



EMMANUEL NEWS

December 2014

www.alexmnepiscopal.org

episcopal@centurylink.net

Note from Shiela

The Community of Hope International was founded in 2004 in the Diocese of Texas at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. It is a program for lay chaplains based on the clinical pastoral education clergy receive. Our mission is "to create Christian communities of volunteer lay chaplains united in prayer, shaped by Benedictine spirituality and equipped for serving in pastoral care ministries." In 2013 there were 86 centers. Each year several are added in the United States as well as Puerto Rico and Canada.

I was trained at Grace Church in Kirkwood, Missouri during the winter and spring with a 14 week 42 hour curriculum. I was commissioned in April, 2013. When I came to Emmanuel in the spring of 2013 I went next door to Knute Nelson to meet their head chaplain RN, Patricia Baglien. She had me get Minnesota certification and assigned me to the sub-acute or rehab section of Knute Nelson. I visit patients there 2 afternoons a week. Pastor Patricia created the opportunity for us to set up our Morning Prayer service at Grand Arbor.

As of this summer I still am the only Community of Hope chaplain working in Minnesota but soon there will be more. Two churches in the twin cities are working on establishing Community of Hope centers.

In June this year I attended the 20th annual conference of the Community of Hope in Texas. I love chaplaining. I work the same schedule at a retirement facility near my winter home in Missouri.

Shiela Stanton

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: 9:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

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

Support Staff/Newsletter:
DeAnn Runge
episcopal@centurylink.net
drunge@embarqmail.com

Godly Play Director/Teacher:
Verlie Sinning
verlieb@nbnnet.com

Vestry:

Karen Reicks	Sr. Warden ('16)
Mark Reicks	Jr. Warden ('15)
Wendy Zander	Treasurer ('15)
Sheila Stanton	('15)
John Hull	('17)
Mary Sinning	('17)
Rachael Sinning	('15)

Delegates to Region and Convention:

Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon
Laird Barber
Alternate: Belvin Doebbert

Senior Warden Report – December 2014

Within a week or so, you will be receiving the annual Stewardship letter. Each year when I write this letter, I think about how fortunate we are to be members of a church like Emmanuel. We are a church whose members are close to each other; plus we are a church that welcomes new members with open arms.

Reaching out to others is one form of stewardship. Money is another form of stewardship. Please consider carefully what you can give during the coming year – in both time and money.

November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the church season that encourages us to prepare for the genuine Christmas – the birth of Christ. It is a time to think about what Christmas should mean to us as Christians.

It is all too easy to get caught up in the excitement and hype that always precedes Christmas. (And yes, my daughter and I have braved the crowds on Black Friday.) But in the midst of all the scurrying around to get ready for “Santa”, please take time to step back and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Mark and I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

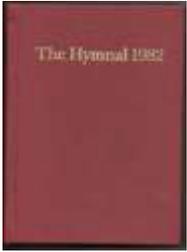
Karen

[320-808-6484](tel:320-808-6484)



HYMN OF THE MONTH

By Tim Johnson



Hymnal 1982 #65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847), Tr. Composite: adapt.: Charles P. Price (Born 1920)

Hymn Tune: Bereden vag for Herran, Melody: from Then Svenska Psalmoken (1697),

Harmonization: Koralkbok for Svenska Kyrkan (1939)

After a November respite, we are now resuming our Hymn of the Month project with one difference. That is, rather than assigning the hymn to the calendar month the Friends of Music Committee has selected a Hymn of Advent which will be sung beginning November 30th, the First Sunday of that season, and continuing through December 21st, the last Sunday before Christmas. We chose to temporarily follow the church calendar as so many of the seasons which begin the Church Year are relatively brief and cross between two months; Advent from the end of November to the second half of December, Christmas from the end of December through the first Sunday in January, and Epiphany from the rest of January to mid-February. We should once again become "in sync" with the monthly calendar by the time we reach March.

