

# EMMANUEL NEWS

October 2016

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

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## From Tom Sinning

I haven't written an article for the newsletter for the past 20 months since Mary was first hospitalized. It seems like yesterday in a dream. Over the course of that time, not just me, but our whole congregation has dealt with much, and it seems almost overwhelming. We have had 8 people connected with our small community who have died. Randy Runge, John Sherman Jr, John Sherman, Josie Heegaard, Mary Sinning, Don Krueger, Bill Heegaard, and just a couple of weeks ago Pat Weinmann. All folks who have contributed to the life of Emmanuel, as well as to many of us. It can seem discouraging, as we don't understand why this should happen so quickly and so frequently.

We are a small but strong family, but not immune from the "chances and changes" of our humanity. In my sermon at Bill Heegaard's memorial service on Friday September 23rd, I related the grief we must all feel, to my mother and her siblings picking rocks out of the fields of their family farm when they children. It happened every spring, after the freezing of winter. You think that you have dealt with the stones of grief which have heaved up, only to find out that once again as another spring comes here you are once more trying to pick them up and deal with them after you thought you had dealt with them before. It is an ongoing task; it takes a lot of work; it takes a lot of prayer; it takes a lot of support from each other. We think that we are strong enough to do it ourselves or that if we just give it enough time it will go away. (If you would like a copy of the homily, please let me know and I will send it, [tomsinning@gmail.com](mailto:tomsinning@gmail.com)) A poem was sent to me by my friend Chuck Nettetstad and I thought it was very meaningful to me as I am working through my own personal grief and I am sharing it with you in hopes that it will also help us all as we work through this time.

### 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.**

**Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.**

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

**Pastoral Care:** Contact Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon or

[320-763-3201](tel:320-763-3201) or  
[episcopal@centurylink.net](mailto:episcopal@centurylink.net)

Support Staff

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[drunge@embarqmail.com](mailto:drunge@embarqmail.com)

Godly Play Director/Teacher:

Verlie Sinning

[vsinning0707@gmail.com](mailto:vsinning0707@gmail.com)

### **Vestry:**

Tim Johnson, Co-Sr. Warden ('18)

Sheila Stanton, Co-Sr. Warden ('18)

John Hull Jr. Warden ('17)

Verlie Sinning Treasurer ('17)

Mary Sinning ('17)

Rachael Sinning ('18)

Wendy Zander ('18)

Farren Morical ('18)

### **Delegates to Region and Convention:**

Belvin Doebbert

Alternate: JoEllen Doebbert

It's often hard to think the positive  
when bad things happen to those you love.  
We don't understand why they suffer,  
so we blame our loving God above.  
How can this be for their own good?  
What can they possibly learn from pain?  
Haven't they gone through enough torture?  
What is the prize that they will gain?  
We see the tears roll down their faces  
while their hearts are breaking in two.  
Why would a loving God look down on  
them,  
and watch all the sorrow that they go  
through.  
Why won't He change their situation?  
He has the power to turn it all around.  
Instead they go on living the same way,  
Hurt and sorrow is all they have found.  
But do they listen to what they read,  
about waiting patiently on the Lord.  
Or do they go on doubting His promises,  
and not truly believing His holy Word.  
No wonder why they are full of sorrow,  
they are dealing with it on their own.  
They act on their emotions and feelings,  
and they try to solve things all alone.  
Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
that means in every thing you ever do.  
He will direct every step that you take,  
and never will let go of you.





## Hymn of the Month By Tim Johnson

First Line Title: “Blessed Assurance”

Text Author: Frances (Fanny) Crosby (1820-1915) Tune Composer: Phoebe Knapp (1839-1908)

Every so often, the Music Committee chooses to feature a favorite hymn which has been requested. This is the case for the month of October when we will be singing “Blessed Assurance”. Also, it is often the case that a hymn is taken from a source which we do not have. As this song does not appear in our Hymnal 1982 or its supplement “Wonder, Love, and Praise”, an insert will be included in your bulletin for the next few Sundays.

Fanny Crosby and Phoebe Knapp both lived in New York although under very different circumstances. Crosby was blind from the age of 6 weeks and lived in modest conditions being involved with many outreach missions to the unfortunate. Phoebe Knapp was married to a rather wealthy publisher and thus lived among finer surroundings. However, the two became friends and Crosby spent some time visiting the Knapp household. On one such evening, Phoebe asked Fanny to listen to her play a piece of music that she had composed on the piano asking her “What does this music say to you?” As soon as she finished playing the melody, Crosby immediately stated “Blessed assurance! Jesus is mine!”

“Blessed Assurance” was first published in 1873 in a magazine entitled “Guide to Holiness” published by Phoebe’s husband, Joseph Fairchild Knapp and phoebe also chose to include it in a collection named “Bible School Songs” that same year.

The hymn got its main start in general use at the 23rd Street Dutch Reformed Church during a time when D.L. Moody was leading an evangelical revival there. In fact, the Moody/Sanky meetings were the catalyst which popularized many of Crosby’s hymns throughout the world. It is said that Crosby entered the church as the congregation was singing “Blessed assurance!” and upon seeing her, Moody jumped to his feet, paused the singing, and shouted “Here comes the authoress!” The response was thunderous applause.

Frances Crosby was a life-long Methodist and her hymns are among the most popular songs in that tradition since her lifetime. It is one of eight authored by her which appear in the current official hymnal for the United Methodist Church today. “Blessed assurance!” has also proved to be an inspiration to many gospel and evangelical singers since its introduction almost 150 years ago.

