



EMMANUEL NEWS

December 2015

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I Love December

A Meditation by Canon Missioner
Steve Schaitberger
December 2015

December in the North may have inspired the Christmas Carol whose first line goes: In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on
snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago. Hymnal
1982 #112 words by Christina Rossetti. I love
December and
while it may be bleak for some there is beauty here.

A frozen wilderness is like an echo chamber. The sound carries because there is not much to muffle it. The leaves are off the hardwoods and snow covered. The wind seems to gain speed everywhere except where the pines are thick. In those pines there is a still calm below but a whisper above as the wind strokes the needles. It brings to mind the image of shelter from the stormy blast. God's presence is sensed both in the quiet under the pines and the sound of the wind above. God is in comfort and challenge. God is in church and world. One of the reasons I am an Anglican is that we as a church emphasize the need to embrace of the world. God so loves the world that God sent Jesus. It is wonderful to be in the Church at Christmas eve. Its like finding shelter in the pines. But when the world that God loves is hurting one needs to be mindful that we as a church come to the Christmas altar not just for solace only but also strength to serve a hurting world. I hope the pines are thick where you are as you gather to worship on Christmas Eve.

Contact us:

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

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[320-763-3201](tel:320-763-3201) or
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Vestry:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Karen Reicks | Sr. Warden ('16) |
| John Hull | Jr. Warden ('18) |
| Verlie Sinning | Treasurer ('18) |
| Tim Johnson | ('18) |
| John Hull | ('18) |
| Mary Sinning | ('18) |
| Rachael Sinning | ('16) |
| Wendy Zander | ('18) |

Delegates to Region and Convention:

Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon
Alternate: Belvin Doebbert

I really love a December blizzard. When a blizzard comes everything stops. You stay at home by the fire. The cracking of a fire is so wonderful when the storm is raging outside. Joy to the world sang the Angles. That is also the message of the fireplace during a blizzard. The Church exists to welcome the world into its joy. Come in from the storm and be refreshed by the fire is our message to the world. In December it is not hard to relate to the Holy Spirit as the comforting fire.

The ice is forming on our ponds and lakes. As the ice cracks there is an eerie sound. It is like a sonar echo from some naval submarine movie track or like the sound of whales communicating in the deep sea. One of my favorite names for a resort is Ice Cracking Lodge on the White Earth Indian Reservation. I think the noise of the ice cracking may wake up the fish because December fishing is the best. Most anglers catch more fish in December than all the rest of the winter months combined. We celebrate God's incarnation at an appropriate time. The sounds of Christmas celebration especially the carols help to awaken us to a God who calls us to come fully alive. The ole church is creaking and groaning and faces many trials but we need to remember that it is the world that is in far more travail and it still is the focus of our mission and God's.



Advent 2016

“For the great human family it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope! This is the horizon that makes a good journey. The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!” These are the words of Pope Francis’ first Advent message in December of 2013.

Every Advent, the start of a new church year, we reinvigorate our journey toward that horizon of hope. Hope becomes the reaffirmation of our faith as described in Paul’s letter to the Hebrews, *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* We look to Advent as the coming, the beginning once again. It is our assurance as Christians, despite all that may have happened, despite tragedy and sorrow, despite terror and despair, despite pain and uncertainty, despite illness and injury, despite death and destruction, we can still see that horizon of hope shining for all of us to journey toward.

For many of us at Emmanuel, this has been a challenging year. For millions in Syria, this has been another terrifying and horrifying year. For the people of Paris, for refugees in the Middle East, for the victims of earthquakes in Nepal, for those who have been challenged by drought and fires in the Pacific Northwest we see how fragile and imperfect we are. The list of human tragedy goes on year after year.