With the exception of "How Great Thou Art" which uses a Swedish folk tune, most of the hymns that we have introduced have been of English, German, or American origin. Our current hymn, "Prepare the way, O Zion", once again has its roots in Sweden. I recall this hymn from my Scandinavian upbringing and have to admit that it remains my favorite Advent selection to this day due to its bright and lively tune. "Prepare the way" is possibly not an unfamiliar song to most, but the Friends of Music chose to feature it as our Advent title this year.

Research revealed very little with regard to the history behind the tune Bereden vag for Herran other than that it is a Swedish folk hymn. The literal English translation of this title (or phrase) is "Prepare ye the way for the Lord". The text describes Christ's entry into Jerusalem and over the years this hymn has become very popular for use during Advent, particularly for the first Sunday of the season. It would stand to reason that this melody is yet another which may have been associated with a previous composition (or perhaps with slightly different wording) as it predates the author who is credited for the text which we currently use. It is first recorded as appearing in a collection entitled Then Svenska Psalmboken or "The Swedish Hymnal" in 1697. It gained its current harmonization in yet another volume named Koralkbok for Svenska Kyrkan, "Choral-Songbook for Swedish Churches", which was published in 1939.

The author of the original text to "Prepare the way" was Franz Mikael Franzen, a librarian and professor of literary history. After a time, he became a minister and was eventually consecrated to the status of Bishop within the Church of Sweden. Charles P. Price is credited for translating this hymn into English and adapting it to the version that we know today. He was born in Pittsburgh and educated at Harvard University, Virginia Theological Seminary, and New York City's Union Theological Seminary. After becoming a deacon and then a priest within the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, he served parishes in Pennsylvania and New York City before serving as a professor at Virginia Theological Seminary. Price had a great deal to do with the development of both our current hymnal and Book of Common Prayer. Over time, he was involved with the Standing Liturgical Commission (1967-1985) as well as the Committee on Texts for The Hymnal 1982 (1976-1982). His books include *Introducing the Proposed Book of Common Prayer* (1976) and he was a co-author of *Liturgy for Living* (1979). Price is given credit to more than 15 hymns and translations which appear in the Hymnal 1982.

Now that we have begun the season of Advent, I know we are all eagerly awaiting the singing of carols which will begin on Christmas Eve! In fact, this will actually begin as we sing our Recessional hymn on December 21st! If memory serves me, last year we only had one Sunday after Christmas which fell within that season. This year we have two! During this time, carols will be used for some of our liturgy as well. If you are able to do so, please arrive approximately 15 minutes early for our Christmas Eve service which will begin at 4:00 p.m. on December 24th as we will be singing a number of hymns and carols before the Processional commences. It is our hope that this will add special meaning as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

Sources:

http://www.hymnary.org/text/prepare_the_way_o_zion

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bereden_v%C3%A4g_f%C3%B6r_Herran

http://www.hymnary.org/person/Price_CP



Tracts for Advent and Christmas

By the time you read this, you may have noticed that the tract rack in the narthex has once again taken on a different look from the past couple of months and that Advent and Christmas items have appeared once more. As always, these books and pamphlets are available to you at no cost. Please take a moment to stop, browse, and take anything that catches your interest!

Each year we seek out new titles which we find to be especially meaningful. This year's featured Advent selection is a daily devotional booklet entitled "Expecting Jesus". As with many others, this collection is designed to be used from year to year and thus reflects the fact that one Advent will begin on a different date than that of the previous season. As Sunday November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent in the current cycle, it is appropriate to begin with the meditation for that day. If we are already a few days into Advent before you have the opportunity to take a booklet, simply begin with the writing for the current day. The Daily entries continue through the Christmas season and end with January 6th, the Day of Epiphany. The devotional for each day includes a Bible verse, a meditation, and ends with questions for individual or small group reflection.

The author of "Expecting Jesus" is Danielle Tumminio, an Episcopal priest who holds three degrees from Yale and a doctorate from Boston University. Her primary area of interest is the intersection of religion and popular culture. She has written for *The Huffington Post* and CNN and has authored a book entitled *God and Harry Potter at Yale*. Tumminio is also co-editor of *When Two or Three are Gathered: Stories by Contemporary Episcopalians*.

