



EMMANUEL NEWS

October, 2011

Visit us on the web: <http://alexmnepiscope.org>

Gifts Discovery Workshop planned for Sunday, October 30th

Please set aside part of the afternoon on Sunday, October 30th for a **Gifts Discovery** workshop to be led by Rev. Sandi Holmberg. The workshop will begin following Sunday service and a light lunch, and will go until about 3 p.m.

The vestry has chosen to go forward with a discernment process that begins with this workshop on October 30th. The primary purpose of the workshop is to help us identify our God-given gifts - and to learn, or identify, the God-given gifts of others in our congregation.

Understanding our own gifts and identifying the gifts of others here at Emmanuel will be helpful in a number of ways. First, our gifts are spiritually based, and knowing our gifts is helpful to our spiritual journey.

Second, regardless of the direction our church takes in coming months, we will be better equipped to meet our future if we know the gifts of others in our midst. We will be asking our snowbird friends to participate in a parallel gifts discovery process so that they are included in this process.

Third, this process* is a part of the diocese's Mission Strategy relating to personal transformation - every church in the diocese is encouraged to help its members explore their spiritual gifts, so that they as individuals and the faith community itself can better understand what God is calling us to do.

Fourth, if we are to know whether Total Ministry (or some form of total ministry) is right for us at Emmanuel, the journey begins with a discovery of our individual gifts. Your vestry wants to know whether we are called to total ministry in one form or another. We will not know that unless we explore our gifts and, armed with that knowledge and through much prayer, discern what God is calling us to do as a congregation in terms of its ministry options.

Finally, whether or not we go forward with a ministry team - a decision which is several months away - the discerning of God's will for us remains paramount. What is our Mission at Emmanuel? Your vestry is reading the book, Reclaiming the Great Commission,** which calls on congregations to adopt a missionary spirit and approach which transforms lives and answers Christ's call to "go...and make disciples". As the body of Christ at

Contact us:

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

P O Box 231
12th Avenue and Lake Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-3201

Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Pastoral Care: Contact
Tom Sinning, Deacon, or
Edith Kelly

Support Staff
DeAnn Runge, email:

rector@rea-alp.com

Newsletter: Wendy Zander

wendyjzander@yahoo.com

Open Church

None scheduled at this time. Watch
your e-mail.

Vestry:

JoEllen Doebbert

Sr. Warden ('12)

Don Krueger

Jr. Warden ('12)

Edith Kelly, Clerk ('13)

Wendy Zander, Treasurer ('13)

Mary Sinning ('12)

Tim Johnson ('14)

Wendy Zander ('14)

Edith Kelly ('13)

Bob Baas ('12)

Mark Reicks ('12)

Delegates to Region and Convention:

Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon

Laird Barber

Alternate delegate open.

Emmanuel, we need to know our strengths, our gifts, so that we can be better 'members' of the body of Christ, and seek to fulfill God's mission for us.

*Even if you have gone through a gifts inventory or pen and pencil 'test' before, this is different. This workshop is a time of sharing and interaction, as well as a time to help others in our congregation learn about their spiritual gifts. This is not just a pen and pencil exercise - it's an interactive process where we learn more about each other, not just about ourselves.

I encourage everyone to attend the workshop on the 30th. Our snowbird friends will receive more information by mail or email. Please let me know if you are unable to attend, but wish to be included in the gifts discovery process. Thank you.

**Stay tuned for more information on this concept. Extra copies of the book are available for anyone interested.

JoEllen Doebbert, Sr. Warden

New Technology at Emmanuel

Great news! The diocese is GIVING us a brand new, 40 inch flat screen TV with laptop and installation provided by the Geek Squad out of St. Cloud! The bishop is very interested in technology and wants parishes such as ours to be 'connected' as we move into the future. There are endless possibilities for the use of this technology -- video streaming of church services, allowing for joint meetings (or just better communication over the winter) with our snow bird parishioners using skype, being able to 'meet' with other parishes and church committees using skype, and perhaps even making the technology available to our parishioners who have loved ones far away or in the military (and who don't have skype or a computer at home). The vestry has not discussed specific uses of this new technology -- please pass on your ideas to us!!

Stay tuned as this technology is installed at Emmanuel.

JoEllen Doebbert, Sr. Warden

Wednesday evening Prayer and Praise Services

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. for the next few weeks for something different -- a service of prayers and music. It is a service of prayers, songs and intercessions with the Lord's Prayer as the theme.

Sue DeSha has offered to lead these Wednesday evening gatherings. She is a gifted pianist, and will lead us in singing - and teach us the songs or hymns we don't know. Prayers and intercessions for yourself and others will be encouraged.

October Events

October 20-5:30 p.m. -
Vestry meeting

October 30-Gifts Discovery
Workshop following the
Sunday service. Lunch will be
provided

October Birthdays

Gavin Doebbert
Rachael Sinning
Charles Preble
Brad Parsons
Colin Parsons
Ted Hill

October Anniversaries

Bob & Marie Baas

ACTUAL Church Bulletin Bloopers:

· Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

· "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

-Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered."

· The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to conflict.

Bring a friend or neighbor, or pass on this invitation to someone who may be more likely to attend a service with less formality, no prayer book, and less traditional music! May the Spirit move you to join us as we try something new.

September 28: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

October 5: Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

October 12: Give us this day our daily bread

October 19: No service this week.

October 26: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us

November 2: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

November 9: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

JoEllen Doebbert, Sr. Warden



If there is enough interest in hearing this choir, perhaps we can get enough people to car pool over to Saint John's on Oct. 23rd. I believe someone suggested having lunch at Charlie's Café in Freeport on our way.

The Westminster Cathedral Choir is a choir of men and boys and is widely recognized as one of the world's great choirs. Peter Stevens, assistant master of music, will accompany the choir in concert and play the organ solos.

Since its founding in 1903 it has been at the forefront of English church music, not least because of the ground-breaking work of its first master of music, Richard Terry, who revived the great works of the English and continental Renaissance composers.

Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 senior, \$10 student.

September 30th marked the end of the 3rd quarter. If anyone wants to know the status of their pledge, please let treasurer Wendy Zander know, and she will send you a statement. It's also not too early to be thinking about your commitment for next year as well.

Thanks again to Donna Ziegelman for spearheading the I-94 project again this year. Although we were unable to participate on July 4th due to the State shut down of the rest stops, we were able to handle both the Memorial and Labor Day holidays. We received \$867 in free will donations, had expenses of \$231, and had a lot of fun.

Priceless words from DeAnn Runge: Ah, the splendors of Autumn are here! It can't get much better than those crisp cool mornings turning into beautiful days. I've heard that the fall colors are going to be the best ever, and by looking out my window, I would have to agree. Soon the scent of fresh cut grass will transition to crunchy fallen leaves. Looking forward to leaf piles with kids jumping in them, or in my case a dog running through them!

Thanks again to Wendy for putting together the newsletter! Maybe you can take a moment to enjoy reading it with a cup of fresh apple cider while admiring the beautiful fall colors.