



# EMMANUEL NEWS

December 2016

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

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## From Fred Nairn

We live in unsettling times both at home and abroad. Various agony columnists suggested that a good opportunity for active listening and appreciating might be found at the Thanksgiving Table with family and friends together discussing their hopes and fears coming out of the recent Presidential Election. This kind of respectful conversation about differences would be good modelling for the younger members of the family. I am sure they know what they are talking about, but it never worked for my family – clearly, we weren't listening enough or appreciating difference enough and learned early on that a good dining experience and good digestion depended more on *not* discussing the things that divided us. Even today, in conversation with my older sister in Northern Ireland, there are topics we do not discuss on the phone, even less in person. Or, to be more precise, she will preface a topic by saying, "I know you don't agree with me about this, but ..." and that is where I will say, nine times out of ten, "That is true," and leave her space to say her piece, keeping my own counsel.

When I was young and in charge of my first parishes I would become so frustrated with the "older folks" who resisted changes in the liturgy, changes in how I wanted to do things. Yesterday morning I re-pressed their objections in my head as I suffered a visceral reaction to a new liturgy for Advent, including a new, modern Collect of the Day, that was presented at Trinity in Excelsior. What makes them think, I wondered in my head, that they can do better than Archbishop Thomas Cranmer who wrote the original which has been good enough for millions of people for the past four hundred years? He got himself burned at the stake for daring to translate the liturgy into English, giving us such memorable lines as, *Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.* What was wrong with that, I fumed in my head; why did they have to discard the old and introduce something new and inferior?

So, I have become one of those annoying people who resist change, the same who caused me much upset in my younger days. If they had nothing better to do than listen to what was going on in my head yesterday morning, these critics of yesteryear might have said, "Now you know what we felt like when you tried to foist those modern things on us! We were upset because we couldn't see the point of changing

### Contact us:

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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)

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### 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)

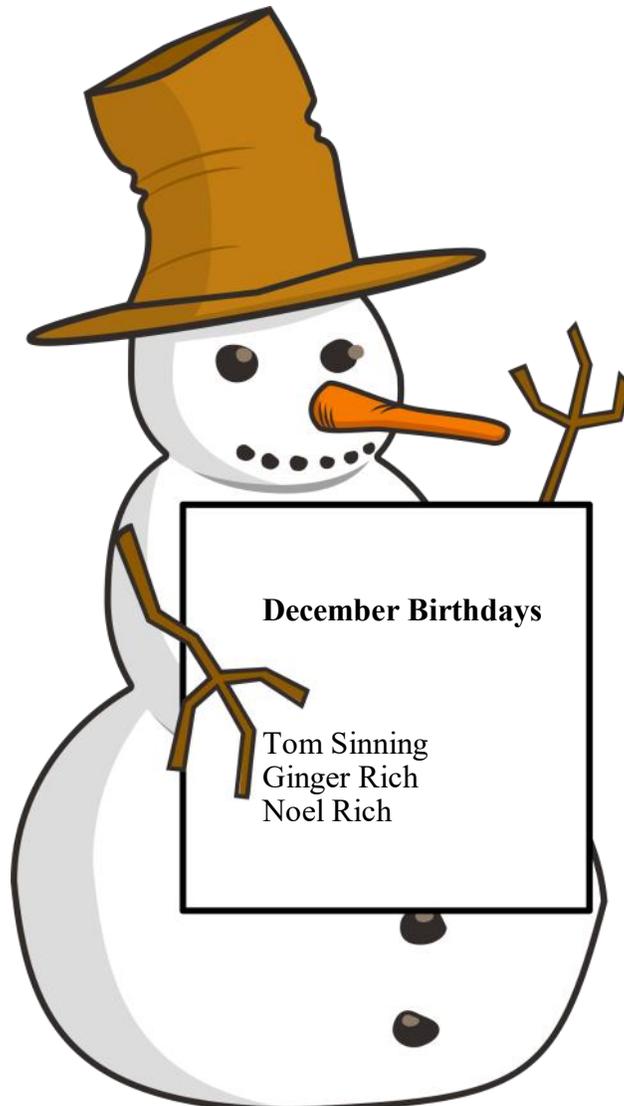
### Delegates to Region and Convention:

Belvin Doebbert

Alternate: JoEllen Doebbert

something that was loved and familiar.” Yes, I do see, and in seeing it helps me to think about our current divisions as a country. What if we seriously considered the other and opposite point of view to our own – actually gave room – respect, even, to something that we have a visceral reaction to; imagined ourselves as them, put on their shoes, as it were, and walked a mile in them? Mostly, I speak for myself here, because I don’t want to entertain the idea that there might be some truth in what they are saying and that truth might unsettle me in my opinions.

