



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry  
December 20, 2017



New & Notable

*Thoughts from Lori*



When I scheduled the Blue Christmas service (tonight at 7pm), little did I know that Bill would be in the hospital\* and scheduled to have a defibrillator inserted tomorrow. As I said in my sermon a couple of weeks ago, life turns on a dime. [\*See an update below.] When such things happen in our lives, it's an opportunity to become more acutely aware of our blessings. I certainly am, Bill being chief among them.

However, this crisis in our lives is also requiring me to make some choices and reorder some priorities. For instance, it's highly unlikely that the rest of our Christmas decorations will be put out. (We always decorate late in Advent and keep them up until after Epiphany on January 6th.) And I've reluctantly decided to **cancel our Open House on the 7th**. As we adjust to the new normal in our lives, we'll look for an occasion to reschedule it.

Meanwhile, I am unspeakably moved by your love, prayers, and support. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Together, we will celebrate the birth of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,  
*Lori*

*\*Yesterday, Tuesday, was something of a roller coaster day. Early in the day it seemed hopeful that the stent he received on Tuesday morning would be the solution, possibly along with some medications. Now it seems, he's not out of*

*the woods yet. It has been impressed on us that what happened Monday night was a near catastrophic event; that if his heart had stopped, he probably would not have survived. Another physician has been added to his case, an electrophysiologist. On Thursday (48 hours after the stent) Bill will undergo a series of tests to determine the effectiveness of the stent and the stability of his heartbeat. It is almost certain that they will insert a defibrillator. (I'll let you look that up yourselves.) Suffice it to say that if it works properly, he will be able to do everything he does now EXCEPT drive. If he goes without an arrhythmia (that forces the defibrillator to shock him) for six months, he'll be allowed to drive again.*

*So clearly, we will be making some major alterations in our daily lives in the days ahead. As for his Christmas services at St. Ann's, thanks to the help of the Bishop's staff, a supply priest has been found for Sunday and Monday.*

*Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Thank you.*

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## The Holidays at St. Paul's 2017

### **The Four Sundays of Advent**

December 3, 10, 17, 24

Special Program at Coffee & Conversation

**Blue Christmas\*** - Tonight 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

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

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## Bishop Curry's Christmas Message

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/video/presiding-bishop-michael-curry-christmas-message-2017>

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## Children's Chapel

There will be no Children's Chapel following this Sunday's service. It will resume on December 31.



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*In case you missed it....*



## *Advent Baby Baskets*

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.!

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## The usual fare...

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**A Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore**  
*(as copied from St. Ann's e-news last weekend)*

### **St. Thomas the Apostle**

Thursday, December 21st, is the feast day of St. Thomas (c. 1-72 AD), also known as Thomas Didymus (which means "the twin"). Early Syrian traditions also regard the apostle's full name as "Judas Thomas."



Thomas is among the twelve disciples called by Jesus, recorded in Mark 3:16-19: "So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); and Andrew, and Philips, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him."

Thomas, from what little biblical record we have of him, appears to have been a person who wanted to believe but had trouble accepting everything he saw and heard from Jesus. We have this incident recorded in the Gospel according to St. John. Jesus told the disciples that they know the place where he was going. Thomas replied, "Lord, we do not know where are are going. How can we know the way?" (John 14:5 NRSV.) But, he is remembered especially for his doubts as to the validity of the risen Christ, only to touch the wounds of Jesus and exclaim, "My Lord and My God."

Traditional legend has him traveling outside the Roman Empire to preach the gospel travelling as far as present-day India. In 52 AD, he baptized several people who later would become known as St. Thomas Christians of "Nasranis."

What we learn from Thomas is that we bring our humanity, and only our humanity to Jesus. Faith is a process of accepting a God who we have not seen, and trusting in our hearts that this God deliberately entered the human sphere in the person of Jesus, who indeed was crucified, died, and rose again and promises that all people will eventually be brought to the eternal home promised by God.

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## Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, December 24, 2017

### **(Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B)**

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

#### **THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

First Lesson: I Samuel 7:1-11, 16. The Lord tells King David to build a house for the Ark of God. The Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, or Canticle 3 or 15. This psalm notes the selection of David to be God's servant and he is anointed with holy oil. Second Lesson: Romans 16:35-27. Paul says that God's revelation which has long been held in secrecy will now be proclaimed to all the Gentiles." The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38. An angel of the Lord informs the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a boy to be named, "Jesus."

#### **THE HYMNS:**

Processional: No. 66. "Come thou long expected Jesus." One of many hymns by Charles Wesley, this was Hymn No. 1 in the 1940 Hymnal. The text beautifully describes the basic theology of Advent—the coming of Jesus, human hope, deliverance, and the enthronement of Jesus Christ as King. The tune, "Stuttgart," is in the 87 87 meter and attributed to Christian Friedrich Witt (1660-1716) a well-known German composer.

Sequence: No. 265. "The angel Gabriel from heaven came." This is an ancient Basque carol reflecting Luke 1:26-38, which is the announcement of the angel to Mary of her destined childbirth of a boy to be named "Jesus." This carol was paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). The tune, "Gabriel's Message," is the same as the ancient Basque carol which has been harmonized for contemporary singing by Edgar Pettman (1865-1943).

Presentation: No. 60, "Creator of the stars of night." This is the evening vesper hymn for the season of Advent in many convents and monasteries. It was originally in Latin and was translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1851. The tune, "Conditor Alme Siderum," is the traditional plainsong melody always associated with this text.

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 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: No. 268. "Ye who claim the faith of Jesus." This hymn was written by an Anglican priest named Vincent Stucky Stratton Coles (1845-1929). He was the author of three hymns "O Shepherd of the sheep", "Ye who own the faith of Jesus", and "We pray thee, heavenly Father." This hymn tells the story of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary and is found in the Holy Days section of our Hymnal. The tune, "Julion," was composed by a Professor of Sacred Music at General Seminary, Dr. David Hurd (born 1950).

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**Servants for December 24th - 10:00 am**

Terry Jaworski, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*  
Michelle Wiejaczka - *Lector*  
Charles Sterbis - *Intercessor*  
Barb Moriarty, Al Robel - *Eucharistic Ministers*  
Jeff Zabor - *Vestry Person of the Day*  
Marilyn Bell, Heather Dodge - *Altar Guild*  
Antonia Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*

**Servants for December 24th - 9:00 pm**

Terry Jaworski, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*  
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*  
Barb Moriarty - *Intercessor*  
Charles Sterbis, Michelle Wiejaczka - *Eucharistic Ministers*

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***On the Calendar...***

**Mid-Week Eucharist** - suspended until January 3rd  
**Blue Christmas Service**- Tonight, 7:00 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist for Advent IV - 10:00 a.m.  
**Christmas Eve Service** - 9:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Day Service** - 10:00 a.m.  
**Vestry** - Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 pm  
**Annual Parish Meeting** - Sunday, January 28

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



"Here's my Christmas list, Daddy...  
Remember what our rector says every Sunday,  
'It's more blessed to give than to receive!'"

## Join Our Mailing List

### Quick Links and Info

#### [St. Paul's Website](#)

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Vestry Minutes

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