

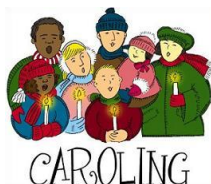


St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle
December 5, 2018

New and Notable



St. Paul's First Christmas Caroling Party!

Join fellow parishioners on **Sunday, December 9th** for St. Paul's First Christmas Caroling Party. We have a small group so far. Please consider lending your voices to this fun event!

- 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 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!

**We need to hear from you! Please let us know of your plans to attend.
Email lisa@stpaulmchenry.com. Thanks.**

Thoughts from Bill

The Drama of Salvation

This past Sunday, Advent I, we began our annual drama of God's salvation in Jesus Christ. There are six scenes in this journey: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. The scripture readings for each Sunday are selected to relate to each particular aspect of God's saving work in and through Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There are three selections of scripture which we call Year A, Year B, and Year C. At the end of three years, we will have covered a good portion of the biblical story of our salvation.

ADVENT begins this drama of our church year. Advent, in Latin, means "coming," and marks our attention to all that happened in the biblical story before the birth of Christ. We will prepare by learning how the Jews yearned for the Messiah, the coming of God in human form, and the hope and anticipation of the completion of God's saving work on this earth.

CHRISTMAS, the second and shortest scene, surrounds all the joy and wonder of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, in a manger, with all the attendant angelic blessing.

EPIPHANY, the third scene, comes from the Greek word that means, "to shine forth," and features the visit of the Magi following the star. Epiphany also reflects the early light of the baptism life and beginning ministry of Jesus. The "light shines in darkness."

LENT, the fourth scene, marks the latter part of Our Lord's ministry on earth and ends with Jesus' betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. A pivotal part of Lent is on Maundy Thursday when Jesus has the passover ("Last Supper") and tells the disciples to continue the ritual as often as they can from that day onward.

EASTER, the fifth scene, is the highest dramatic moment of God's salvation work on earth. The resurrection of Jesus Christ brings the fullest message of God's love and forgiveness and its victory over hate, judgement, and death.

PENTECOST, the sixth and final scene of the church year. This scene begins with the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit as "tongues of fire" in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. It marks the birthday of the Christian Church and is the longest season of the church year. The scriptures during Pentecost relate to various aspects of the growth of the faith and the love, forgiveness, hope, and call to service in the Name of Jesus.

The church year remains the "greatest show on earth" and we are privileged in our Episcopal worship to enjoy it year after year after year! God's love and forgiveness never gets old and always needs open hearts, souls, and minds to truly enjoy its mysteries!

The Way of Love

As previously announced, we dived into the program (for lack of a better word) known as The Way of Love. It's a spiritual practice for Advent that includes worship, *doing*, learning, praying, blessing, reflection, and rest. All in a very doable and accessible format. ([See the Advent Calendar here.](#))

If you'd like to jump in, feel free to join us Sunday during Coffee & Conversation. (Where we'll meet is TBD.)

Donations for Transitional Living Services (TLS)

TLS, which serves veterans and their families, is mostly in need of paper products and peanut butter. Female veterans are in need of feminine products as well. Thank you for your continuing generosity in donating to our grocery cart!

In case you missed it...



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

This year the contents of our baskets will be enthusiastically received by 1st Way in Johnsbury which will distribute them to young mothers in need.

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 9, 2018

(Second Sunday of Advent - Year C)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-4. The prophet Malachi tells people that God is sending a messenger to prepare the way for a time of purification. In place of the Psalm we will recite the "Song of Zechariah." **The Epistle:** Philippians 1:3-11. St. Paul reminds the church at Philippi of his great love for them and urges them to overflow with love for one another. **The Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6. This passage tells the story of the coming of John the Baptist (son of Zechariah) calling for people to "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

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. 76. "On Jordan's Bank." Charles Coffin, a French Latin teacher, wrote this hymn in that ancient language and it was later translated into English by the Episcopal priest/musician, the Rev. Dr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). The second verse truly captures the nature of repentance: "Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come." The hymn is set to the lively tune, "Winchester New."

Presentation: No. 657. "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." Here is a famous Charles Wesley hymn which he published in a pamphlet titled, "Hymns for Those that Seek, and Those that Have Redemption in the Blood of Jesus Christ." Some of the symbolic imagery

of Revelation in found in these words, "Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise." The tune, "Hyfrydol," composed by Rowland Hugh Prichard, has some delightful harmonies and movement.

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. 65. "Prepare the Way, O Zion." This hymn is new to the 1982 Hymnal and was written by a Finnish lyric poet named Frans Michael Franzen. Because of the simplicity of his works, his contemporaries said that "the cultured man will appreciate them and the unlettered man can understand them." As we leave worship singing this hymn, we proclaim the spirit of Advent and the coming of Christ, along with a tune that is a Swedish melody – most befitting a Finnish hymn!

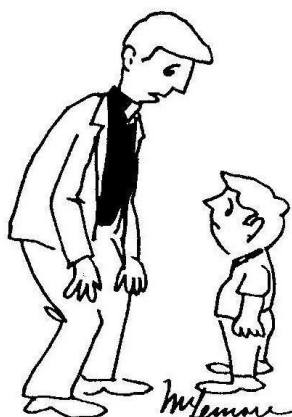
Servants for December 9th

Patrice and Bill Braun - *Ushers*
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*
Judy Robel - *Intercessor*
Pam Dietmeyer - *Eucharistic Minister*
Judy Robel, Carol Toft - *Vestry Persons of the Day*
Antania Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*
Heather Dodge, Ashley Pecoraro - *Altar Guild*

On the Calendar...

Caroling Party - Sunday, December 9th, 3:00 pm
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



"No, son, we don't give Advent presents."

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The Rector's Email - lorilowe@stpaulmchenry.com

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