



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
November 30, 2016



New and Notable...



*You and your family and friends
are invited to a
Blue Christmas
a special service
for those who find this time of year
a dark and lonely time.*

Sunday, December 18 at 5pm.



Thoughts from Lori

For thirteen years I lived in a rectory with a very large backyard. It was right next door to the church. Behind us was an undeveloped bit of land and on the other side of the rectory, houses being used as businesses. It was well known that I'm an animal lover and had five large dogs. (I was living alone then and I can tell you that I felt very safe!)

So you can imagine the looks on people's faces when from the pulpit I announced that what I wanted for Christmas that year was a goat. I'm sure they were trying to picture that goat in the rectory yard. Of course I went on to explain that we (Bill and I were married by this time) - that we had told our

offspring that we certainly didn't need any more *stuff*. That we would be most pleased if they would collectively donate to the Heifer Project and provide a goat to a family in the developing world. That started a tradition that continues to the present time. They donate to some good cause as their gifts to us and we do the same.

I highly commend this practice to you. There are many worthy organizations out there. Here are a few that I know to be sound and to put your money to work for the people they benefit:

- Episcopal Relief and Development - <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/>
- The Heifer Project - <https://www.heifer.org/>
- Our Little Roses (an orphanage and school in Honduras for abandoned girls) - <http://ourlittleroses.org/>

Or consider your favorite charity or cause: the local animal shelter, the American Cancer Society, our local hospice, or your alma mater's scholarship fund. The obvious point is to put our money where our heart is, not in more stuff. We have been so blessed in this Christmas practice. You will be, too.

Faithfully,
Loritt

Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "Angels Come to Mary and Joseph." Leaders will be Jeff and Amy Zabor.



All children are welcome to come to the Seaton Room after the service for a story, snack, and activity.

In case you missed it....



Poinsettias for Christmas

Please take part in the beautification of the church for Christmas by donating \$25 (each) for Poinsettias. Your donation may be given "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" someone in your life, or simply for this parish. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.



The usual fare...



Men's Breakfast - December 3, 8:00 am
Angel Tree Decorating - December 4
Noon Eucharist - Wednesday, December 7, 12:15 pm
Vestry - December 14, 7:00 pm
Blue Christmas Service - December 18, 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service - 9:00 pm
(Reception to follow)
Christmas Day Service - 10:00 am

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, December 4th
(The Second Sunday in Advent - Year A)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10. The prophet says that Jesse shall produce an offspring who will have "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might."

The Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19. Speaks of a just king who will rule God's people as a kind, compassionate, truly blest leader.

Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13. St. Paul notes that the Gentiles will inherit the mission of God's love and redemption.

The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12. Here we have the Gospel according to Matthew's account of the baptism of Jesus.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 76. "On Jordan's Bank." Charles Coffin, a French Latin teacher, wrote this hymn in that ancient language and it was later translated into English by the Episcopal priest/musician, the Rev. Dr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). The second verse truly captures the nature of repentance: "Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come." The hymn is set to the lively tune, "Winchester New."

Sequence Hymn: No. 707. "Take My Life and Let It Be." What better hymn to sing upon sharing God's Holy Sacrament than one of complete and total surrender? This hymn was written by a woman, Frances Ridley Havergal, who was the daughter of an Anglican priest who also wrote many hymns. She wrote her first hymn at the age of seven and suffered from extremely frail health most of her life. She is the author of four hymns in our hymnal and composed the music for "On Our Way Rejoicing" in the 1940 hymnal. The tune is one of over two dozen composed by the Anglican priest-musician, the Rev. John Bacchus Dykes. It's gently flowing melody reflects the offering towards God of our whole person: "Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take myself, and I will be, ever, only, all for thee."

Presentation Hymn: No. 316. "This is the Hour of Banquet and Song." This hymn was written by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), a famous Scottish cleric who was a prolific hymn writer and editor of a church newspaper. He wrote this hymn at the request of his elder brother, John James Bonar, in 1855, to be sung in Horatius' parish church, St. Andrew's Free Church, Greenock, Scotland. The tune, "Canticum, Refectionis," is the composition of David McKinley Williams (1887-1978).

Communion Hymn: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer." This is another Taize community musical paraphrase to a psalm (102:1-2). It was set to music by Jacques Bertheir (1923-1994) in 1991, shortly before he died. The Psalm reads, "Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble."

Recessional Hymn: No. 65. "Prepare the Way, O Zion." This hymn is new to the 1982 Hymnal and was written by a Finnish lyric poet named Frans Michael Franzen. Because of the simplicity of his works, his contemporaries said that "the cultured man will appreciate them and the unlettered man can understand them." As we leave worship singing this hymn, we proclaim the spirit of Advent and the coming of Christ, along with a tune that is a Swedish melody-most befitting a Finnish hymn!

December 4th Servants

Ushers: Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski

Lector: Judy Robel

Intercessor: Terry Jaworski

Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Dietmeyer, Al Robel

Vestry Person of the Day: Sally Berveiler

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



“Mom! The usher found the frog I put
in the offering plate!”

Funny Church Signs!



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Vestry Minutes

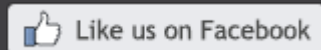
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