



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
October 25, 2017



New & Notable

Episcopal Visit by Bishop Lee
Confirmation and Reception
October 22nd

Pictured (left to right): the Rev. Lori Lowe, Robert Vonderohe, Connor Vonderohe, Debby Zamost, the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Amy Zabor, Kim Morris
Not pictured: Charles Sterbis





Thoughts from Lori



† I've got several "thoughts" to share with you today. First and foremost is a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the whole parish family for your warm greeting of Bishop Lee when he was with us last Sunday. He and Deacon Nebel both commented (repeatedly) on the positive spirit and energy they experienced here, and especially on our joyful singing.

It was a full day! Deacon Nebel - Sue - came early to go over the service with me so that she could assist the Bishop. He, too, came early to meet with the candidates and talk with them about the renewal of our Baptismal Covenant which would be part of their Confirmation or Reception. (They are pictured and named in this issue of The ePistle.) The reception after the service was fabulous! Then the Vestry met with the Bishop in the Upper Room.

Special THANKS go to everyone who brought such wonderful food for the reception and to those who put it all together and cleaned up afterward - all above and beyond, as the saying goes. Also to those who served their various roles before and in the service. And I would be remiss if I forgot to mention those (you know who you are) who showed up the day before to make everything ready. Thank you, thank you, thank you all!

† Yesterday, October 24th, was **World Polio Day**. When I was a child, fear of polio was a palpable reality. If there was an outbreak anywhere even remotely nearby, public swimming pools and parks would be closed until the experts thought the danger had passed. When the first vaccine was announced, our mother had my sister and me as close to the front of the line as she could get us!

As Rotarians, Bill and I are both proud of the part Rotary International has played in the effort to end polio. Along with the World Health Organization and the Gates Foundation, this crippling disease is about to be eradicated. "We're **THIS** close," as the billboards proclaim. Thanks be to God!

† I recently ran across a reflection by one of my favorite authors, Frederick Buechner, on **silence**. It is a rare commodity in today's world. One has to escape to somewhere remote and isolated to find it. Otherwise, we are surrounded by the whirl of machines, the sounds of traffic, the blare of TVs and other electronic devices. Sometimes the best we can do is pause, be still for a few minutes, and try to silence the chatter in our heads. It used to be the tradition in Episcopal churches to keep silence when entering the nave before the beginning of the service. It was a time of prayer and preparation for the worship about to begin. Though we've pretty much lost that tradition, there are a couple of times during the service when we have a brief silence: after the sermon, for example, and during the offertory.

I invite you to join me in trying to find or create moments of silence in our lives as a spiritual discipline. We might even hope to hear the whisper of God's Spirit. It's a pretty sure thing that we won't hear it if we never make time for silence.

Faithfully,

Loritt

DUCKS IN A ROW

Because of low interest, the "Ducks-in-a-Row" workshop scheduled for Saturday, November 4th, will be **rescheduled**. If you were interested but didn't sign-up, watch for the announcement of a new date, probably after the first of the year.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TRAINING

There will be a training session for all **current and new EMs** on Sunday, November 12th after Coffee & Conversation. If you are currently serving as a Eucharistic Minister, plan to attend to refresh and expand your training. If you are interested in becoming an EM, let the Rector know of your interest and put this training on your calendar.

Is the Spirit nudging you to serve in this capacity?

Not quite new but still notable....

Children's Chapel

Children are invited to attend the Children's Chapel following the service for a bible story, activity, and snack. This week's lesson will be "The Story of Peter: from Fisherman to Saint." Leaders are Katie and Bill Lang.



In case you missed it....



Coffee Hour Volunteers are needed!

Please see the sign-up form in the Parish Hall. Is there a date you could help?
It would be greatly appreciated. This is an easy way to serve the church!



If you wish to contribute to the relief of those suffering as a result of recent natural disasters, ERD is a reliable agency through which to do that. See the link below.

<http://mailchi.mp/episcopalrelief/hurricane-harvey-2017-what-can-i-do-to-help?e=4776a7cb4e>

***Join the folks of St. Mary's for a
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL*
November 18 and December 16***

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Guests and volunteers eat together and get to know each other. Great food and conversation. Note: St. Mary's is a big supporter of our Mobile Food Truck. Let's return the favor. *This meal is offered to those in our community who may be experiencing difficulty in procuring enough food. Free to All! All are Welcome! Family Friendly!

Where:

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
210 S. McHENRY AVENUE
CRYSTAL LAKE - 815-459-1009
No RSVP Required - Every 3rd Saturday**

The usual fare...

A Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore

Feast Day of St. Alfred the Great

The Feast Day for St. Alfred the Great is Thursday, October 26th. Alfred, alone of all English rulers, has been called "the Great," because of his courage and Christian virtues. He was born in 849, the youngest of five sons of King Aethelwulf. He was deeply impressed when, on a visit to Rome at the age of four, he was blessed by Pope Leo IV. Following his father's death, after short reigns of his brothers, Alfred became King in 872.

During Alfred's day, England was beset by the Viking invasion, and in 878 his armies decisively beat the Danish leader, Guthrum, and King Alfred then persuaded him to become baptized as a Christian.



In later years, Alfred sought to repair the damage that the Viking invasions had inflicted on the church and its clergy. With the help of scholars from Wales and other areas, he supervised the translations into English of important classics of theology and history, including the works of Pope Gregory the Great, Augustine of Hippo, and the Venerable Bede.

