



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle
November 28, 2018

New and Notable



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, December 1st
at Kim & Patty's, 8:00 am
Please RSVP to Al Robel: alanrobel@att.net

Thoughts from Lori

Happy New Year! No, not that new year. It's the new year in the church calendar, beginning this coming Sunday, which is the First Sunday of Advent. The first thing you'll notice when you arrive for worship will be the liturgical color: blue. (It's called Marian blue, by the way, for the lapis blue associated with the mother of Jesus.)

You'll notice, too, that we will be using **Rite One** for the Eucharist, including the appropriate service music. Since Advent is considered a penitential season – not in the same way that we think of Lent, but nevertheless a season of somber waiting – there will be no flowers at the altar, only greens.

There will be a special **Advent handout for children**. It's an activity booklet and new crayons that they can take home. At Coffee & Conversation, there will be two options: a table for folks who simply want a cup of coffee and a chance to chat, which is quite fine; and at another table we'll be offering "**The Way of Love**," which is offered by our Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael Curry. It is designed to enrich our spiritual lives through a practice of prayer and reading scripture.

Take dear good care of yourselves. It's a season when we can so easily get caught up in the secular frenzy leading up to Christmas. Instead, may the season of Advent offer us all an opportunity for peaceful anticipation as we await the birth of the Christ child.

Faithfully,
Lori+



Poinsettias for Christmas

Please take part in the beautification of the church for Christmas by donating \$25 (each) for Poinsettias. Your donation may be given "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" someone in your life, or simply for this parish. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.



Advent Baby Baskets

Honoring the humble birth of the Christ Child,

St. Paul's will once again be donating baby supplies to mothers and babies in need.

Please contribute to our baby baskets! Items needed are:

Receiving blankets	Changing pads
Soft toys for newborns	Burp cloths
Baby bottles for water, juice, formula	Onesies
Wet wipes	Baby lotion
Diaper rash ointment	Etc., etc.!

In case you missed it...



We will gather as a group to clean-up and set-up the altar for the Season of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent is December 2nd. I hope you can all join us on Saturday morning, **December 1st at 10:00 am**. Please bring supplies to clean, dust and polish. Start to finish should take no more than ninety minutes.

We will set up the altar with our beautiful blue Advent vestments and set up the Advent wreath and candles. This is also a good time for us to talk about how things are going and answer any questions.

Thank you,
Deb Lang



St. Paul's First Annual Christmas Caroling Party!

Join fellow parishioners on **Sunday, December 9th** for St. Paul's First Annual Christmas Caroling Party. Details of this event are:

- We will meet at Carol Toft's house, 3414 Turnberry, McHenry at 3PM. Bundle up!
 - We will go caroling house to house in Carol's neighborhood. There are sidewalks and the houses are close together.
 - We will have lyrics for all for a few standard easy-to-sing Christmas carols. (So, we'll sing the same songs several times and get really good at them!)
 - There will be a chili dinner between 5:30PM and 6PM at Carol's home with corn bread and brownies.
 - Please bring some Christmas cookies (not a lot) to share.
 - BYOB.
 - RSVP to Lisa by Friday December 7th (815-385-0390 or lisa@stpaulmchenry.com).
 - Please direct any questions to the Welcome Committee: Kathy Biggerstaff, Charles Sterbis, Carol Toft, John Patnaude or Jim Lukas.
 - Please invite your family, neighbors and friends to join us!
 - Those who are unable to walk the Green Valley neighborhood (right across Green St. from the church), can remain behind at Carol's to stay warm and tend the chili and goodies!
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Help Wanted

Sunday mornings don't just spring up out of nowhere! There are lots of hands, some behind the scenes and some up front, making it all happen. With the help of the Holy Spirit, our worship is TO THE GLORY OF GOD, in thanksgiving for our many blessings, and for the opportunity for us to pray both individually and corporately. Please consider participating in some of the specific roles. Here are some of the ways (as):

Ushers
Lector (one of the lessons)
Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
Eucharistic Ministers
Altar Guild
Flower Guild
Coffee Hour

Email us at the church office to volunteer (lisa@stpaulmchenry.com). And thanks.

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, December 2, 2018

(First Sunday of Advent - Year C)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16. The prophet speaks of the day that is coming when a righteous branch will be raised. **Psalm 25:1-9.** "Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths." **The Epistle:** I Thessalonians 3:9-13. St. Paul reflects his love for his congregation in Thessalonica and urges them to love one another. **The Gospel:** Luke 21:25-36. Jesus tells of the coming day of the Lord and calls for his disciples to be alert for the signs of this coming.

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. 75. "There's a Voice in the Wilderness." This hymn was written by James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), a Methodist layman born in England who immigrated to Canada early in life. He was a poet, newspaper editor, and speech writer. This hymn is based upon Matthew 3:3 relating the message of John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord. The tune, "Ascension," was composed by Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988), a British organist and composer who migrated to Canada in 1929. There is a good chance that he knew the author of this hymn and wrote the tune specifically for it.

Presentation: No. 601. "O Day of God Draw Nigh." This hymn was written by Robert Baggart Young Scott for the Fellowship of Christian Social Order in 1937. It is based loosely on Zechariah 1:14-18 in that it calls for a restored faith as part of the expected Day of the Lord.

Communion: "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. 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."

Servants for December 2nd

Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Judy Robel - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Al Robel, Charles Sterbis - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Barb Moriarty - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Angie Lang - *Children's Crucifer*
Patrice Braun, Doris Gaic - *Altar Guild*

On the Calendar...

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, December 1, 8:00 am
First Sunday of Advent - December 2
Vestry - Wednesday, December 19, 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 9:00 pm
followed by a festive reception
Christmas Day Service - December 25, 10:00 am

From the studio of the Rev. William P. McLemore



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