



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

September 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 7
HOLY EUCHARIST
Mtr. Brittany Sparrow
Lay Reader - Kate French

SEPTEMBER 14
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Sandy Meier

SEPTEMBER 21
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Mark McGuire
Lay Reader - Don Kiefer

SEPTEMBER 28
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Ruana Gladfelter

A Message from the Bishop's Warden



Please don't miss the referral to the Episcopal News Service later in this newsletter.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sometimes we stumble on things that speak to us.... I was talking to an old friend from Iowa, and she shared about someone she had been listening to and sent me a link. I really liked what he said and looked him up ... and found he was an Episcopal priest in Texas, the Rev. Joseph Yoo. Apparently, he is on TikTok and Facebook, too. Young and modern, and reaching out to people in short messages. Because it is short and on a video with words I am going to listen to it over and over again until I have it typed. (Underlinings are words he emphasized.)

A lot of us were taught that salvation is about what we are saved from. Saved from sin, saved from Hell, saved from judgement. And, yeah, okay, that's part of it. But if that is all salvation is, then what do we do now? Just wait until we die? The truth is you weren't just saved from something. You were saved for something. For justice, for healing, for mercy, for wholeness, for community, for love that looks like Jesus. Salvation isn't a get-out-of-Hell-free card. It's a call to live like Heaven, here and now. Jesus didn't save you just to keep you safe. He

CHURCH INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 453 Clinton, MO 64735

GPS Address: 1837 E Hwy 7 Clinton, MO 64735

Bishop Provisional, The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafleur Meaux, Diocese of West Missouri

Bishop's Warden: Kate French, kfrench357@gmail.com

St. Paul's Email: st.pauls.clinton@gmail.com

dangerous to despair, dangerous to anything that keeps people from wholeness and hope. You are not just rescued; you are recommissioned. So, if your salvation story ends at "I was saved from..." you might still be at the beginning. Because the real question isn't what did Jesus save me from, it's what did Jesus save me for?

The Rev. Joseph Yoo

Well, that took several listenings, but I have it! I enjoyed hearing it over and over again.

It is a question we all wrestle with. It goes back to that question about the meaning of life. What are we supposed to do in this life? What does following Jesus mean and look like in our lives. Hopefully this is something we can reflect on as we determine how our little congregation can help somehow, somewhere in this community.

The Rev. Jay Sidebotham reflected in his Monday Matters column about ways we bless the Lord through worship, deeds, and fulfilling the baptismal promise to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ. He reminded us of the saying attributed to St. Francis that "we should preach the gospel (good news) at all times, if necessary using words." We can remember that as we look for ways to spread the word of God's love for mankind and the world in which we live.

Peace,

Kate

LOOKING AHEAD:

September 6/7: St. Paul's is hosting an overnight visit from the youth of the Diocese as the Diocese kicks off its new youth program. They will arrive about 6:00 PM Saturday. The new Youth Missioner, Meredith Seaton, has plenty of games and activities planned, and



Don has offered to bring them a corn hole game. Mtr. Brittany Sparrow from St. Paul's Kansas City will be here to celebrate with us at our 10:00 Eucharist on Sunday morning, and then they are treating us to lunch.

Following lunch, they will go back to their planned schedule, which includes a 4:00 meeting with Bishop Amy.

It is exciting that we have been asked to host this event. Under Bishop Bruce, we have built a reputation for our open doors and hospitality. Bishop Amy likes to use the term "radical hospitality," and I would love to show them that. I have offered egg casseroles for them to cook on Sunday morning before church, as well as coffee cake or fruit. I would also like to provide cookies or cake or other treats as I am sure the kids will eat them.

Later is making egg casseroles, Sheryl is bringing cinnamon rolls and cuties, if others could help with the rest. We can get a group chat going. Thank you! We do this well!

September 20 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM: The Central Deanery picnic will be held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Independence (4000 Lee's summit Road).



(The picture in the *Spirit* promoting the picnic features Don and Sheryl. Don serves on the Central Deanery and Sandy is our alternate.) Bishop Amy will be there to meet and visit. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know her in an informal setting.

Main dishes will be provided and those attending can bring sides and desserts, as each is able. There will be a bouncyhouse, corn hole, and an ice breaker for people of all ages to join.

Suggestions for food is by alphabet, but they stressed it wasn't a requirement as people may have their favorites to bring.

A – G: Salads (Potato, green, pasta, cole slaw, deviled eggs, etc.)

H – L: Fruit (Salad, tray, Jello, etc.)

M – P: Baked Beans or Potato Casserole

Q – S: Chips

T – W: Desserts

X – Z: Crackers and Dip

Reservations by Sept 15th will help with main dish planning, but I know last minute people will be welcome, too. You can reserve through me or through the August 14 Spirit.

OTHER CHURCH NEWS:

FR. MIKE: Sam and I had to go to the Social Security Office in Sedalia, so we had a visit with Fr. Mike and Mtr. Anne while up there.

Fr. Mike is still healing, and we assured him of our prayers. He sends his love to all of us and wants us to know he misses us. Don also visited a week ago to took in lunch.

REPAIRS: The air conditioning repairs have been completed, but unfortunately one unit needs a new compressor, not repair. Estimated cost is \$13,000. The Bishop's Committee will be discussing this.

EVERGY ASSESSMENT: The person who came recommended new thermostats. It would be nice to get SMART thermostats, but that could mean internet. He also agreed that fans could help our heating bills.

BOOK BUDDIES: We are moving forward with Book Buddies! They felt once a month with whoever was able to be there (but at

least one) would be helpful. I should hear from them soon.

EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE: I wanted to share this article I found. The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana is ministering to immigrants being held in ICE detention centers located within their diocese through their ministry *Allies for Immigrants*. ("I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:36) They are providing books, Bibles, snacks, pen pal opportunities, etc.

I called to get their address for sending checks and ended up speaking to Joy Owensby, the Missioner for Formation and Community Engagement. She explained that many of the people they are serving have been here up to 20 years and were arrested when they went to their regular immigration appointments. In conversation, she said she and her husband had been to our own Bishop Amy's ordination and she knew others in our diocese. This is such an amazingly small world.

Anyway, if you have been looking for ways to help and would like to reach out, even small amounts add up. The address is:

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana

P.O. Box 4330

Pineville, LA 71361

PRAYER LIST: (Please let me know if any names can be removed from this list. Thank you.)

Healing: Fr. Mike, Augustus Hockaday, Kitty, Tina, Don, Kathy, Steve Sheline, Kirsten, Tom

Cancer: Christy, Pat, Micheal, Cindy McAvoy, Rev. Jenny Ketner, Debbie M., Suzanne, Ruana, Connie Scott, Diane, Sylvia, Don, Sam

For Comfort, Strength, and Peace: Gail Cloutte, Pat Decker, Doug Johnson, Kathy and Mike, Zaha, Steve Sheline, Becky

Tarver, Marie Hopkins, Linda C., Laurisa, Rick, Christopher, Craig (father)and Cam (son) Dobereiner

The Departed: Kerry Dobereiner, Therse Hopkins

Others: Peace in the world, those devastated by natural disasters, those facing job loss and personal challenges, students at all grade levels beginning a new school year

Thanksgiving: Family and friends, God's many blessings

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
2-Sheryl Kiefer	3-Don & Sheryl Kiefer
18-Keith Livingston	14-Mark & Ruana Gladfelter