In the fullness of time, this journey we are all on that began with the coming of the birth of Christ was the beginning of the first steps of hope in a hopeless and imperfect world. It is a journey that is never finished. We renew it each year as we prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus. We continue to hope for Peace, we continue to hope for justice, we continue to hope for equity. And without the coming of Christ, our basis of hope would be in ourselves and we have all experienced our own shortcomings and know humanity without Christ is simply not the answer. To me this is not just of the message of hope but also the journey of hope that Advent restarts for us each year. As you prepare your hearts once again for the coming of the Christ child, may your continuing journey of hope this Advent bring you to a Peace that reignites the flame of Christmas in our lives.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Tom Sinning

Senior Warden Report – December 2015

You will shortly be receiving the Annual Stewardship letter. When I write the letter, it gives me a chance to look back at the wonderful things and events that have happened at Emmanuel during the year. For being such a small church, we accomplish a lot and reach out to many people. Doing this requires both time and money. Please think and pray about what you can contribute so that Emmanuel can continue to be the church that we all care deeply about.

Mark and I wish you all a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year.

Karen



John Rolland Sherman, Sr., 83, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at the Douglas County Hospital in Alexandria, MN on November 21, 2015. Memorials are preferred to the Shriner's Children's Hospital of MN or donor's choice.

This is a link to the Anderson Funeral Home website and John's obituary
<http://www.andersonfuneral.net/obituaries/John-Sherman-2/#!/Obituary>

Lectionary Readings for December

December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9
or Malachi 3:1-4
Canticle 4 or 16
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Eve

December 27

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 9:2-7 or Isaiah 62:6-12 or Isaiah 52:7-10
Titus 2:11-14 Titus 3:4-7 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
Luke 2:1-14(15-20) Luke 2:(1-7)8-20 John 1:1-14
Psalm 96 Psalm 97 Psalm 98

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

| Position | December 6 | December 13 | December 20 | December 24 | December 27 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | | | | <i>Christmas Eve</i> | |
| Priest | Rev. Nairn | Rev. Preble | Rev. Preble | Rev. Nairn | Rev. Emery |
| Organist | Virginia Hegre | Bev Steuck | Gale Maxwell | Nancy Anderson | JoNette Brogaard |
| Lector 1 | Mark Reicks | Wendy Zander | Karen Reicks | | Wendy Zander |
| Lector 2 | John Hull | Laird Barber | Farren Morical | | Laird Barber |
| Alter | Karen Reicks | | Tim Johnson | Tim Johnson | |
| Usher | John Hull | | | | |
| S School | <i>No Sunday School</i> | <i>No Sunday School</i> | | | |
| Acolyte | | | Farren & Tim | Wendy Zander | |
| Coffee | Reicks | Rachael Sinning | Donna Berry | | |
| | | <i>Holiday Train 11:45 at Hubbard Mill</i> | | | |

Remember in Your Prayers: *(please take this list home and use as a prayer list):* All clergy serving Emmanuel, especially Charles, Linnae and Tom - Jana Preble - Bishop Brian Prior - Don Krueger - Sherman Family - John - Mary Sinning - Heegaard's nephew Nicholas - Edith Kelly - Bill & Josie Heegaard - Don's daughter Tracy - Josh Sinning - Edith's daughter Dana - Laird - Pat Weinmann - Don & Ann Hultstrand - Mike & Lana Ennis - JoEllen's father Al - Total Ministry Team - Heartland Girls Ranch - Military Personnel - Law Enforcement Officers - Peace in the World - The Food Shelf, the volunteers, & all who use it - People of Ziwa and the Rift Valley - Future of the Episcopal Church



December Birthdays

Tom Sinning
Ginger Rich
Noel Rich



Hymn of the Month

By Tim Johnson

Hymn #724 (Wonder, Love, and Praise) First Line Title: “People, look East” Tune Name: Besancon Carol

Text Author: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) Tune Composer: Traditional French Carol Harmonized by John L. Hooker (Born 1944)

