



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle December 12, 2018

New and Notable

Thoughts from Lori

Life turns on a dime, as the old saying goes. The trick is to live in the present while also understanding the past and anticipating the future. Not an easy balancing act. For me at least, the present moment is often obscured by overthinking the past and by anxiety about the future, when in reality we can do nothing about either. We can't change the past, but understanding it can help us to gain wisdom and when necessary, to heal. And while we can't ensure anything much about the future, we can strive to be reasonably prepared. It seems to me that the key to all three – living in the moment, reflecting on the past, and preparing for the future – is gratitude.

Gratitude is one of those words that can wear thin when used too casually. At its heart is a kind of deep thankfulness, the kind that can be beyond our understanding.

Years ago at another church, there was a dear couple who had lost a young son when he was in an accident. By the time I knew them, he had been gone many years. During one of my visits with them, the mother described how her grief had never ended, but that eventually it had turned to gratitude; gratitude for every moment that he had been in their lives. That is truly a deep thankfulness.

As a season of hope, Advent invites us to live in the moment as we reflect on the past and prepare for the future. The good news is that Christ has come and Christ will come again.

Advent blessings,

Lori+

St. Paul's First Caroling Party



In case you missed it...



Advent Baby Baskets

There are mothers and babies out there who need what we can provide. Help fill our Advent 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 Johnsborg which will distribute them to young mothers in need.

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. Look for us at the far end of the parish hall.

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!



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.

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, December 16, 2018

(Third Sunday of Advent - Year C)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20. The prophet Zephaniah promises that God will gather the people and restore their fortunes. Instead of the Psalm, we will recite the "First Song of Isaiah." **The Epistle:** Philippians 4:4-7. Paul refers to the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" and it will guide our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. **The Gospel:** Luke 3:7-18. More of the sermon of John the Baptist, who adds that he baptizes with water but one is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 56. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This hymn is based on the seven great Antiphons which were said on successive days before and after Vespers between

December 17th and the 23rd inclusive (mostly among Eastern Christians). Each of the Antiphons salutes the coming Messiah under one of the many titles ascribed to him in Holy Scripture, and closes with a petition based upon the salutation. The tune is reputed to be from a French missal and the refrain is almost identical with the opening phrases. The seven titles in this text are: Emmanuel; Wisdom from on High; Lord of Might; Branch of Jesse; Key of David; Dayspring; and Desire of Nations.

Sequence: No. 640. "Watchman Tell Us of the Night." Quoting from the Hymnal Companion (1949): "This dialogue by John Bowring first appeared in his 'Hymns 1825.' The conversation between traveler and watchman is suggestive of the oriental cities with which the author was familiar, and may have been sung antiphonally to good effect." Based on Isaiah 21:11-12, it has been in the Hymnal since 1874 (p. 273).

Presentation: No. 74. "Blest be the King Whose Coming." This hymn was composed by Frederico J. Pagura, who is an Argentine religious leader and a champion of human rights. He was born in 1923 and became a Methodist as a teenager. After completing his higher education in Argentina, he traveled to the U.S. to earn an advanced degree and later was ordained a Methodist minister and then a bishop. He is a poet and avid musician putting a number of hymns to the tango beat of his home country. This particular hymn expresses his values about human rights with a stirring Latin syncopation.

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. 59. "Hark, A Thrilling Voice" This hymn has been attributed to St. Ambrose and comes from the 6th century A.D. It is based on Romans 13:11 and Luke 21:25. The words announce the coming of Jesus and reflect the penitential flavor of Advent. "Lo! The Lamb so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven." The tune, "Merton," is deliberate in meter and aptly conveys the spirit of Our Lord's coming and the advent of God's love.

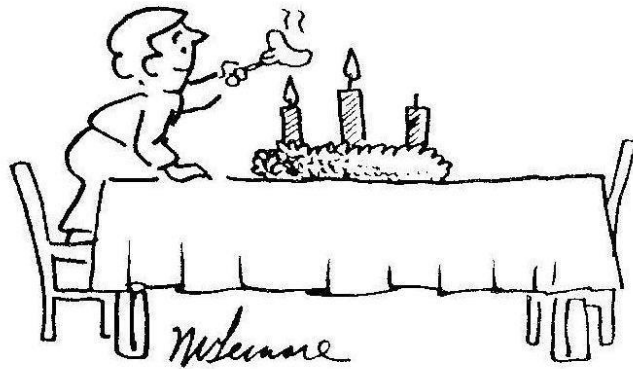
Servants for December 16th

Bill Lang, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Michelle Wiejaczka - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Barb Moriarty, Jeff Zabor - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Kathy Biggerstaff - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Jianna Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*
Beth Lukas, Nan Patnaude - *Altar Guild*

On the Calendar...

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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