



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
November 29, 2017



New & Notable



This Sunday will be the blessing of the 2018 PLEDGE CARDS.

All cards that have been received so far will be blessed at the altar.
If you have not yet turned in your card, please try to bring it
with you this Sunday. Thank you!



Men's Breakfast

This Saturday, December 2nd
8:00 am at Kim & Patty's
Please RSVP to Al Robel by noon Friday:
alanrobel@att.net

DRAMA OF THE CHURCH YEAR

*by the Rev. William P. McLemore
Priest Associate*

Advent begins the calendar of the Episcopal Church Year. Just like Julian Fellowes' historical period drama "Downton Abbey" begins with the sinking of the "Titanic" and covers post Edwardian England from 1912 to 1926. Our church year begins a drama which opens with the eager anticipation for God's saving act in Jesus Christ and covers the brief ministry of this Savior through the crucifixion and resurrection.

Our drama has six basic chapters which are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent gives us a clue to the basic theme of this opening story: "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility." Advent prepares us for the rest of the story: the birth of Jesus (Christmas); the life and ministry of Jesus (Epiphany); the 'casting away of the works of darkness' (Lent); the putting on the 'armor of light' (Easter); and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and growth of the Church (Pentecost).

The color for Advent is purple or Sarum blue and is commemorated at home and at the church with an Advent Wreath. This is a circle of greenery with four purple/blue candles and many have a central white candle to be lit at Christmas symbolizing the birth of Jesus. Aside from the various rituals associated with each "chapter" of the Church Year, it is well to keep a vision of what God is doing in the drama of the Church Year. Like the opening verse of Arthur Campbell Ainger's hymn (534 in our hymnal): "God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year: God is working his purpose out, and the time is drawing near... when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea."



The Holidays at St. Paul's 2017

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.*

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 "Zechariah and Elizabeth." Leaders are Amy and Jeff Zabor.





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

***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

A(nother) Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore

Feast Day of St. Andrew

Thursday, November 30th, is the Festival Day of St. Andrew. According to what we read in the New Testament, Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter, and the son of John (or Jonah). He was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. Both he and his brother, Peter, were fishermen. When Jesus called them to become one of his disciples, he told them "I will make you fishers of men."



The actual person of Andrew is somewhat illusive. He isn't mentioned in the Gospel according to Luke when Jesus calls Peter to be a disciple. In the gospels, Andrew is referred to as being present on some important occasions: he tells Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes (John 6:8). Andrew was present at the Last Supper, and was one of the four disciples with Jesus on the Mount of Olives.

Traditions and legends about the Apostle Andrew have him as the patron saint, for one reason or another, of the following: Georgia, Cyprus, Malta, Romania, Ukraine, and even Scotland (where his relics were taken from Constantinople and placed at the modern Scottish town of St. Andrews, called "Cill Rimhinn" in ancient Gaelic days).

Andrew is said to have been killed by crucifixion at the city of Patras in the Greek region of Achaea. The form of the cross upon which he was crucified was described by Gregory of Tours as the typical Latin cross; yet a strong tradition developed that he died on a cross shaped like the letter "X." This legend has it that Andrew, himself, insisted that he didn't want to demean the death of Jesus by being killed on a similar cross.

What we learn from St. Andrew is best expressed in the collect (prayer) for his day. "Almighty God, who gave such grace to your Apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN."

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, December 3, 2017
(First Sunday of Advent - Year B)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9. The prophet uses the metaphor of clay and the potter to illustrate God's formation and consideration for us.

The Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18. "Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved." (Verse 3)

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 1:3-9. Paul opens his first letter to the Church at Corinth with words of thanksgiving and encouragement.

The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37. Jesus reminds the people to remain alert for signs of the Kingdom of God.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 57. "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." The tune, "Helmsley" is a melody composed by Thomas Augustine Arne who is most famous for producing the English anthem, "Rule Britannia!"

Sequence: No. 51. "We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting." This hymn was written by John E. Bowers (1923-2012) and I wasn't able to learn much about him. The words tell us what it means to be the people of God-"school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary; all find a welcome." The tune, "Decatur Place," was composed by Richard Wayne Dirksen (1921-2003), the Organist and Choirmaster for the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C.

Presentation: No. 68. "Rejoice, rejoice, believers." This hymn is a poetic cento from Laurentius Laurenti's "Evangelica Melodica" (1700). It was translated by Sarah Findlater and appeared in her "Hymns from the Land of Luther" (1854). The imagery relies on the parable of the bridegroom found in Matthew 25:1-13. From the second verse: "The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand; rise up ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand." The 1982 Hymnal applies a different tune to this hymn than the 1940 edition, it's a Welsh air named "Llangloffan."

Communion: "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: No. 596. "Judge eternal, throned in splendor." Henry Scott Holland's only hymn was first published in 1902. He was a Canon at St. Paul's in London and became Precentor in 1886. He returned to Christ Church, Oxford, where he became regius professor of divinity in 1922. He died there March 17, 1918. He was a strong proponent of social and economic justice, as per the second verse: "Still the weary folk are pining for the hour that brings release, and the city's crowded clangor cries aloud for sin to cease; and the homesteads and the woodlands plead in silence for their peace." The tune, "St. Leonard," is attributed to Johann Christoph Bach (1642-1703).

Servants for December 3rd

Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Judy Robel - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Pam Dietmeyer, Al Robel - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Sally Berweiler - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Pam Dietmeyer, Patrice Braun - *Altar Guild*
Liam Obermeyer - *Children's Crucifer*

On the Calendar...

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

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, Dec. 2, 8:00 a.m.

Vestry - Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service- Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service - 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service - 10:00 a.m.

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!”

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Quick Links and Info

[St. Paul's Website](#)

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Vestry Minutes

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