



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

November 18, 2015

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**St. Paul's
Episcopal Church**
3706 W. St. Paul Ave.
McHenry, IL 60050
815-385-0390

The Holy Eucharist
and Laying on of Hands for Healing
Tonight at 6:30 p.m.



Reminder!
November is TLS Food Drive Month!
(Transitional Living Services)

Please place dry and canned goods in the shopping cart
in the narthex. Thank you!



Thoughts from Lori

There is so much going around in the media about Paris, and now about refugees, that it makes my head spin. It seems that because one of the terrorists responsible for the events in Paris used a false passport to get into the country with some of the Syrian refugees. So now, all refugees are suspect, and here in

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Quick Links

St. Paul website

Vestry Minutes

January 2015

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March 2015

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May 2015

June 2015

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the United States, some are calling for us to stop accepting them.

Among those who oppose this approach, a meme is popping up on Facebook - several versions of it actually - saying something like this: "If you refuse to help homeless Middle Eastern refugees, don't bother to put one of these [picture a crèche or manger scene] on your lawn." Another says, "If you are afraid of Middle Eastern refugees, you have no business celebrating Christmas." While I very much appreciate the sentiment, it perpetuates some misconceptions about the Holy Family and the Christmas story.

First, the part about "no room in the inn." When Joseph and Mary sought a place to spend the night, so goes the countless Christmas pageants we've all seen, when the innkeeper turned them away. But if you read the text [see Luke 2], nowhere does that appear. It simply says, "...she gave birth to her first born... and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." If you think about it, and if you are familiar with the Middle Eastern hospitality code, you would realize that though there was no room for them, they were given a warm, safe place to stay, and probably the assistance of women for the birth.

Second, at this point in the story, they are not refugees. They are in Bethlehem to register as required. It's later, when Joseph is warned in a dream that they flee to Egypt. Not quite as refugees, but the comparison is understandable. While there, the Holy Family lives in safety as Joseph surely provided for his family as a carpenter.

My point is this: it's not the Christmas story itself that supports the willingness to accept refugees. It's Jesus himself. It's his ministry, his teaching that demands this of us. In fact, it's that very hospitality code, which requires that strangers be welcomed, given shelter and food and assistance for their journey; it's that almost universal code of conduct that demands it of us. We are never to forget that we, too, may someday be in need of such hospitality. Don't doubt it. [To see more about the hospitality code, click here
<http://www.sacredhearth.com/code-of-hospitality.>]

So how are we to respond to this current crisis? Does it seem too far away to concern us? What then about the homeless closer to home? There are many things we can do.

- We can support our November food drive for Transitional Living Services, which serves homeless veterans.
- Consider making a family Christmas gift to Habitat for Humanity, the Heifer Project, Our Little Roses, Episcopal Relief and Development, or a similar organization.
- Invite someone to your home for a meal; an elder living alone, one of the veterans from TLS, or a trainee from the Great Lakes Training Center.

And if you're so inclined, let our government leaders know that we will not let fear prevent us from welcoming the stranger among us. In any case, pray for all who are seeking safety, food, and shelter. Amen.

Faithfully,

Loritt

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 22, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Blue Lotus Temple, 221 Dean St, Woodstock

Join with neighbors, families and friends from various faith communities to give thanks, enjoy fellowship and make an offering for the benefit of others, at the ninth annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, "Renewal, Reflection, Reconnection." The evening will include songs, meditations and chants of gratitude from various faith traditions' music. An offering will benefit Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM), Algonquin-LITH Interfaith Food Pantry and the work of FaithBridge. This gathering is sponsored by FaithBridge Interfaith Association.



Eve of Thanksgiving Service *here at St. Paul's*

You and your family and friends are invited
to give thanks on the Eve of Thanksgiving,
Wednesday, November 25th
at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome!



Coming to St. Paul's December 4th

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on 12/4/2015 at Saint Paul Episcopal Church. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit

www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners



Vestry - Tonight, 7:15 pm
Community Thanksgiving Service - Sunday, Nov. 22
Blue Lotus Temple, Woodstock
St. Paul's Thanksgiving Eve service - Wed., Nov. 25th, 7:00 pm
Lifeline Screening - Saturday, Dec. 4th

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, Dec. 5, 8:00 a.m.
Church Cleanup Day - Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:00 a.m.
Vestry - Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7:15 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service - 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service - 10:00 a.m.
Office closed - Dec. 31/Jan 1

*Holy Eucharist and the
Laying on of Hands for Healing
Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm*

Lessons and Hymns

Sunday, November 22nd

Proper 29 - Year B

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14. Daniel sees the Ancient One as God on the throne of heaven and a human being approaching on the clouds of heaven as an anointed son.

The Psalm: Psalm 93. "The Lord is King; he has put on splendid apparel."

The Epistle: Revelation 1:4b-8. God is described as the "Alpha and the Omega" who "is and who was and who is to come."

The Gospel: John 18:33-37. This tells the story of Jesus before Pontius Pilate who questions the savior about being a king. Jesus tells him that his kingdom is not of this world.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 365. "Come Thou Almighty King." Students of hymnody have searched far and wide for the true author of this hymn. Some feel it has the composition style of Charles Wesley's music. The 1982 hymnal simply calls it "Anonymous" (ca. 1757). The first three verses present each

person of the Trinity and the final verse begins, "To thee, great one in three."

Sequence Hymn: No. 435. "At the Name of Jesus." This hymn was written by Caroline Maria Noel as processional music for Ascension Day. It is based on Philippians 2:9-10 which speaks of bowing the knee before Christ. Some biblical scholars think that St. Paul himself quoted it from an early Christian hymn. The tune, "King's Weston" was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1925 expressly for this hymn.

Presentation Hymn: No. 556. "Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart." This hymn was written by Edward Hayes Plumptre in May 1865 for the annual choir festival at Peterborough Cathedral. Plumptre was chaplain of King's College (1847-1868) and attained considerable respect as a translator as well as author of Biblical criticism, history, biography, and poetry. The tune, "Marion" was composed by Arthur Henry Messiter in 1883 and set to this text in a hymnal he produced ten years later.

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. 544. "Jesus Shall Reign." There are about a dozen hymns in our hymnal that are my favorite and this one is close to the top of the list. Isaac Watts (1674-1748) created this happy and joyful song based on Psalm 72. The imagery of the risen Christ is certainly found in the words of this hymn, especially the 4th verse, "the prisoners leap to lose their chains." The tune "Duke Street," composed by John Hatton (d. 1793) is easy to sing and reflects the joy of Easter in its melody.

November 22nd Servants

Ushers: Beth Lukas, Jim Lukas

Lector: Judy Robel

Intercessor: Barb Moriarty

Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Al Robel

Vestry Person of the Day: John Patnaude

From the cartoons created by
the Rev. William P. McLemore



100 Ways to Save the Environment
Number 75

Install a low-flow shower head.