



# EMMANUEL NEWS

December, 2012

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

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

## Senior Warden Report – December 2012

Karen Reicks

### Work in the Basement

Anyone going down the basement at Emmanuel may be shocked at the total mess in the big room. It looks almost like a hurricane has hit.

There are two reasons for the mess. One is that we are remodeling the Sunday school room so that it is suitable and ready for Godly Play for our youngest members. Verlie Sinning is in charge of our Sunday school program. If you would like to learn more about it or would like to volunteer, please talk to Verlie.

The second reason is that we are getting ready to have Service Master do mold clean up and remediation. To save some money, we are doing the furniture moving so that the side rooms are ready to be cleaned. Service Master will be at Emmanuel on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>. After that, there will be repainting to do in the side rooms. So expect the basement to be a mess for several weeks.

### Safe Church Training

There are still a number of people who need to take Safe Church Training. Anyone who has a key to the church or who will be working with the Sunday school will need this training. Sheila Stanton, our trainer, will be back in Alexandria during the last half of December. We are going to try to arrange a training session during that time. I will be contacting anyone who still needs this training to talk about possible dates.

### Stewardship

It is time to be prayerfully thinking about your commitment to Emmanuel for next year. You will be receiving a letter soon describing our accomplishments this past year, and our plans for 2013.

#### 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

[wendydzander@hcinet.net](mailto:wendydzander@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.

## God's Peace at Christmas 2012

Syria, Gaza, Palestine, Israel. Christmas is once again, upon us. We are in the midst of the season of Advent, the coming, the preparation, the anticipation. Once again, as Christians have for nearly 2000 years, we will greet one another and the world with a message of "Peace on Earth to men of goodwill" ... for a few days ... a few weeks? We see a child in a stable, we see Mary and Joseph admiring and filled with the awe of being new parents, we see angels singing, we see shepherds kneeling, and we see Kings seeking. But in all of the wonderful memories, stories and hymns, we still see our humanity in somewhat stark terms of the reality of our being. We ask ourselves, where is peace?

We see, as we all have before, that if Peace is to mean something for all of us, it has to be embraced by each of us. That embracing of Peace needs to start within each of our hearts. Before anything, peace is inward and personal. Peace is found when we each have followed the path that is truly following God's law. It is spiritual and is fundamentally a submission by us to God's will for us in our lives. St Augustine said in his "Confession" "You have made us for yourself, O Lord and our heart is restless till it rests in You." It is sometimes difficult and challenging, which is why we have been working at it, as human beings, for these thousands of years.

When we discover that Peace in our hearts, it helps lead us to Peace in society, even within a Christian society. How many of us were inundated with political ads telling us how bad any one candidate was these past few months? Was that based on Christian Peace? Was that based on what Jesus would have us do? Don't we all come from a common origin; aren't we all called to the same destiny? Isn't the value of one human being equal in the eyes of God to any other? Are we simply numbers on a chart or cogs in a machine? Peace is not achievable in any society until the bond of civility, respect and equality for all is not just a slogan, but a way of life. When Jesus taught about the little children and lifted up women in his ministry on earth, he was telling us that everything we assumed in society was something that needed to change in our hearts, in our outlook and in our lives.

And if it is difficult for us, as men and women of goodwill; how much more challenging is it for those who look upon others, whether in our society or in the world, as evil, immoral, corrupt or lower than themselves? Syria, Gaza, Palestine, Israel, and thousands of other places of conflict around us.

But before we assume this seems very hopeless, we then need to return to the roots of our hope, proclaimed and introduced to us in the coming birth of the Christ child. Here they were, a couple who discovered the girl was pregnant out of marriage, her perhaps 15 or 16, and him an older man. They have both been told in dreams that this is God's will. Then being forced to go to a strange town in the middle of winter because of some taxation decree by an Emperor who had a stranglehold on their country. All the places in that town, where decent humans would stay, are full. The only place remaining is barn full of animals and this girl is ready to give birth. And after giving birth, shepherds coming, angels singing, strange oriental Kings adoring a little child, threats to kill the child, escaping to a strange land. It is the ultimate story of hope in a hopeless world. It is a story that renews our hope each time we read it. Emmanuel, God with us, is that hope; born to fulfill this hope for all of humanity. It is the beginning of that new covenant of hope that God promises for all of us. This is the same hope each of us carries with us, whether it was 2000 years ago or today.

May that power of hope for Peace on Earth continue to fill you and your family. May that same Peace move you to bring hope to friends and strangers alike, not just this Christmas season, but for all of the New Year and beyond.

