



EMMANUEL NEWS

November, 2011

Our new e-mail address: episcopal@centurylink.net

Gifts Discovery Workshop with Rev. Holmberg

Approximately 20 parishioners were on hand October 30th to participate in the Gifts Discovery workshop led by Missioner of Formation, Rev. Sandi Holmberg. The purpose of the workshop was to start the process of identifying the gifts that we have as individuals. We are, after all, the "body of Christ" in the world. How do we use our gifts?

Attendees were asked to think about and discuss several issues, including:

What have you done that you enjoyed (at any time in your life, and in the last two years)?

What have you done that you did well (at any time in your life, and in the last two years)?

What have you done that has (or had) special meaning for you (at any time in your life, and in the last two years)?

Where do you see God at work in your life? The answer will often be activities that intersect all three of the above questions, that is, activities or things that bring joy and special meaning to you and that you have done well.



It was fun and interesting to not only think about one's own life in this way, but to learn about what has brought joy and special meaning to our fellow parishioners. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

We ended the session by helping make a list of Emmanuel's Gifts. That list is found on page 2.

The Next Step in Discovering Our Gifts

A follow up to this activity is for all of our parishioners to complete a brief "Spiritual Gifts Inventory." This inventory will not only help each person to identify their own God-given gifts, but will help to identify

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:

episcopal@centurylink.net

Newsletter: Wendy Zander

wendyjzander@heinet.net

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.

the gifts that Emmanuel has as a congregation. This Inventory will be mailed or emailed to you in the same way you receive the newsletter within the next two weeks or so.

Why Identify our Gifts?

We are the hands and face of God in the world. What is God calling us to do? What is God calling Emmanuel to do? Are we equipped as a congregation to do this work? So step number 1 is: what are our gifts? What are we as individuals and as a congregation able and willing to do?

One of the questions that we will be asking in the next three months or so is: is God calling us to pursue total ministry? Is God calling us to identify a team of individuals who will be trained as priests, deacons, preachers, pastoral care, catechists (educators), among other roles that may be needed? Is God calling us as lay persons to provide ministry (in whole or in part) in this fashion, as opposed to always having supply priests or a rector/priest in charge?

The decision to pursue total ministry should be made only after much prayer, and much conversation, by the whole congregation. Please pray for Emmanuel on this issue.

Here is a suggested daily prayer:

Dear God, we offer ourselves, our lives and labors, and the gifts that you have given to each of us, in union with Christ, for the purposes of God. Be present with us as we pray to discern your will for us at Emmanuel, especially your will for ministry and your will for what you are calling Emmanuel to do in Alexandria and in the world. In Jesus name, Amen.

For more information on total ministry, check out our website for articles in the June and September newsletters.

Please ask questions, talk, and pray about our ministry and mission. Please contact me or other vestry members with any questions that you may have. We value your input and role in our future together as a parish.

JoEllen Doebbert

Chalice Bearer and Acolyte Training

We are in the planning stages of setting up training for persons who are interested in becoming chalice bearers or acolytes.

Please express your interest to either Tom or JoEllen.

Emmanuel's Gifts

by Oct. 30, '11 workshop attendees

Leadership
Genuine caring
Good coffee hour
Intelligence & questioning
Diversity-intellect
Acceptance
Perseverance
Commitment
Ability & desire to learn new things
Non-judgmental
Taking initiative
Believing God will guide us
Energy
Fun
Loyalty
Friendship
Optimism
Good Deacon
Growth in popularity
Supportive
Inquiring
Spiritual
Courage
Food shelf
Relying on faith
Trying new things
Teamwork
Do a lot with a little
Passion
Desire (& do) help others
Willing to learn new technology



The Great Thanksgiving Feast Wednesday, Nov. 16th



There will be Holy Eucharist starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by our famous Thanksgiving Feast. This is a wonderful event to invite family and friends. If you will be inviting several people, please let Edith Kelly know so that we can plan accordingly.

The sign-up sheet has been around, but if you'd like to add a vegetable dish, here's a couple of recipes that you might like to try.