King Alfred the Great died October 26, 899, and was buried in the old Minster at Winchester.

What we learn from Alfred is the importance of reading, not only the Bible, but the works of the great theologians of the ages. The word "theology" combines two Greek words "Theos" (God) and "logos" (Word) and literally is the human attempt to put this mystery of God into words that shape God's being. Theology lifts us out of the world of language and science into the world of mystery and wonder.

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, October 29, 2017

(Pentecost XXI, Proper 25 - Year A)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18. The Lord speaks to Moses about proper behavior. **The Psalm:** Psalm 1. "Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked." **Second Lesson:** I Thessalonians 2:1-8. Paul reminds the church at Thessalonica that he came to help them learn about the faith. **The Gospel:** Matthew 22:34-46. Jesus gives the Summary of the Law: Love God and Love Thy Neighbor.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 680. "O God our Help in ages past." This hymn is based on Psalm 90:1-5 and was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). He moved church music from the old medieval office hymns to that of the reformation. He composed 600 hymns many of which are still in hymnals of many denominations. This particular hymn has been in the Episcopal hymnal since 1874. The tune "St. Anne" with all its beauty is of dubious origin but was enhanced by William Croft in a 1708 book of arrangements for singing the psalms.

Sequence: No. 538. "God of mercy, God of grace." This hymn was written by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), a Scottish poet, who at one time considered studying medicine but opted for theology. He was ordained in 1817. The tune, "Lucerna Laudoniae," was composed by the Welsh musician David Evans (1874-1948).

Presentation: No. 381. "Thy strong word did cleave the darkness." This hymn was written by Martin H. Franzman (1907-1976), a graduate of Northwestern College and later studied at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He served on the faculty of Northwestern College; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; and finally traveled to England where he served as a tutor at Westfield House, the theological college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England until his death in 1976. The tune, "Ton-y-Botel," was composed by Thomas John Williams (1869-1944), organist and choirmaster of two parishes in Llanelly, a village in southeast Wales. The melody is moving and stately and perhaps one of the most sung at the heavenly banquet-every Christian should be able to sing this with spirit and joy.

Communion:"In the Lord I'll be forever thankful." This hymn was written and set to music by Jacques Breathier for the Taize religious community in France. 1991. It is based on Philippians 4:4-6.

Recessional: No. 551, "Rise up, ye saints of God." This hymn was written by William Pierson Merrill on a ship sailing across Lake Michigan. The hymn has been set to no less than 12 different tunes in 24 years and "Festal Song" is the one that has become the most popular in the United States. This tune was composed by William Henry Walter, an organist at several Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches. The hymn forms appropriate music to help us think about God's love and our love in return. "Rise up, ye saints of God! His kingdom tarries long: Lord, bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong."

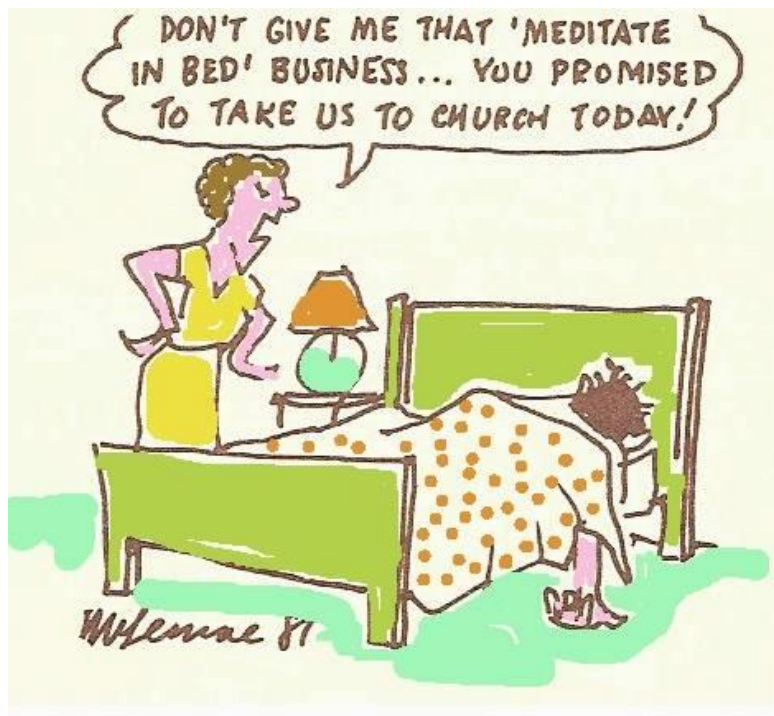
Servants for October 29th

Patrice and Bill Braun - *Ushers*
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*
Sally Berweiler - *Intercessor*
Deb Lang, Barb Moriarty - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Jeff Zabor - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Deb Lang - *Altar Guild*
Bev Jannotta, Carol Toft- *Flower Guild*
Ryan Bell - *Children's Crucifer*

On the Calendar...

Mid-Week Eucharist - Every Wednesday, 12:15 pm
Men's Breakfast - Saturday, November 4, 8:00 am
All Saints Sunday - November 5
Eucharistic Minister Training - Sunday, November 12
Vestry - Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 pm

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



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Quick Links and Info

[St. Paul's Website](#)

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Vestry Minutes

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