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St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry  
November 22, 2017



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New & Notable

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*Please note: The office will be closed  
Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th.*



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Eve of Thanksgiving Service  
Holy Eucharist  
Here at St. Paul's  
**Tonight at 7:00 pm**

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## Thoughts from Lori



### **More about the Stewardship of Giving to the Church**

We've received several pledge cards so far, but it seems that our timing was somewhat ill-conceived. It's perfectly fine to bring them or send them in any time, of course. But I think now that the special blessing of them will be on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd.

You've received letters from me and from the wardens encouraging you to pledge. But please allow me to repeat some of the things I've said to you over the years about stewardship.

- First, what you do with your money and what you give to the church is a spiritual matter. It's about your relationship with God
- Scripture gives us a plumb line by which to gauge our giving: a tithe, that is, 10%.\* Some people resist that word, but there it is, right there in the Bible. One way to look at it is, God asks that we willingly and gratefully give away 10% of our blessings, and we get to keep the other 90%. Not a bad deal, if you ask me.
- Don't worry if you aren't tithing. But do figure out what percentage you are giving and consider aspiring to that goal.
- People sometimes ask me questions like, "Is that 10% before or after taxes?" or "Does that include other charitable giving?" And my answer is always the same. If it's good between you and God, it's good with me. Don't get caught up in legalism.
- Make your giving "first fruits." (Bill taught me this.) This is also a biblical principle. Make your check/payment/offering to the church the first one you make. And practically speaking, it's the only way it works for me. If I pay everything else and pay the church last, there is never enough. But if I pay the church - aka, God - first, it always seems to work out. I don't quite know why this works, but it does. I suspect it's part of the spirituality of all this, too.
- And finally, forget the old adage "give 'til it hurts." Instead, give until it feels good! For God loves a cheerful giver. (II Cor. 9:7)

May you have a most blessed Thanksgiving. I know that I am blessed beyond measure to be part of the life of this parish.

Faithfully,

*Lori*

\*[click here](#) for the attached chart of percentages



## The Holidays at St. Paul's

2017

**Eve of Thanksgiving Service** - Wednesday, November 22  
Holy Eucharist at 7pm

**The Four Sundays of Advent** - December 3, 10, 17, 24  
Special Program at Coffee & Conversation

**Blue Christmas\*** - Wednesday, December 20 at 7pm

**Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve**  
Holy Eucharist for Advent IV at 10am  
followed by decorating the church for Christmas

**Feast of the Nativity** - 9pm followed by a Festive Reception

**Feast of the Incarnation** - Christmas Day at 10am

**Rector's Open House** - January 7th from 4 to 6 pm

*\* Blue Christmas is a quiet service for those who find this season  
a time of sadness, grieving, or loneliness.  
Family, friends, and neighbors are most welcome.*

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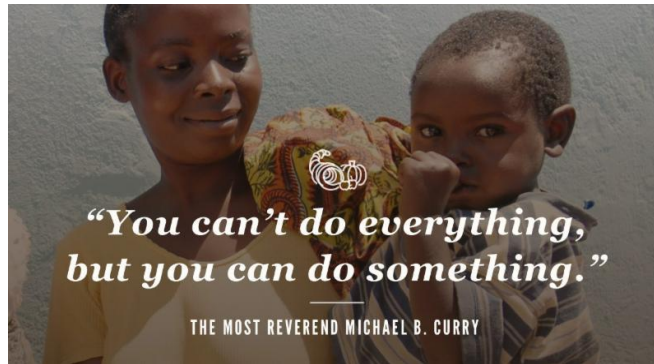
*We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of*

**Wayne Aaron Gibbons**

10/11/1950 - 11/19/2017

Wayne was active at St. Paul's from the mid-70s through the 90s. The funeral Mass will be here at St. Paul's on Saturday, November 25th at 11am. The officiant will be the Rev. David Gibbons of St. Mark's, Barrington Hills.

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As Thanksgiving approaches and we reflect on this past year, the Presiding Bishop Curry's powerful words come to mind:

*"You can't do everything, but you can do something."*

Friends like you embody this wonderful sentiment-and we are so grateful for all you do as part of the Episcopal Relief & Development community. All year long, you demonstrate a genuine compassion for others in your words and your actions... when you rally to help people affected by natural disasters... in your generous contributions... your encouraging emails and phone calls... and much more.

You have a genuine concern for neighbors in the next town or thousands of miles away-offering them opportunities to feed their families, grow new crops, start new businesses and transform their lives in so many other incredible ways. *You make sure that the something you CAN do makes a difference-and you push us to always do better.* Your generosity is humbling and inspiring. May God bless you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving.

-Your friends at Episcopal Relief & Development

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*Not quite new but still notable....*

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## **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 "People who Struggled for Justice." Leaders are Katie and Bill Lang.



