

Hymn

We're Marching To Zion

URW 139

Second Lesson

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

URW 402

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

R: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Prayers Of The People

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.

WELCOMING OUR CHILDREN TO GODLY PLAY

Our **preschool and elementary-age (3+) children** are once again warmly invited to join in Godly Play Sundays in their **special room on the lower level**; meet outside the **carved door** 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. Beginning next Sunday, September 17, we will join in a multi-week study on **Mission led by Dr. Mathias (Matt) Zahniser, emeritus missiology prof.**

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

Our Youth Sunday School resumes today, after a summer break, under the **leadership of Pastor Niquita and Kat, our sexton**. The class will meet in the **Teen Room every Sunday at 10am**.

MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

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

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.

POTLUCK TODAY!

Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for an **all-church potluck**. **All are welcome**, whether bringing a dish to share or not!

MEMORIAL SERVICE SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the **File and Long families** in the death of **Tom Long, Meg's father and Nancy's husband**. A memorial service is planned for this **Saturday, Sept. 16**, at **3pm** at the **Greenville Free Methodist Church** (1367 IL Route 140), with **visitation** there immediately prior, beginning at **2pm**.

GODLY PLAY DOORKEEPER TRAINING

Might you enjoy spending a Sunday morning hour ~ once a month **welcoming our children into the story of God**? You might belong on our **Godly Play** team as a **doorkeeper**! On **Tuesday, Sept. 19**, beginning at **7pm**, Georgann Kurtz-Shaw will provide a **training session** (here at St. Paul's) **for doorkeepers**; for more information or to register, please email georgann.kurtz-shaw@greenville.edu or stpaulsfmc@gmail.com promptly!

ART OPENING TONIGHT!

All are invited to an Art Opening this evening, beginning at **7pm**, in GU's **Maves Art Center**. This one-person show features the recent work of our own **Steve Heilmer**.

MONTHLY MISSION POTLUCK

Please join us for the September mission meeting and potluck at the **Greenville Free Methodist Church** (1367 IL Route 140) this **Wednesday, Sept. 13 (12:00** for the **potluck, 12:30** for the **program only)**. **Kim Brannon** will report on her very recent trip to **Uganda and Burundi**. A free-will offering will be taken.

OPT IN TO "REMIND" NOTIFICATIONS

To receive one-way notifications from St. Paul's (**potluck** reminders, weather closings, etc.), you must opt in by one of two methods: you may **text the message @eb9aa** to the number **81010**, OR you may send an **e-mail** to **eb9aa@mail.remind.com** (leaving both subject line and body of e-mail blank).

FREEDOM SUNDAY IS COMING SEPTEMBER 24!

More than **45 million** people are trapped in slavery around the world—**children, men and women**. **Freedom Sunday** seeks to bring together communities worldwide, starting with prayer, lament, learning, and worship, then community-based action, **standing against slavery and human brokenness**. Our goal is to mobilize churches to redeem relationships, rebuild communities, and transform society. Stay tuned for more info!

TWO WAYS TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS

1) Donate financially to (our Free Methodist) **Bishops' Crisis Relief Fund** at this website: <http://fmcusa.org/bfund/> This fund will be providing money for area Free Methodist ministries to disperse to those in need.

2) Give specific items to a joint collection effort of GU's MOSAIC, Morningstar Church of East St. Louis, and Gateway Conference. Donations needed include **diapers, bottled water, baby wipes, gift cards, stamps, labels and boxes**. Please drop off at **La Casa Cultural** on GU campus (southeast corner of Elm & Main, across from Whitlock).

HELP WANTED FOR EDEN'S GLORY

Eden's Glory Social Enterprise teaches work skills to its residents, repurposing recycled t-shirts et al. to sell. Recent demand for its **dog/pet toys** brings an urgent need for **volunteers with strong hands** to help replenish inventory. Your clean old **t-shirts (adult M-XXL only, in any colors but black and white)** are needed too!—**no side seams**, please. Contact **Beth Rodgers** at **(540)421-9384** if you can help. (Or help Eden's Glory raise money by drinking Prairie Farms milk! Please drop your **Prairie Farms milk caps labeled "Our Caps, Your Cause" in the jug** at the back of the sanctuary.)

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN BOND COUNTY

Our local food pantry urgently needs **soups, canned pasta meals, macaroni-n-cheese, and peanut butter and jelly**. Please place your **non-perishable** donations (food and toiletries) in the **box** in the mural room. They also gratefully receive and distribute **fresh produce from local gardens!** Please email stpaulsfmc@gmail.com for more direction regarding these **perishable** donations.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!— AND HELP BUILD OUR ONLINE DIRECTORY

Thanks to the gifts of **Meg File**, we have a new website! Take a look at yourselves at:

stpaulsfmc.org

Our desire with this new site is to strengthen our sense of community with better communication and resources. Here we have **mobile-friendly** access, online **announcements**, and many more upgrades. Browse around—you'll like what you see! And while you're browsing, **please join our new online church directory**, currently under construction. Note on the homepage, 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