



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
December 7, 2016



New and Notable...

PLEASE NOTE

I will be away to visit family in Georgia and Alabama from Thursday the 8th through Tuesday the 13th. The Rev. Tommy Rogers will be the guest celebrant and preacher this Sunday. Tommy has gotten to be a regular here and I know you'll welcome him. In the case of an emergency, please call one of the wardens: Beth Lukas at 630-43-1222 or Michelle Wiejaczka at 847-363-2383. Please pray for our safe travel. lml+



Thoughts from Lori

By now you have received three letters regarding stewardship; one from me, and one each from our wardens. The last one included your pledge card. Each letter included the Vestry Stewardship Statement* on the back, about which I'd like to say a few words of explanation.

First, this is not a form that we all simply signed. It is a process following a frequently used format which requires that we - your vestry and wardens - wrestle with what we believe, how we understand God is calling us to use our blessings, and how we are willing to respond. Then we invite you to join us in this spiritual journey.

That's what stewardship is: a spiritual journey. It's not fund raising to meet a budget, though we do indeed have a budget and business matters to manage. And we may from time-to-time have fund raising efforts for a specific project such as a Mobile Food Truck or a special need. Nor is stewardship about a fair share or dues. It's certainly not about what we have left over at the end of the month. I mean, who has anything left over!

Simply put, stewardship is about our relationship with God. Two things will help nurture that relationship as it relates to our money. One is to know what percentage of our income we are giving, at whatever level that is. That way, if it's 1% and you want it to be 2% or eventually 10%, you know where you are and where you want to be. In any case, in *every* case, our giving should be joyful.

Second, and this is what makes it joyful, give it "off the top." That is, whatever you give, give it first before anything else. Trust me on this! Make it first and everything else will fall into place. Moreover, trust God.

Finally, there is the question of filling out a pledge card. Why not just put money in the plate or write a check or make an online gift? A pledge helps the parish and helps you. It helps the parish leadership plan for the year, and it helps you establish that you belong to this church and it belongs to you. So please, prayerfully and carefully fill out a pledge card. Pledge Sunday will be Sunday, December 18th at which time we will bless them - and you.

In advance, THANKS BE TO GOD for you and your generosity.

Faithfully,

Loritt

*Click [here](#) for the Vestry Stewardship Statement



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
- Soft toys for newborns
- Baby bottles for water, juice, formula

- Onesies
- Burp cloths
- Changing pads
- Wet wipes
- Baby lotion
- Diaper rash ointment
- Etc., etc.!



*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.*

Ushers, Lectors, Intercessors, and Eucharistic Ministers are needed for both services. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "John the Baptist."
Leaders will be Kim Morris and Terry Jaworski.



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

In case you missed it....



*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 5 pm.*



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...



Noon Eucharist - Wednesday, December 14, 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 11th

(The Third Sunday in Advent - Year A)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10. The prophet predicts a time when the people will see "the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God."

The Psalm: Psalm 146:4-9 or Canticle 3 or 15. Lots of choices for this Sunday. Psalm 146:4-9 reflects God's love and mercy; Canticle 3 is the Song of Mary on p. 50 of the Prayer Book; and Canticle 15 is the same as recorded in Luke 1:46-55.

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10. The author of this book encourages the faithful to be patient as they await the "coming of the Lord."

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11. John the Baptist is in prison and asks his disciples to go and find out what the Messiah is doing. Jesus responds with a summary of his ministry.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 59. "Hark, A Thrilling Voice" This hymn has been attributed to St. Ambrose and comes from the 6th century A.D. It is based on Romans 13:11 and Luke 21:25. The words announce the coming of Jesus and reflect the penitential flavor of Advent. "Lo! The Lamb so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven." The tune, "Merton," is deliberate in meter and aptly conveys the spirit of Our Lord's coming and the advent of God's love.

Sequence Hymn: No. 67. "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People." Johannes G. Olearius wrote this hymn for St. John the Baptist Day (June 24th) in the 17th century. Listen to these words of the second verse, "Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, calling us to new repentance since now the kingdom is here." It was translated into English by Catherine Winkworth. The tune, "Psalm 42," is a simple syncopated melody by Claude Goudimel.

Presentation Hymn: No. 615. "Thy kingdom come on bended knee." This Hymn was written by Frederick Lucian Hosmer on June 12, 1891, for the commencement exercises of Meadville Theological School in Pennsylvania. It is based on the first petition of the Lord's Prayer. Hosmer was an ordained Unitarian minister who served as minister of a number of Congregational churches. He had a deep sense of the kingdom of God ushering in justice and healing, as we see in the fourth verse: "the day to whose clear shining light all wrong shall stand revealed, when justice shall be throned in might, and every hurt revealed." The tune, "Flavian," is a melody from Psalms Hymnbook of the sixteenth century and harmonized by Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

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 Berthier (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. 640. "Watchman Tell Us of the Night." Quoting from the Hymnal Companion (1949): "This dialogue by John Bowring first appeared in his 'Hymns 1825.' The conversation between traveler and watchman is suggestive of the oriental cities with which the author was familiar, and may have been sung antiphonally to good effect. Based on Isaiah 21:11-12, it has been in the Hymnal since 1874 (p. 273).

December 11th Servants

Usher: Bill Lang

Lector: Michelle Wiejaczka

Intercessor: Barb Moriarty

Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Jeff Zabor

Vestry Person of the Day: John Patnaude

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



"Yes, Mabel, it is very festive...
But Advent wreaths are only supposed to have
four candles!"

Church Humor!

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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[St. Paul's Website](#)

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Vestry Minutes

[June 2016](#)

[August 2016](#)

[September 2016](#)

[October 2016](#)

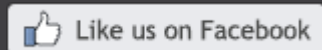
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