Tom Sinning, Deacon

## **A Publisher in our Midst! Don't miss the book signing Dec. 16th!!!**

Fr. Charles Preble has written a book of poetry titled "The Ruffed Grouse." Here is a selection from the book called

### Riches

The first snow came  
yesterday - eight inches -  
and today it is clear and cold

Across the drive, a pileated woodpecker  
tests an aged elm for digs;  
and chickadees and nuthatches

dine on bits of safflower  
and sunflower seeds  
as a downy swings on the suet,  
savoring his supper;

And the setting sun  
ignites the barren branches  
with glisters of rubies, while I  
sit beside the fire.

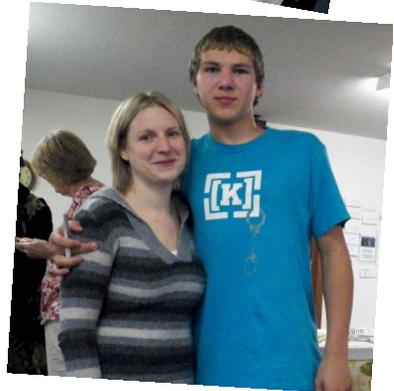
Tell me I am not rich.

Fr. Preble writes, "Three years ago I had no idea that I would ever write poetry. I had written things for years and some published, but never poetry. Three years ago I took a course called "Writing into Wisdom" at the Loft in Minneapolis. It was not a poetry class as such. However, I found that what I was writing was more like poetry than prose, and I was having a great time doing it. My teachers encouraged me to take another step. In January of 2010, although I was terrified to do it, I enrolled in a beginning poetry class taught by Jude Nutter (winner of the award for best Minnesota Book of Poetry last year and one time previously). I loved the course, and ever since then I've been writing poetry almost every day. When I completed the class I wondered what would I do next. I asked Jude if she would recommend a mentor for me. She replied, "I do mentoring." I didn't know what to do. The next day I emailed her asking if she would be my mentor. I felt like a high school boy asking for that first date. Jude emailed me back, "I'd be thrilled." With that response it seemed like there was no turning back. The next day one of the people in my beginning class emailed all of the class members and asked if we would be interested in a monthly get together in Minneapolis to discuss our poems. Six of us have been meeting for the last two and a half years. I've taken a few other classes and work at my poetry almost every day. A little over a year ago Jana suggested that I put a book of my poetry together. Several others followed suit. Selecting the poetry, editing it took most of the year. I found a wonderful publisher and worked with a gifted editor/designer/poet to put the book together. Today I received word that the libraries at St. John's University and at the College of St. Benedict purchased copies for their collections of poetry. No one is more surprised than I.

Why did I choose poetry? Well, it seems more like poetry has chosen me. I've been blessed the whole way and do enjoy writing and sharing what I write. "

**There will be copies of his book available for purchase at the coffee hour.  
Great Christmas gift.**

# What a Great Thanksgiving Feast: Wednesday, November 14th!



The editor's pick for best **Thanksgiving dish** was the sweet potato casserole, provided by Jason Sinning. Here's his recipe:

3-4 lbs sweet potatoes cooked and diced  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 stick of butter

Topping  
1/2 cup flour  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1/2 stick of butter softened  
1/2-1 cups chopped pecans



Cook sweet potatoes in oven until soft. Let cool and dice. In a large mixer blend the potatoes, sugar, vanilla, and butter. Mix well.

For the topping mix flour, brown sugar, butter, and pecans in a bowl. Mix well.

Place potato mixture in a 9x11 pan. Use non-stick spray or butter to grease the pan. Place the topping mixture on top evenly. Pre-heat the oven to 350. Cook for 40-45 minutes or until top is crispy.

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**Church Calendars** are now available. See Edith Kelly if you'd like one.

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**Very Special Thanks to Fr. Glenn Derby** for his woodworking skills, and making all the pieces we are going to need during Advent for Godly Play. And thanks to both he and Allison for the beautiful Noah's ark. The room may not be ready for us, but Verlie Sinning is, and we will begin Godly Play on the first Sunday of the church year, the first Sunday of Advent, on December 2nd. We have the Advent candles (electric), the liturgical calendar, and floor space. Not as rough as Jesus' accommodations at his birth, but close!