Green Bean Casserole from "Senior Perspective"

32 oz. frozen French cut green beans or
3 cans green beans
10-3/4 oz. cream of mushroom soup
8 oz Velveeta cheese
1-1/2 cups hot water
1-1/4 cup butter
6 oz. stove top stuffing mix for chicken

Thaw frozen green beans if necessary, then drain.
Heat the oven to 350°
Combine the beans and the soup in a two quart casserole dish.
Top with cheese.
Add water to butter in a medium bowl. Stir until melted; stir in stuffing mix until moistened.
Spoon over beans.
Bake uncovered 35-40 minutes or until heated through.
Can be made ahead of time. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate up to 24 hours.

Scalloped Corn Casserole from Cooks.com

16 oz. Can whole kernel corn
16 oz can cream style corn
1 box Jiffy corn muffin mix
1 stick butter
8 oz. Sour cream

Mix all ingredients together using the liquid from both cans of corn.
Pour into a 9 x 13 baking dish.
Bake 1 hour at 350°. Will be firm when done.

And we can always use more pie!



November Events

16th-Thanksgiving Feast

22nd-Vestry Meeting-5:30

11/25-12/4-AAAA presents
Narnia which features Connor
Doebbert

November Birthdays

Albert Cecil
Gordon Ziegelman
John Sherman
Mary Sinning
Bill Weinman

November Anniversaries

Belvin & Joellen Doebbert



Brief report on actions taken and the discussion at the Diocesan convention on Oct. 28-29, 2011

Our Deacon, Tom Sinning, and Laird Barber represented us at convention. Tom will be giving his thoughts about convention on an upcoming Sunday, likely on the 20th of November. This report from Laird:

1-A Diocesan budget was adopted. Expenses voted included payment in full of the Diocese's assessment to the National Episcopal Church. Making this payment will reduce the Diocesan reserve fund to a very low level.

2-Region IV submitted a resolution stating that the Convention opposes the currently proposed amendment to the Minnesota State Constitution-with affirms that the only valid marriage in Minnesota shall be that between a man and a woman. This resolution passed. It was emphasized that all Episcopalians are free to vote their consciences when voting about this proposed amendment.

3-Variou changes to the Canons of the Diocese were presented and approved.

4-Discussion of some proposed changes to the present Regional alignment in the Diocese; the discussion was not extensive. However, a map showing some potential new groupings of parishes was distributed. Later, some realignments may be proposed, but, at present, no specific realignments are being considered.



Connor in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at AAAA in Alexandria

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Written Joseph Robinette

Based on the story by C.S. Lewis

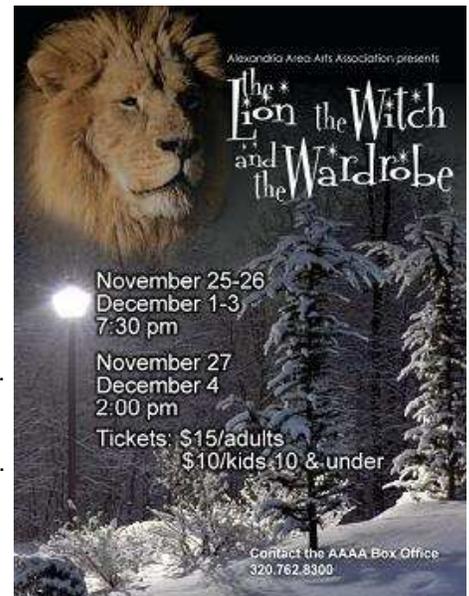
Directed by Dave Christman

November 25 & 26, December 1, 2, 3, 2011
at 7:30 pm

November 27 & December 4, 2011
at 2:00 pm

Based on the immortal classic by C.S. Lewis, the show is set in the land of Narnia. This play faithfully recreates the magic and mystery of Aslan, the great lion, his struggle with the White Witch, and the adventures of four children who inadvertently wander from an old wardrobe into the exciting, never-to-be-forgotten Narnia. A great play for both kids and adults!

<http://www.alexandriaareaarts.org/> -- for ticket info etc.



SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKE ENNIS for all the work he has put into the church grounds. He assisted in the trimming and removal of several trees this fall, and has been cleaning up the Meditation Garden. Last week he had a load of black dirt brought in which he has spread around the grounds and garden, seeded, and trimmed the shrubbery. Next time you see Mike, be sure to say "thanks."