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*In case you missed it....*

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***Join the folks of St. Mary's for a  
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL\****

***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**

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*The usual fare...*

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**A Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore**

**Feast of Thanksgiving**

Thursday, November 23rd, is Thanksgiving Day. Setting aside time to give thanks for one's blessings, along with holding feasts to celebrate a harvest, are both practices that long predate the European settlement of North America. The first documented thanksgiving services in what is now the United States were conducted by the Spanish and the French in the 16th century. Even the indigenous communities already here had festivals of thanksgiving, sharing, and giving away.

The United States began celebrating Thanksgiving on and off since 1789, with a proclamation from George Washington. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt broke with this tradition. November had five Thursdays that year, so Roosevelt declared the fourth Sunday as Thanksgiving. With the country still in the midst of the Great Depression, he thought an earlier Thanksgiving would give merchants a longer period to sell goods before Christmas. Texas, however, continued to celebrate the last Thursday as Thanksgiving, until 1956.

The Book of Common Prayer includes this collect for Thanksgiving Day: *Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 246.)*

May you have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving, celebrate in moderation, and pray for those still recovering from the hurricanes, fires, volcanoes, and who are struggling to survive anywhere in our world today.

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**Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, November 26, 2017**  
**(Proper 29 - Year A)**

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

*The First Reading:* The Track I readings are Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100; the Track II reading includes the Ezekiel passage and Psalm 95:1-7. The Ezekiel passage has the prophet revealing God's word of promise to seek out his sheep, gather them, heal them, and set them up with one true shepherd, David. The Track I Psalm is the popular "Jubilate Deo" chant calling for joy in the Lord; The Track II Psalm is another chant, "The Venite," calling for the faithful to sing unto the Lord.

*The Epistle:* Ephesians 1:15-23. Paul celebrates the faith of the people in the church of Ephesus and promises even greater faith as they learn the riches that Jesus has to offer.

*The Gospel:* Matthew 25:31-46. Here, Jesus tells of the Son of Man upon the throne with angels surrounding him as he separates the sheep from the goats of all peoples-the sheep on his right and the goats on the left. The principles of compassion, generosity, and love become the focal point of this judgment: "Just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

**THE HYMNS:**

*Processional:* No. 616. "Hail to the Lord's Anointed." This hymn was written in 1821 by James Montgomery to be used by a Moravian Settlement during the Christmas season. It is based upon Psalm 72. "He comes with succor speedy, to those who suffer wrong, to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong." The tune is an adaptation of a German folk song and should be sung happily with hearts of joy!

Sequence: No. 450. "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." The words to this hymn were finalized by a clergyman named Edward Perronet who was in the Anglican Methodist movement with John and Charles Wesley. He later broke off from the Church of England and formed his own independent chapel in Canterbury. The hymn reflects the majestic tone of the psalter and affirms Jesus as the final king, in David's line, who truly saves and redeems all people. The tune "Coronation" was composed by Oliver Holden with the descant added by Michael E. Young for this 1982 hymnal. "Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!"

Presentation: No. 493. "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." This hymn was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), May 21, 1739, upon the first anniversary of his spiritual conversion. Wesley was ordained an Anglican priest in 1735 and came with General Oglethorpe to Georgia as his private secretary and chaplain. Because of the adverse reaction to his new environment, he returned to England. Even though tagged a "Methodist" for his support of a highly organized ministry, he refused to leave the Anglican church. He wrote over 6,500 hymns and 500 are still in common use. The fourth verse reveals the depth of his very personal conversion experience: "He speaks and listening to his voice, new life the death receive, the mournful broken hearts rejoice the humble poor believe." The tune, 'Azman,' was composed by Carl Gotthilf Glaser (1784-1829).

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. 494. "Crown Him with Many Crowns." This hymn was written by Matthew Bridges, an English poet and author who lived from 1800-1894. The hymn has been tampered with many times during the years, but remains very popular among Anglicans and Episcopalians. The entire hymn tells the wonderful benefits and results of God's love in the Incarnate Christ. Hear these words from the second verse: "Who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast, and takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest." The hymn is set to music by George Job Elvey, for many years the organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, England. The tune reflects the majesty of God and is intended to be sung with spirit and movement!

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### **Servants for November 26th**

Patrice and Bill Braun - *Ushers*

Charles Sterbis - *Lector*

Sally Berveiler - *Intercessor*

Pam Dietmeyer, Al Robel - *Eucharistic Ministers*

Rick Carlstedt - *Vestry Person of the Day*

Marilyn Bell, Heather Dodge - *Altar Guild*

Marilyn Bell, Kathy Biggerstaff - *Flower Guild*

Carter Obermeyer - *Children's Crucifer*

*On the Calendar...*

**Mid-Week Eucharist** - Every Wednesday, 12:15 pm

**Eve of Thanksgiving Service** - Tonight, 7:00 pm

**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, December 2, 8:00 am

**First Sunday of Advent** - December 3

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



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Quick Links and Info

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Vestry Minutes

[June 2017](#)

[August 2017](#)

[September 2017](#)

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