



# EMMANUEL NEWS

January 2013

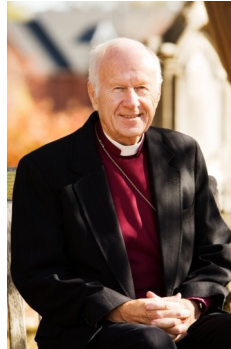
[www.alexmnepiscopal.org](http://www.alexmnepiscopal.org)

[episcopal@centurylink.net](mailto:episcopal@centurylink.net)

## A New Year's message from The Rt. Rev. Donald Hultstrand

### The Plan of God

The New Year comes and we sense that it is time to make plans. But don't we really want to live in accord with God's plan? The Christmas we have just experienced has laid out the Divine Plan and now in the New Year we are called to live by it. He has opened up the windows of heaven and allowed us to look in. From beyond the stars, whirling galaxies, beyond space the Plan of God is revealed to us.



First of all, God has a plan for the world. God so loved the world that he made a good world. He made humanity in his own image to live in the world. The humanity, by its free will turned against God. By doing so we lost our way, bent on destroying the world and ourselves. But God had a plan to rescue us. A baby was born, named Jesus. It was God's entry into the world, into us. The secret of the cosmos would now be known. Whoever has seen the Son has seen the Father. He is with us every moment in the world. We can move on into the New Year with the confidence that God will not leave us or forsake us.

Second of all, God has a plan for the church. He dies on the cross – then behold he lives. His plan goes on. He has a new community, the Commonwealth of Heaven on earth, called the Church. Through the water of Baptism there is a mighty stream that flows from generation to generation – from the catacomb to the cathedrals – from continent to continent. The plan for the Church is that it is to be an outpost for the Gospel, the Good News of new and unending life in Christ. It is the Church's plan for this New Year.

Thirdly, God has a plan for you and me. We, as individuals, are not lost in the magnitude of the Divine Plan. He comes to us personally, caring about all the nooks and crannies of our

### Contact us: Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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

**Sunday Service: 10 a.m.**

**Godly Play: 9:45 a.m.**

**Bible Study: 9 a.m.**

**Pastoral Care:** Contact

Tom Sinning, Deacon, or  
Edith Kelly

Support Staff

DeAnn Runge, email:

[episcopal@centurylink.net](mailto:episcopal@centurylink.net)

Newsletter: Wendy Zander

[wendyzander@hcinet.net](mailto:wendyzander@hcinet.net)

Godly Play Director/Teacher:

Verlie Sinning

[verlieb@nnbnet.com](mailto:verlieb@nnbnet.com)

### Vestry:

Karen Reicks	Sr. Warden ('14)
	Jr. Warden ('14)
Edith Kelly	Clerk ('13)
Wendy Zander	Treasurer ('13)
Sheila Stanton	('15)
Tim Johnson	('14)
Wendy Zander	('14)
Edith Kelly	('13)
Betty Wolf	('15)
Mark Reicks	('13)

### Delegates to Region and Convention:

Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon  
Laird Barber  
Mary Sinning, Edith Kelly.

whole being – mind, body, and spirit. He only made one of you. He knows you by name. “To all who received him, who called on his name, he gave the power to become the children of God.” He has a plan for each one of us. It is especially tailored to the unique gifts he has placed within us. You are a child of King and he has called you to royal service in this new year. Even as he, with the choosing of his disciples, made extraordinary people out of ordinary people, so he does with each of us.

Hear again the words of this hymn:

“Of the Father’s love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be  
He is Alpha and Omega  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that the future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.”

---

**The Holy Eucharist** is the serving of bread and wine in remembrance that Christ died for us. At Emmanuel we are frequently treated to a leavened bread called the Prospora, which is made by Mary Ann Maameri. The term originally meant any offering made to a temple, but in Orthodox Christianity it has come to mean specifically the bread offered at the Diving Liturgy (Eucharist).