Other Advent and Christmas items will also be available including booklets from previous years. Pamphlets of note are "Saint Nicholas" and "Mary in the Episcopal Church". Please watch for new non-seasonal writings which will gradually appear in the rack over time. Titles include "Being Episcopalian: Questions and Answers about the Episcopal Church", "An Acolyte's Ministry", "Lectio Divina: Reading the Bible with Your Heart", and many more.

Getting Prepared

The physical aspect of the eagerly awaited restoration project for our organ will commence in January. Allen Moe of the Moe Pipe Organ Company will be moving the console to his shop in Wadena where he will begin this upgrade. During the absence of the organ, our many talented organists will be playing the piano to lead the music portions of our service.



The piano will be temporarily located in front of the lectern for the duration of this project to allow Allen to make full use of the console area for his work. Jay Mercier who will be tuning the piano has informed me that it is a beautiful instrument. He estimates that it was built sometime during the 1920's and it still has all of its original parts! Keeping our piano tuned is an important step in maintaining this instrument.

Our upgraded pipe organ will be reinstalled sometime in late February. Therefore, we will still have organ music for Christmas and the newly restored organ will be back in place to lead us in celebrating Easter!

Heartfelt thanks are owed to the members of Emmanuel Parish for making this exciting project possible!

BIBLE STUDY TAKES A NEW TURN

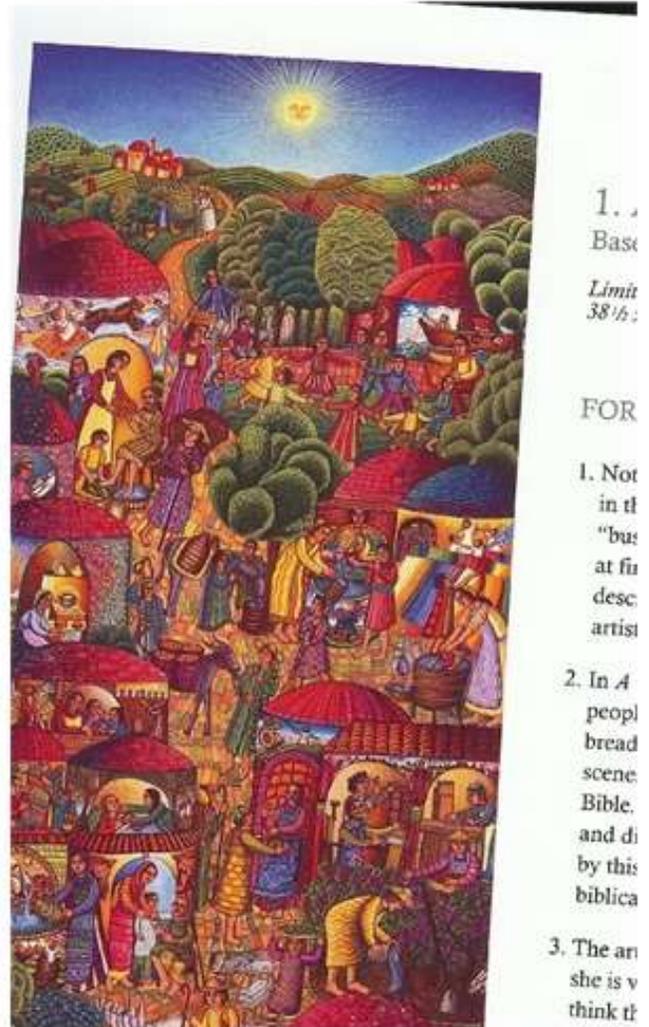
We have spent the past year studying the Old Testament. It has been amazing and revealing and we are grateful for Laird Barber leading us through this.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th, we are going to begin "a thrill of HOPE", the Christmas Story in Word and Art from the Candler School of Theology.