Two months ago, the music article addressed the purchase of Wonder, Love, and Praise (WLP), the official supplement to The Hymnal 1982, for our use. As you read this, we have already used this additional hymnal for one hymn which we previously learned as our Hymn of the Month approximately a year ago. It was thought that singing #812 “I, the Lord of sea and sky (Here I am, Lord)” as we did on November 8th would be a good way to introduce this additional resource . . . And it was! We originally stated that we would make more use of WLP after the New Year . . . Which we will! However, when selecting hymns for use during the Season of Advent, the Friends of Music Committee encountered the wonderful and lively “People, look East” in that collection. As we all immediately found it very appealing, we made the decision to make it our Hymn of Advent (the seasonal rendition of Hymn of the Month) during the four Sundays preceding Christmas. We felt that this would make a wonderful addition to our vastly growing hymn bank! Therefore, we are beginning to pull from this resource even sooner than originally expected!

The tune which this selection uses is a carol which originated in eastern France. Although it was not published in a collection until 1842, it is believed to be from the 17th century. The original text for this carol is lively and somewhat child-like suggesting that it may in fact have been sung for the most part by children. “Shepherds! Shake off your drowsy sleep, Rise and leave your silly sheep; Angels from heaven loud are singing; Tidings of great joy are bringing. Shepherds! The chorus come and swell! Sing Noel! Sing Noel!”

The author for the current text was Eleanor Farjeon. She grew up in England with very supportive parents who encouraged her to develop her skills as a writer. Her father was a successful author and her mother was the daughter of an American actress. Though Farjeon was very humble and shy, she had a vivid imagination and great talent as an author. In this country, she is best known as the composer of the hymn “Morning has broken”, but in England she is known better as an author of more than 80 children’s books and collections of poems. Over time, her works earned many prestigious awards including the prized Hans Christian Andersen Award. Interestingly, she refused the title Dame of the British Empire stating that she “did not wish to become different from the milkman.”

“People! Look East” was first published in 1928 as part of the Oxford Book of Carols. Since that time, it has become increasingly prevalent in American hymnals. The direction “East” is significant not only because it is the direction of the rising sun but also because in Christian tradition it is the direction of the coming of the Messiah. One source, umcdiscipleship.org appropriately states “This joyful Advent hymn has the spirit of a Christmas carol, but with an imaginative Advent text.”

The music committee quickly selected this hymn not only because we feel it is one which is easy to learn but also because it is very enjoyable to sing! We hope that you will find it pleasing as well!

Sources:

<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-people-look-east>

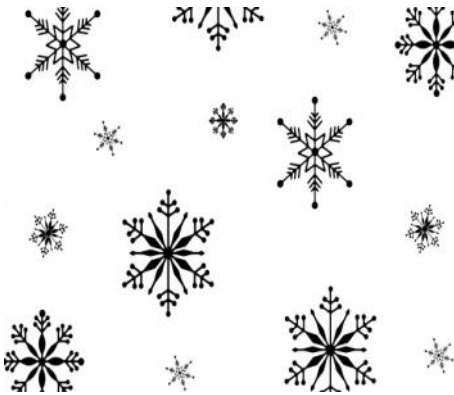
http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/shepherds_shake_off_your_drowsy1.htm

Weather Cancellations

In the last couple of years extremely poor weather has forced us to cancel services four times: December 29 in 2013, January 5 & 26 in 2014, and February 18 (Ash Wednesday) in 2015. Services are not cancelled without a lot of thought. The supply priest, Tom, any available members of the Vestry, and senior warden decide what is the best and safest choice. After making the decision, the next problem is to let everyone know.

We will try to make the decision to cancel late Saturday afternoon/evening 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 will be followed:



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 you know of anyone who does not have or may not check their email, please call them and let them know.

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 forecasters are correct and that we have a relatively mild winter so that no services have to be cancelled. But it is always good to have a plan.

