



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

June 17, 2015

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**St. Paul's
Episcopal Church**

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Thoughts from Lori

I heard it at a clergy conference many years ago, and it's a line I often quote. **THE EARTH DOESN'T NEED US TO TAKE CARE OF IT; WE NEED THE EARTH TO TAKE CARE OF US.** Back when I first heard this, it was pretty provocative. I had never thought about earth-care or the environment this way. Now, such an idea sounds perfectly natural. *Of course* we need the earth to take care of us!

Fifty years ago or so, the Great Lakes were a pollution disaster. Environmental protection regulations - originally predicted to take decades to make a difference - resulted in amazing results. It looked like the lakes could indeed right themselves if given the chance. Unfortunately, those early results were more cosmetic than substantial. Scientists tell us that many of the pollutants still remain in the sediment and continue to have negative effects on fish and the

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whole Great Lakes ecosystem. Clearly we do play a role in taking care of the earth and we still have much to learn.

Pope Francis - who notably took the name of Francis of Assisi, a saint known for his reverence for the whole creation - is about to release an encyclical addressing matters of the environment. It promises to be comprehensive and, quite possibly controversial, at least for some. Speaking for myself, it will be a welcome affirmation of what many of us have believed for some time now; that we human beings have turned a blind eye to the consequences of our impact on the earth, and largely in service to profit and materialism.

I hope that this encyclical will further the conversation about our *stewardship* of the earth. Because that is the heart of the matter: stewardship. We may need the earth to take care of us, but we are charged to steward the creation; that is, tend and care for it in the name of the Creator.

This is not an easy subject. It's not just about recycling, as important as that is. It's not just about decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels, as critical as that is. It is about a fundamental change in the way we use and share the resources available to us. It has been said that there is enough to go around; enough food, enough water, enough energy and wealth - but only if we have the vision and the will to share it all. That means nothing less than giving up the idea that some people deserve more than others. And I must admit, the implications of that, the changes that would require of us all, stagger me. But the implications of doing nothing, changing nothing, are unacceptable.

So let's enter into this conversation. Let's pray for wisdom and insight as we think and talk about the future of our planet, "...this fragile earth, our island home." (page 370, Book of Common Prayer) Beginning in July after the holiday weekend, let's dedicate our Coffee & Conversation to the subject of stewardship of the environment. Let me know if you have a passion for this so we can present as much research and information as possible.

Meanwhile, pray for the earth. Pray for those in harm's way as a result of extreme climate events: drought, floods, excessive heat (and later, cold), fire, famine. Pray.

Faithfully,

Loritt

PULPIT SWAP

No, we're not exchanging furniture, but we are exchanging preachers. Bill and I will be doing a "pulpit swap" on June 28th. He will be here with you to preach and celebrate - and enjoy being back here with you all! - and I will be at Church of the Holy Communion in Lake Geneva getting to know some of the folks he serves.

Have you "liked" St. Paul's on Facebook yet?

Our Facebook page is a great place to see what's going on at St. Paul's. You can share posts on your own timeline. Check us out! Click below to like us on Facebook if you haven't already!

Like us on Facebook 

An Invitation from St. Mary's in Crystal Lake

Lawn Chair Theologians

**Sharing Each Other's Faith Journeys & Their
Snacks**

7:00 pm

July 21st & August 18th

What to Bring ...

- Your Questions
- An Open Mind
- An Ability to Listen to Others
- Your Lawn Chair
- Your Favorite Beverage
- A Snack to Share
- Friends

How it Works ...

Write your questions or a topic on a slip of paper
Place your questions in the hat
A question will be pulled at random
Spend the next hour socializing and discussing topic
There are no "right" answers

Where We'll Be ...

On the Lawn at
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
210 S. McHenry Avenue
Crystal Lake, IL

If it is raining we'll be in the Great Hall.



Holy Eucharist - Tonight, June 17, 6:30 pm
Vestry- Tonight, June 17, 7:15 pm

Office closed - Friday, July 3
Office closed- July 13 through July 17

Annual Parish Picnic - Sunday, August 9, 4:00 pm
Holy Eucharist - Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 pm
Vestry - Wednesday, August 19, 7:15 pm

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, June 21st
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 7 - Year B
by the Rev. William McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Reading: Job 38:1-11 tells of God challenging Job to try to understand the creation which will always be a mystery to human beings.

The Psalm: Psalm 107 sets a thankful tone for all God's blessings.

The Epistle: II Corinthians 6:1-13. Paul recognizes the obstacles to his new faith in Jesus but sets a positive tone for moving on with the values of its joy.

The Gospel: Mark 4:35-41. Here we find the terrible storm at sea, so that the disciples were afraid. Jesus then rebukes the wind and amazes them that he even can control nature.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 372. "Praise to the Living God." This hymn was written by Thomas Olivers and is based on an ancient Jewish creed called the "Yigdal." It has thirteen articles that praise God in every way imaginable. Translated into English, it begins with these words, "Extolled and praised be the living God, who exists unbounded by time." The tune was written by a Jewish cantor, Meyer Lyon, thus the name, "Leoni."

Sequence Hymn: No. 608. "Eternal Father Strong to Save." This hymn which is sung at most every service at the Naval Academy chapel was written by William Whiting (1825-1878). The tune, "Melita," was composed by John Bacchus Dykes (1828-1876) and named for the island of Malta where St. Paul was shipwrecked (Acts 28:1). It is an appropriate presentation hymn as its climatic verse exclaims, "thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea."

Presentation Hymn: No. 379. "God is Love." This hymn was written by Timothy Rees, the Anglican Bishop of Llandaff, a distinguished speaker in English and Welsh and respected hymnographer. This beautiful hymn covers many aspects of God's love and is appropriate for reflecting on Chapter 13 of St. Paul's

letter to Corinth. Cyril V. Taylor composed the tune, "Abbot's Leigh," in May of 1941 when he was working for the Religious Broadcasting Department of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Communion Hymn: No. 711. "Seek Ye First" This hymn is based on Matthew 6:33 and was written and composed by Karen Lafferty. Karen is a well-known Christian musician who lives in New Mexico, but travels around the world spreading the faith through music. She says that after years of singing in bars and saloons, she felt she needed to get closer to God. Somehow, she read this passage in Matthew and "the hymn simply fell together, along with the alleluias!" She has produced many hymns now and can be found on Facebook.

Recessional Hymn: No. 559. "Lead Us Heavenly Father Lead Us." This hymn, written for the children of the London Orphan Asylum by James Edmeston, was first published in the second set of his "Sacred Lyrics" of 1821. It has been in the Episcopal Hymnal since 1874. The tune, "Dulce Carmen," has been ascribed to Johann Michael Haydn, but the composer of this lyric is yet unknown. Its earliest appearance is in the "Essay on Church Plain Chant," of 1782. The message of this hymn has long provided strength for those who suffer physically or mentally.

June 21st Servants

Usher: Rick Carlstedt
Lector: Judy Robel
Intercessor: Ann Byers
Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Dietmeyer,
Michelle Wiejaczka
Vestry Person of the Day: Marilyn Bell

From the cartoons created by
the Rev. William P. McLemore
1965 - 2014



100 Ways to Save the Environment Number 37

Leave grass clippings on the yard - they decompose and return nutrients to the soil.