There is a 50-minute DVD presentation of the familiar story of Christmas as told in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Each passage of scripture is illustrated and interpreted by the beautiful artwork of John August Swanson and commentary from members of the faculty at Candler. The DVD is divided into sections, or "chapters," each one featuring a passage of scripture, commentary by the scholars, and a Swanson work of art based on the passage.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics, says that "with the beauty and power of art and sacred text, and the insight of Candler's scholar, we hope this presentation acts as a new catalyst for you on your journey of faith. As the familiar song remind us, Christ's birth is a 'thrill of hope,' a gift over which 'the weary world rejoices.' Rejoice with us as we offer a fresh, creative retelling of this good news!"

Discussion guide is available for \$5. See Wendy for the guide.



1. Base

Limit
38 1/2

FOR

1. Not
in the
"but
at the
desc
artist

2. In A
peopl
bread
scene
Bible,
and di
by this
biblica

3. The ar
she is v
think th

The Great Thanksgiving Feast

On Wednesday, November 19, Emmanuel held its annual Thanksgiving Service and the Great Thanksgiving Feast. The main course was turkey and gravy with potatoes. Everyone brought a different side-dish to share. As usual, we all had a great time and enjoyed celebrating together. It was a good time to think about all the things God has given to us and to remind us to always be thankful.





Lectionary Readings for November

December 7
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Canticle 3 or Canticle 15
or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

December 28
First 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 14
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Canticle 3 or Canticle 15
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24
Christmas Eve

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

Position	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24	December 28
	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Morning Prayer
Priest	Rev. Linnae Hegge	Rev. Charles Preble	Rev. Charles Preble	Rev. Noel Rich	Wendy Zander
Organist	Margaret Kalina	Jonette Boogard	Laurie Kruger	Nancy Anderson	Jonette Boogard
Lector 1	Wendy Zander	JoEllen Doebbert	Karen Reicks	JoEllen Doebbert	Mark Reicks
Lector 2	John Hull	Belvin Doebbert	Laird Barber	Belvin Doebbert	Karen Reicks
Altar	Karen Reicks	Edith Kelly	Mary Sinning	Mary Sinning	Karen Reicks
Usher	John Hull	Karen & Mark	Tim & Farren	JoEllen & Belvin	
Coffee	Karen & Mark Reicks	Verlie Sinning & Rachael Sinning	JoEllen & Belvin Doebbert	Edith Kelly	

Weather Cancellations

In the last 12 months, we have had to cancel services three times due to extremely poor weather. When we decide to cancel services, we do not do it without considerable thought. The supply priest, Tom, any available members of the Vestry, and I decide what is the best and safest choice. After making the decision, the next problem is letting everyone know.

We will try to make the decision to cancel late Saturday afternoon rather than Sunday morning because it is very important to be sure that everyone is contacted. But weather is extremely changeable, and it may be necessary to cancel on Sunday morning.

These are the steps that we will follow:

1. Pay attention to the weather. If the weather forecast is predicting "no travel advised" or any kind of extreme weather for Saturday night and/or Sunday morning/afternoon, please check your email on Saturday evening and again on Sunday morning.
2. An email will be sent out on Saturday afternoon/evening stating there is a possibility that there will not be church and asking you to check your email before leaving for church.
3. An email will be sent out announcing cancellation of church. This will be done late Saturday night or early Sunday morning (before 7:00 am).

Only people who do not have an email address will be called and a message left on their answering machine if no one answers. Other people will not be called. If you specifically want to be called, please let Karen know by early December.

If possible local radio or TV stations will be asked to put a notice on the air and on their websites. I will call as many local stations as possible; but some stations do not staff their offices on Sunday morning.

I certainly hope that the weather is better than last year, and we do not have to cancel any services. But it is always good to have a plan.