Karen Reicks
320-808-6484

Nantucket Cranberry Pie

From Mary Jo Nairn

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Chop (I use food processor) enough fresh cranberries to make 2 cups and enough walnuts (I buy them already chopped) for 1/2 cup.
2. Butter a 10 inch pie plate well(or a 10 inch springform pan) and put the chopped cranberries and walnuts on the bottom and sprinkle 1/2 cup of sugar over.
3. Mix 2 eggs, 3/4 cup butter (melted and cooled), 1 cup sugar, 1 cup flour, 1/4 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp almond extract until smooth.
4. Spread batter over the cranberry/walnut/sugar base.
5. Bake 40-45 minutes or until the tester comes out clean from the middle.



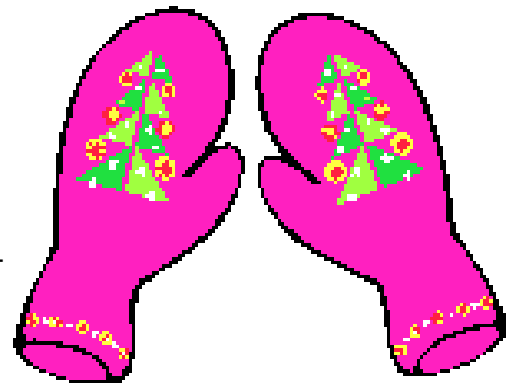
Update on the Shared Ministry Team and Other Things

By The Rev. Linnae Grabner-Hegg

The Shared Ministry Team continues to meet the second Saturday of the month for study, prayer and a meal. Friday and Saturday of October 30-31st, the team spent 24 hours at the House of Prayer in Collegeville. Karin Grosscup, a spiritual director, led our retreat. We spent most of the time in contemplative prayer...which meant in silence. For some of us, this was quite challenging, for others it was wonderful. In the end, I think that we all could say it was a blessing.

We continue our studies of the saints, mystics and leaders who have influenced the church, the ethics of care, Hebrews and Psalms. We are delving deeper into contemplative prayer and exploring making Anglican rosaries. Please continue to keep the team in prayer.

Heartland Girl's Ranch and Hearts For Freedom thank you all for the donation of mittens and gloves. They were much needed! They could use more. The fund that has been set up for Hearts For Freedom, the house I work with, has benefited the girls in the form of a purchase of essential oils that our therapists use and recommend that we diffuse in the house to help with calmness and mental balance. It could be a placebo effect, but it really seems to work! Yesterday, I diffused some bergamot and frankincense and placed it up high when the girls weren't watching so they couldn't see it. We have a girl graduating the program and leaving in a couple days and two new girls with us in the house. This always creates tension and unbalance until we all figure each other out. What started out as a bad morning turned into a wonderful afternoon, starting an hour after diffusing the oils for emotional well-being and balance. It seems that there is something to this!



I believe that I was the only one from Emmanuel that went to the ECMN convention in September. The theme and our focus for this coming year will be on environmental stewardship and creation care. The keynote speaker was from InterFaith Power and Light. There were workshops on energy audits for your church homes and presentations from Episcopal Earth Keepers. There was a tiny house brought in to show an economical way to fix homelessness. The business of convention went very smoothly with no contentious items brought forward.

I'll end this update with a Psalm that one of the Shared Ministry Team members made up to go along with our study of Psalms. The authors for the Psalms were many...David, Solomon, Moses, and even Herman the Ezrahite and Ethan the Ezrahite! I leave it up to you to study out who possibly wrote this psalm.

Song of Trust:

Lord, I look for you when I'm stressed out. * You assure me that you are with me.

Lord, I look for you when I'm in the middle of a crisis. * You tell me that you are here.

Lord, I look for you in my quiet time. * You tell me that I am loved.

Lord, I look for you in the beauty of creation. * You let me know that you are amazing.

Lord, I look for you in the faces and hearts of other people. * You tell me to "feed my sheep."

Lord, I am humbled that you even pay attention to me. * You tell me "I am with you, and you are mine."



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