In preparing the Prospora, one first begins with prayer: *O Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of the Eternal Father: You have said with your holy lips: “Without me you can do nothing.” My Lord, I embrace your words with my heart and soul, and bow before your goodness and say: Help me, your unworthy servant, to prepare the bread of offering, that the works of my hands may be acceptable at the Holy Table and may become through the works of Your Holy Spirit, the communion of Your Most Pure Body for me and all Your people, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



Inasmuch as you are doing a holy duty of the Holy Church, you should be involved in spiritual things during the making of the bread — especially prayer. Many prefer to have Liturgical Music or Chant playing while making the bread. Others have Scripture of prayers playing; still others prefer absolute silence. Televisions, radios, the telephone, etc., should not be distracting us while we do this holy duty. Made the bread with the knowledge that God, the Angels and all the Saints are eager to help you in this good and holy work.

Thank you Mary Ann for all you do, and especially for the Prospora.

## Senior Warden Report - January 2012

This is the start of a New Year. It is a time many of us like to reflect on what has happened in our lives.

Some things in our church life have remained the same. We have two excellent service priests—Rev. Charles Preble and Rev. Glenn Derby. We also have several other fine priests who do services for us. Our deacon, Rev. Tom Sinning, continues to be a leader for us all.

We have continued many of our traditions: Soup and Salad meal, 1928 Service & Parish Picnic in Glenwood, I-94 Rest Stop ministry, the Great Thanksgiving



Feast, our adult Bible class, and our weekly coffee hour after church.

We have also added some new things. One of the most important is our Godly Play Sunday school for children, which started December 2nd. Verlie Sinning is in charge of this with other church members helping each Sunday. It is great to see how enthusiastic the children are. We are getting Total Ministry up and running. We should be able to start training people by February.

If you look around the building, you will see many changes and improvements: reinforced duct system in basement, no more carpenter ants, new driveway and sidewalk, new flat roof on the front of the church, no more windows on the north side of the basement, downspouts and cement cracks fixed on the south side, mold removed from the basement, carpet cleaned, side rooms painted, and the downstairs bathrooms in the process of being improved.



Most importantly, we have remained a close-knit church family. Coffee hour does not seem like a “church” coffee hour. It seems like a bunch of family members just sitting around chatting. That closeness is the true strength of Emmanuel.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Karen

## The Journey of the Magi

By T. S. Eliot

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'  
And the camels galled, sore-footed,  
refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the  
terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.

Then the camel men cursing and  
grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their  
liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the  
lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns  
unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high  
prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all  
night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears,  
saying  
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a  
temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of  
vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill  
beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped in  
away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with  
vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for

pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so  
we continued  
And arrived at evening, not a moment  
too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you may say)  
satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I  
remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a Birth,  
certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had  
seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different;  
this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like  
Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these  
Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old  
dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their  
gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

This poem was written in 1927, and is believed to reflect Eliot's own journey from agnosticism to faith.



The following notice was sent to Rev. Tom Sinning, who reports that Sally grew up in Emmanuel.

Dear Thomas,

Bishop Prior would like to inform you of the death of Sally Swenson, wife of the Rt. Rev. Daniel Swenson. We give thanks this day for the life and ministry of Sally who died suddenly on December 25, 2012 in Northfield, MN. Service arrangements are pending.

*Rest eternal grant to Sally, O Lord;  
And let light perpetual shine upon her.  
May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Blessings,



The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior  
IX Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota

---

## Adult Bible Study to Resume

January 13th we will begin reading and discussing the Old Testament book of Ezekiel. According to the New Oxford Annotated Bible, Ezekiel was a priest whose ministry to his fellow exiles extended from 593 to 563 B.C. The capture and destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. was a decisive factor in Ezekiel's ministry. The original collection was rewritten and expanded by an editor, but Ezekiel's beautiful prose and poetry may be recognized throughout the book. As a prophet to the exiles, Ezekiel assured his hearers of the abiding presence of God among them. He constantly emphasized the Lord's role in the events of the day. He underscored the integrity of the individual and his personal responsibility to God. To a helpless and hopeless people he brought hope of restoration to homeland and temple by their just and holy God.