Karen Reicks
320-808-6484



Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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

Contact us at: episcopal@centrurylink.net
Visit us on the web: www.alexmnepiscopal.org

December 2014

Birthdays

Tom Sinning
Ginger Rich
Noel Rich

Remember in Your Prayers

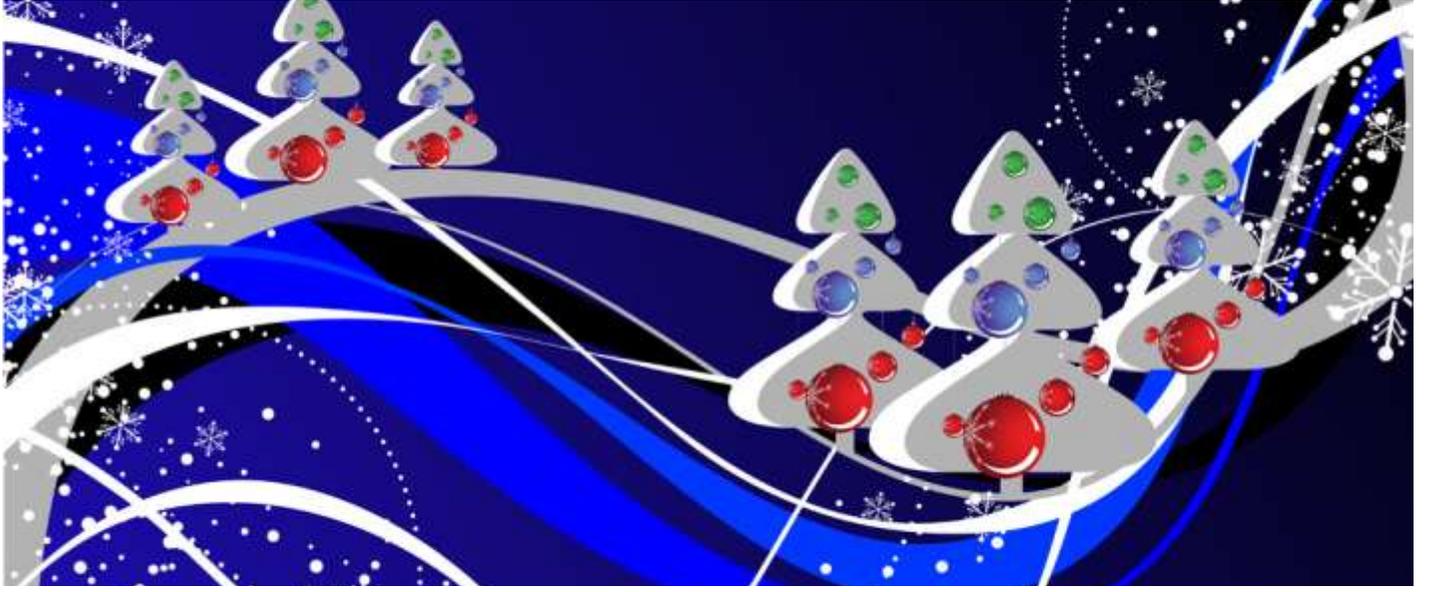
(please use as a prayer list):

All clergy serving Emmanuel, especially Charles, Linnae and Tom
Jana Preble
Bishop Brian Prior
Edith's daughter Dana
Don Krueger
Pat Weinmann
John & Cleone Sherman
Bill & Josie Heegaard
JoEllen's father Al
Alison Derby
John
Military Personnel
The Total Ministry Team
Peace in the World
The Food Shelf and those who use it Heartland Girls Ranch
Dylan's Glove's of Love
The future of the Episcopal Church
The people of Ziwa and the Rift Valley



Emmanuel now has four trained Eucharist Visitors. Eucharist Visitors take Holy Communion directly from the table and go out immediately to serve those who are unable to be physically present with all of us at Sunday Worship. Leaving immediately after communion with wine and bread to share and before the closing hymn, symbolically includes those who are absent from worship to be included in the community of worshippers gathered that day.

If you, or someone you know, is unable to come join us for Sunday Worship please let us know, so that we may include them in our communal worship in this way. Deacon Tom Sinning and Senior Warden Karen Reicks would be two people you could contact.



Address service requested

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
P O Box 231
Alexandria, MN 56308