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Bishop Brian Prior - All clergy serving Emmanuel - 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 December:  
RCL  
Dec. 2, Advent 1

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)  
[Psalm 25:1-9](#)  
[1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)  
[Luke 21:25-36](#)

December 9, Advent 2

[Baruch 5:1-9](#)  
[Canticle 4 or 16](#)  
[Philippians 1:3-11](#)  
[Luke 3:1-6](#)

December 16, Advent 3

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)  
[Canticle 9](#)  
[Philippians 4:4-7](#)  
[Luke 3:7-18](#)

December 23, Advent 4

[Micah 5:2-5a](#)  
[Canticle 3 or 15](#)  
or [Psalm 80:1-7](#)  
[Hebrews 10:5-10](#)  
[Luke 1:39-45, \(46-55\)](#)

December 24, Christmas

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)  
[Titus 2:11-14](#)  
[Luke 2:1-14\(15-20\)](#)  
[Psalm 96](#)

December 30, 1st Sunday after Christmas

[Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#)  
[Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7](#)  
[John 1:1-18](#)  
[Psalm 147 or 147:13-21](#)

December 2, 20012 starts the beginning of  
liturgical year C,

The **Revised Common Lectionary** is a lectionary of readings or pericopes from the Bible for use in Protestant Christian worship, making provision for the liturgical year with its pattern of observances of festivals and seasons. This lectionary was derived from various Protestant lectionaries in current use, which in turn were based on the 1969 *Ordo Lectionum Missae*, a three-year lectionary produced by the Catholic Church following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

The Revised Common Lectionary was the product of a collaboration between the North American Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) and the International English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLCC). The CCT membership includes the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as many traditional "mainline" or "liturgically-based" American and Canadian Protestant denominations such as Lutheran, North American Anglican (Episcopalian), Presbyterian, and more loosely Methodist and/or Seventh Day Adventist. The CCT thereby represents the majority of American and Canadian Christians and has been widely adopted in Great Britain.

As in its predecessors, readings are prescribed for each Sunday: a passage typically from the Old Testament (including those books sometimes referred to as the Apocrypha), or the Acts of the Apostles; a passage from one of the Psalms; another from either the Epistles or the Book of Revelation; and finally a passage from one of the four Gospels

Also like its predecessors, it runs in three-year cycles; the gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, those in the second year (or Year B) from the Gospel of Mark, and in the third year (or Year C) come from the Gospel of Luke. Portions of the Gospel of John are read throughout Eastertide, and are also used for other liturgical seasons including Advent, Christmastide, and Lent where appropriate.

Source: Wikipedia

# Emmanuel Episcopal Church

## Important Dates

12/2 Godly Play for children begins at 9:45  
 12/16 Book Signing with Fr. Charles Preble  
 12/19 Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
 12/24 Christmas Eve Service, 4 p.m.

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

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

## Birthdays

Tom Sinning  
 Ginger Rich  
 Noel Rich

December, 2012

## Anniversaries

None in December

<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Charles Preble</i>
Organist	<i>Margaret Kalina</i>
Lector 1	<i>JoEllen Doebbert</i>
Lector 2	<i>Bette Wolf</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Bette Wolf</i>
Usher	<i>Doebberts</i>
Coffee	<i>Rachael &amp; Josh Sinning</i>

<b>Dec 23</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Glenn Derby</i>
Organist	<i>Nancy Anderson</i>
Lector 1	<i>JoEllen Doebbert</i>
Lector 2	<i>Belvin Doebbert</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Usher	<i>Doebberts'</i>
Coffee	<i>Mary &amp; Tom Sinning</i>

<b>Dec 9</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Glenn Derby</i>
Organist	<i>Nancy Anderson</i>
Lector 1	<i>Allison Derby</i>
Lector 2	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Mary Sinning</i>
Usher	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Coffee	<i>Zander/Johnson</i>

<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve H.E.</b>
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Glenn Derby</i>
Organist	<i>Nancy Anderson</i>
Lector 1	<i>Allison Derby</i>
Lector 2	
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Mary Sinning</i>
Usher	
Coffee	<i>Edith Kelly</i>

<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
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>Reicks'</i>
Coffee	<i>Josie &amp; Bill Heegard</i>

<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
Celebrant	<i>Rev. Linnae Hegg</i>
Organist	<i>Nancy Anderson</i>
Lector 1	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Lector 2	<i>Karen Reicks</i>
Altar/Intercsr	<i>Mary Sinning</i>
Usher	<i>Edith Kelly</i>
Coffee	<i>Karen Reicks</i>

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
P O Box 231  
Alexandria, MN 56308

Address service requested