Sources:

“Then Sings My Soul (150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories)”, Robert J. Morgan, Thomas-Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 2003

<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-blessed-assurance>

## Senior Warden Report October, 2016

October is almost here, a bit less rain would be nicer for farmers who need to harvest, and for the rest of us who like to look at fall colors! September has been a good month at Emmanuel. We now have a new History and Missions room next to the Sunday School rooms. We are just getting our ideas together. If you have a suggestion or want to help, please tell Karen Reicks who courageously offered to take over this project. Thank you, Karen.

The former computer room has become our Secretary/Treasurer's room. We cleared out a big old computer, moved things around, and acquired a new locking four drawer file cabinet. This should free up our Clergy's room that needed to be less crowded on Sunday mornings. Wendy and Verlie are going through the stacked shelves to organize what we need and what can be recycled.

We cleared off the pew located at the side entrance so people could use it. We hope to get the wall repainted a fresh and cheerful color. What would you suggest?

We want to redo our narthex-entrance foyer in the spring. We are making a list of what jobs need to be done there, and deciding what furniture or items we need to do those jobs. We want to create a welcoming space that encourages us to get ready for worship. We need an especially nice spot to place the host and wine before the Eucharist celebration. Please study our entrance foyer and make suggestions. Let's do this slowly and prayerfully. (should we include the 4 little stained glass windows from our 1875 Church?)

This month I want to send a big thank you to Wendy. Since I've only been here seven summers I know only a small percentage of the things she has done for our Church. She was treasurer for 4 years at least, now she is our bookkeeper. She is part of our music committee. She planned and organized our spring and summer concerts to benefit the Food Pantry (do you remember all the wonderful food she prepared for those summer concerts?) She was the driving force behind our major organ repair campaign. She pursued Godly Play training, was certified, and helps Verlie with the Sunday School. She underwent the training for and was commissioned as an Episcopalian Community of Hope chaplain, as associate chaplain at Knute Nelson, and as a hospice volunteer at Knute Nelson and Grand Arbor. She has been on the vestry for several terms, and she is a member of our Shared Ministry team as a liturgist and musician. When does she sleep? Thank you, Wendy, for your dazzling smile, your deep faith, your boundless energy, your great experience and wisdom and, most of all, the love you bring to Emmanuel.

Lastly, dear friends, please do not bring things you no longer use to our Church. We no longer have a second hand sale. Someplace Safe, Klothes Kloset and St. Mary's Sharing and Caring are wonderful places to recycle.

Next month Tim will be taking back vestry into more proficient hands. I will be back in Vermont playing with that new baby boy born on September 18th. My prayers stay with you. God willing, see you next summer.

Sheila



# Lectionary Readings for October

## October 2

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 1:1-6  
Lamentations 3:19-26  
or Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10



## October 9

Twenty First Sunday  
after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
Psalm 66:1-11  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

## October 23

Twenty Third Sunday  
after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

## October 16

Twenty Second Sunday  
after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalm 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

## October 30

Twenty Fourth Sunday  
after Pentecost

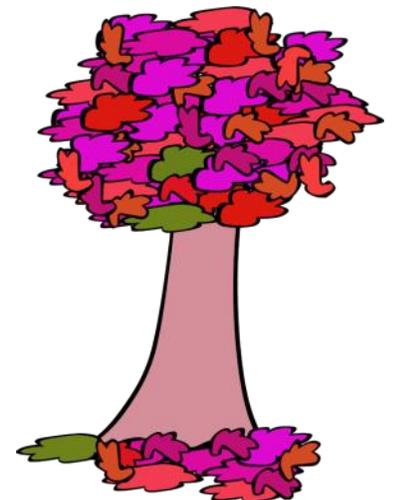
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
Psalm 119:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

Position	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
<b>Priest</b>	Charles Preble	Linnae Hegg	Steve Schaitberger	Fred Nairn	Steve Schaitberger
<b>Organist</b>	Margaret Kalina	Bev Steuck	JoNette Brogaard	Nancy Anderson	Nancy Anderson
<b>Lector 1</b>	Mark Reicks	Wendy Zander		Karen Reicks	JoEllen Doebbert
<b>Lector 2</b>	John Hull	Laird Barber	Donna Ziegelman	Mark Reicks	Belvin Doebbet
<b>Alter</b>	Tim Johnson	Karen Reicks	Donna Ziegelman		
<b>S School</b>	Verlie Sinning	<i>No Sunday School</i>	Verlie Sinning	<i>No Sunday School</i>	<i>No Sunday School</i>
<b>Coffee</b>	Verlie Sinning	Zander/Sherman	Rachael Sinning	Doebberts	Reicks

*Pat Weinmann long time summer resident and member at Emmanuel Church died September 13th at St Therese Home in New Hope. Her son Mark was with her.*

*Services are pending and will most likely be in Alexandria next spring at Kinkead Cemetery, where her husband Bill is interred.*

**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 —John — Edith Kelly— Roger – Cleone Sherman—Weinmann Family— Don’s daughter Tracy—Josh Sinning—Edith’s daughter Dana—Laird—Don & Ann Hultstrand – Mike & Lana Ennis—JoEllen’s father Al - Nathan – The Total Ministry Team - The Heartland Girls Ranch - Military Personnel - Law Enforcement Officers - Peace in the World - Total Ministry Team - The Food Shelf, volunteers & all who use it - People of Ziwa and the Rift Valley - Future of the Episcopal Church





Address service requested

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