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** (please take this list home and use as a daily prayer list): Bishop Brian Prior - All clergy serving Emmanuel – The folks in Sandy Hook – John Hull – Mission Project 2013 - Jessie - Dillon - Keith – DeAnne Runge - John & Cleone Sherman - Riley - Sally - Doug & Buzzi Rollins - Bill & Josie Heegaard - Jane - Mike & Lana Ennis - Pat & Bill Weinmann - Donna's brother Ken – Bill – Mike & Lana's daughter Nicki – Linnae's sister Linda - Military personnel, especially Summer & Andy -- The Food Shelf - Peace in the world - The future of the Episcopal Church - Our friends in Rwanda.



## Lectionary Readings for January:

RCL

January 6, Epiphany

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

[Ephesians 3:1-12](#)

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

[Psalm 72:1-7,10-14](#)

January 13, Epiphany 1

[Isaiah 43:1-7](#)

[Psalm 29](#)

[Acts 8:14-17](#)

[Luke 3:15-17, 21-22](#)

January 20, Epiphany 2

[Isaiah 62:1-5](#)

[Psalm 36:5-10](#)

[1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

[John 2:1-11](#)

January 27, Epiphany 3

[Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10](#)

[Psalm 19](#)

[1 Corinthians 12:12-31a](#)

[Luke 4:14-21](#)



## Epiphany

**Epiphany** or **Theophany** (Ancient Greek) which traditionally falls on January 6, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. Western Christians commemorate principally (but not solely) the visitation of the Biblical Magi to the Baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles.

The observance had its origins in the Eastern Christian Churches and was a general celebration of the manifestation of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. It included the commemoration of his birth; the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem; all of Jesus' childhood events, up to and including his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist; and even the miracle at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. It seems fairly clear that the Baptism was the primary event being commemorated.

Christians fixed the date of the feast on January 6 quite early in their history. Read Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:22; and John 2:1-11; where the Baptism and the Marriage at Cana were dwelt upon.

The Biblical Magi paid homage to the infant Jesus in stark contrast to Herod the Great (King of Judea), who sought to kill him. Saint John Chrysostom identified the significance of the meeting between the Magi and Herod's court: "The star had been hidden from them so that, on finding themselves without their guide, they would have no alternative but to consult the Jews. In this way the birth of Jesus would be made known to all."

The earliest reference to Epiphany as a Christian feast was in A.D. 361, by Ammianus Marcellinus.

Source: Wikipedia

# Emmanuel Episcopal Church

P O Box 231 – 12<sup>th</sup> & Lake Street,  
 Alexandria, Minnesota 56308  
 320-763-3201

Contact us at: [episcopal@centrurylink.net](mailto:episcopal@centrurylink.net)

Visit us on the web:  
[www.alexmnepiscopal.org](http://www.alexmnepiscopal.org)

January 2013

## Important Dates

1/17 Vestry Meeting, 5:00 p.m.  
 1/27 Annual Meeting following service.

## Birthdays

Donna Ziegelman  
 Mike Baas  
 JoEllen Doebbert  
 John Hull  
 Kathryn Jeffrey  
 Mark Reicks  
 Stephanie Schaper  
 Christian Schaper

## Anniversaries

Jeff & Ellen Hormel



Jan 6	Holy Eucharist
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Charles Preble</i>
Organist	<i>Margaret Kalina</i>
Lector 1	<i>Mark Reicks</i>
Lector 2	<i>Karen Reicks</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Karen Reicks</i>
Usher	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Coffee	<i>Tim Johnson/Chris</i>

Jan 13	Holy Eucharist
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Glenn Derby</i>
Organist	<i>Laurie Kruger</i>
Lector 1	<i>Allison Derby</i>
Lector 2	<i>Karen Reicks</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Usher	<i>Karen Reicks</i>
Coffee	<i>Don Krueger/Edith Kelly</i>

Jan 20	Holy Eucharist
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Charles Preble</i>
Organist	<i>Margaret Kalina</i>
Lector 1	<i>JoEllen Doebbert</i>
Lector 2	<i>Belvin Doebbert</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Bette Wolf</i>
Usher	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Coffee	<i>Doebberts</i>

Jan 27	Holy Eucharist
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Linnae Hegg</i>
Organist	<i>Nancy Anderson</i>
Lector 1	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Lector 2	<i>Laird Barber</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Mary Sinning</i>
Usher	<i>Doebberts</i>
Coffee	<i>Sinnings</i>

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
P O Box 231  
Alexandria, MN 56308

Address service requested