



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
January 3, 2018



New & Notable

Thoughts from Lori



Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas Eve such a wonderful celebration of the Christ Child's birth. This Saturday, January 6th, is the Feast of the Epiphany; that is, the arrival of the Magi with their gifts to honor him. It begins the season of Epiphany during which we will recall Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his ministry.

It is also the time of year when the parish prepares for our official Annual Meeting on January 28. As usual, we'll gather for a covered dish luncheon right after our Sunday morning worship, then follow with a business meeting. We will also spend time together as a congregation to anticipate and envision our future together. Please make every effort to be present.

It's a time, too, when the Vestry is preparing a budget for 2018. Almost all pledge cards have been turned in, but if yours has not, it's not too late. If you've lost yours, give us a call and we'll send you a new one, or you can pick one up in the narthex.

On a personal note, thank you so much for all your contributions to the "purse" I was given. I very much appreciate your generosity. I am also most grateful for your expressions of concern and support for Bill as he recovers from his recent cardiac event. He continues to recover nicely.

Meanwhile, stay warm and safe. Be good to yourselves and one another.

Peace and blessings,

Lori

Christmas Eve 9:00 pm Service



Not quite new but still notable....

Children's Chapel

Children are invited to attend the Children's Chapel following the service to hear a story, have a snack, and enjoy an activity. This week's leaders are Amy and Jeff Zabor.



The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, January 7, 2018
(First Sunday after Epiphany - Year B)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5. The opening story of God's creation of the world and the creation of day and night. **The Psalm:** Psalm 29. This is a song about God's creation. **Second Lesson:** Acts 19:1-7. Paul baptizes some of John the Baptist's converts and the city of Ephesus. **The Gospel:** Mark 1:4-11. The story of the ministry and preaching of John the Baptist in the Gospel according to Mark.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 135. "Songs of thankfulness and praise." Christopher Wordsworth, Bishop of London and nephew of the poet, William Wordsworth, wrote this hymn for the sixth Sunday I after the Epiphany. The fourth verse was written and added by Francis Bland Tucker, an Episcopal priest who authored and translated many hymns and helped develop the 1940 hymnal. The tune, "Salzburg," was composed by Jakob Hintze and later harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Sequence: 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.

Presentation: No. 117. "Brightest and best." This hymn was written by Reginald Heber, an Anglican priest who became Bishop of Calcutta, India in 1823. A prolific musician and author of hymns, the church has variously enjoyed a dozen of his hymns, the most popular being, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty (Hymn 362 in the 1982 Hymnal). "Brightest and best" was criticized by some hymnal editors for seeming to promote worship of the stars.

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. 119. "As with gladness." William Chatterton Dix wrote this hymn on his sick bed in the middle 19th century. He was reading the story of the visit of the Magi in the Gospel according to St. Matthew and came up with the words. The tune "Dix" was composed by Conrad Kocher who lived in Stuttgart, Germany.

Servants for January 7th

Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Judy Robel - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Charles Sterbis, Al Robel - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Judy Robel - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Paige Morris - *Children's Crucifer*
Pam Dietmeyer - *Flower Guild*
Karen Rowe, Doris Gaic - *Altar Guild*

On the Calendar...

Mid-Week Eucharist - Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.
Men's Breakfast - Saturday, January 6, 8:00 a.m.
Vestry - Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 pm
Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 28

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



"We've been to the 'field and fountain'
and passed the 'moor and mountain'...
We ought to be there by now!"

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Quick Links and Info

[St. Paul's Website](#)

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Vestry Minutes

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