



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
December 14, 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.
This Sunday, December 18 at 5 pm.*



***Christmas Eve Service - Feast of the Nativity
Festival Eucharist at 9:00 p.m.
Reception to follow***

***Christmas Day - Feast of the Incarnation
Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.***

***We are still in need of
Ushers, Lectors, Intercessors, and Eucharistic Ministers
for both Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.
Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex.***



Thoughts from Lori

One of the themes for the third week of Advent is *transformation*. The reading from Isaiah describes a world transformed: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom... For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert..." [from Isaiah 35]

What a soaring and poetic image of God's transforming grace! The whole creation will be made new. And that includes us - each and every one of us.

How is your life being transformed? This isn't a conversion, you understand, though it might start that way. This is the ongoing process throughout one's life in which our relationship with God - truth be told, waxes and wanes, goes through phases, and hopefully over time becomes deeper and richer. In my own life, I grew up in a religious family. We were Southern Baptists and went to church twice on Sundays (morning and evening) and Wednesday nights. As a child and pre-teen, I participated in BTU (Baptist Training Union). By the time I was old enough to drive, I had discovered The Episcopal Church and fallen in love with it. In college and as a young adult, I was a "Christer." You know - a Christmas and Easter Christian. Later, as a young mother, my family discovered what it meant to be part of a Christian community when we got involved in a small parish much like St. Paul's.

There is more to my story, but you get the point. My journey, and probably yours, is not necessarily a straight line. But is a path, a journey if you will. One by which God has been at work in my life through times of grief, times of doubt, and times of transition. All of which have been transformative.

As Advent leads us inexorably toward the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, we are all invited to reflect on how God is and has been at work transforming our lives. I pray that our hearts and minds will be open to that continuing transformation each and every day.

Faithfully,

Lori

Children's Chapel



This week's lesson will be "Jesus is Born." Leaders will be Kerry and Tommy Obermeyer. All children are welcome to come to the Seaton Room after the service for a story, snack, and activity.



Coming to St. Paul's January 10th

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at St. Paul's on 1/10/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. 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/advantagemembers

In case you missed it....

Last Chance to sign up to donate 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.



Advent Baby Baskets

Again this year, our Advent outreach project will be in the form of filling baby baskets with new items needed for mothers who are without extended resources for all those many baby products that most of us took for granted. Start collecting (and/or making) baby things for the Advent Baby Baskets. Last year, we filled six to overflowing! This year we'll have eight. They will be in the narthex through the Sundays of Advent and Christmas, after which we will ask the Diaper Bank to distribute them to participants in their New Mothers program. Here is the list of items needed:

Receiving blankets	Changing pads
Soft toys for newborns	Burp cloths
Baby bottles for water, juice, formula	Onesies
Wet wipes	Baby lotion
Diaper rash ointment	Etc., etc.!

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, December 18th
(The Fourth Sunday in Advent - Year A)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16. The prophet says, "A young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

The Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18. This Psalm looks to the restoration of Israel as God's people.

Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7. Paul opens his letter to the Christians at Rome wishing them, "Grace and peace from God our Father."

The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25. This is the Gospel according to Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus and the decision of Joseph after a dream to take her as his wife.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 56. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." (Verses 1-4) This hymn is based on the seven great Antiphons which were said on successive days before and after Vespers between December 17th and the 23rd inclusive (mostly among Eastern Christians). Each of the Antiphons salutes the coming Messiah under one of the many titles ascribed to him in Holy Scripture, and closes with a petition based upon the salutation. The tune is reputed to be from a French missal and the refrain is almost identical with the opening phrases. The seven titles in this text are: Emmanuel; Wisdom from on High; Lord of Might; Branch of Jesse; Key of David; Dayspring; and Desire of Nations.

Sequence Hymn: No. 58. "Lo, he comes with clouds descending." Charles Wesley wrote this hymn which is reminiscent of Daniel 7:13-14, "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man." This is set to another tune from Hymn 57, "St. Thomas," a melody attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1780) with a harmonization for the 1982 hymnal attributed to Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861).

Presentation Hymn: No. 74. "Blest be the King Whose Coming." This hymn was composed by Frederico J. Pagura, who is an Argentine religious leader and a champion of human rights. He was born in 1923 and became a Methodist as a teenager. After completing his higher education in Argentina, he traveled to the U.S. to earn an advanced degree and later was ordained a Methodist minister and then a bishop. He is a poet and avid musician putting a number of hymns to the tango beat of his home country. This particular hymn expresses his values about human rights with a stirring Latin syncopation.

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. 56. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." (Verses 5-8). This hymn is described above.

December 18th Servants

Ushers: Terry Jaworski, Don, Jaworski

Lector: Barb Moriarty

Intercessor: Judy Robel

Eucharistic Ministers: Charlie Boak, Michelle Wiejaczka

Vestry Person of the Day: Carol Toft

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



**"Never argue with your altar guild
about where to put the Advent wreath!"**

Church Humor!

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."

Muldoon said, "I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why did ya' not tell me the dog was Catholic?"

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Quick Links and Info

[St. Paul's Website](#)

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Vestry Minutes

[June 2016](#)

[August 2016](#)

[September 2016](#)

[October 2016](#)

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