In order to do this, to listen to what people are saying, we need to acknowledge the things that unite us, the things we hold in common that we love and value, the respect that if we don’t currently have for the other person and his or her views, we might work at finding. Around the Thanksgiving table or the Christmas Eve table, instead of rote table prayer, we might instead give thanks for all the people there, all the things we share in common, the love and respect we have for each other, even the ones we don’t agree with. Once we see and hear that there is much more that we share and much more that unites us than divides us we can begin to heal our divisions and our distaste for those who think differently to ourselves. Of course there are core values which define who we are that we are not going to change and there are things said and done that should not be tolerated or are unworthy of respect. Yet, and all, there is more that unites the human family than divides it and we might listen and discover all we hold in common.



## Senior Warden Report December, 1016

More often than not, it feels as though I begin this article by talking about the weather . . . . This time is no exception. It's very hard to believe that only about two weeks ago I was in shirt sleeves digging up bulbs and putting the gardens to bed for the season and now we've already had our first blizzard and ice storm of the winter! I hope all of you came through those events safely! It is always said of Minnesota that if you don't like the weather, just wait a day or two. Somehow, I don't think we are the only state in the upper Midwest to make that claim!

It also amazes me that we are already entering another December and the Advent Season is now upon us! Speaking of which, remember that as with Lent, Advent is a penitential season and thus we do not speak nor sing the word "Alleluia" during that period of time. We also sing the Kyrie ("Lord have mercy . . .") in place of the Gloria until Christmas Eve.

A couple of weeks ago we had our Great Thanksgiving Feast and all seemed to have a wonderful time! Even a glitch provided by our kitchen stove didn't dampen spirits for too long! Thanks to John and Tom noticing the issue quickly and for Greeley's timely repair service, everything was up and running smoothly in time for members and guests to enjoy the dinner! I would also like to extend many thanks to Karen for all of the assistance she gave with seeing to the arrangements for this event!

There are a couple of things I would like everyone to keep in mind as we enter this last month of 2016: Verlie has introduced a gloves, hats, and scarves tree to benefit the Dylan's Gloves project founded and operated by Donna Berry. Our Christmas tree will remain on display in the parish hall through December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contribute to decorating this tree with hats, gloves, and scarves to be given to children and adults who do not have these necessary winter clothing items. If you prefer, monetary donations to this mission are also very welcome!

Tom is presenting a course entitled "Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy" by Richard Rohr for an adult forum/study group. Current plans are to meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall on Sunday mornings prior to the service. These sessions will continue through the Sundays of Advent and once again resume during the Lenten season.

You will soon find the annual stewardship letter in your mail. Please prayerfully consider tithing for the next year to assist the Vestry in developing a 2017 budget.

In closing, I would like to express great appreciation to John for all of the work he has done with painting the sacristy, back hallway and entrance, kitchen stairway, and other areas! Has everyone noticed how fresh and bright that area of the building is? Thank you, John!!

I wish you all a blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year!

Tim Johnson, Co-Senior Warden



## 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)

Rather than select a new hymn for this season of Advent, the music committee chose to "reinforce" that which we introduced a year ago. While searching for something fresh from our newly purchased "Wonder, Love, and Praise" supplement at that time, we immediately found the lively "People, look East" to be very appealing. In fact, I cannot help but smile when I think of how well the Sunday school children did with joining the rest of the congregation in singing this hymn! We will use this hymn as the Recessional for the second two Sundays of Advent this year.

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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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/](http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/)

[shepherds\\_shake\\_off\\_your\\_drowsy1.htm](http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/shepherds_shake_off_your_drowsy1.htm)

## Weather Cancellations



In the last few 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. Last year was a mild winter so no services were cancelled.

Services are not cancelled without a lot of thought. The supply priest, Tom, any available members of the Vestry, and the 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 Tim 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. We will call as many local stations as possible; but some stations do not staff their offices on Sunday morning.

The National Weather Service is predicting a winter that is colder and wetter than usual in the northern states. Hopefully the forecasters are wrong, and we have a relatively mild winter so that no services have to be cancelled. But it is always good to have a plan.

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## Lectionary Readings for December

**December 4**  
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

**December 11**  
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11  
Psalm 146:4-9  
or Canticle 15 [or Canticle 3]

**December 18**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

**December 25**  
Christmas Day

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

Christmas II  
  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:(1-7)8-20  
Psalm 97

Christmas III  
  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)  
John 1:1-14  
Psalm 98

Position	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25
				<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
<b>Priest</b>	Fred Nairn	Linnae Hegg Belvin & JoEllen	Dana Emery	Noel Rich	Noel Rich
<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	Farrin Morical	Belvin Doebbert	John Hull
<b>Altar</b>	Tim Johnson	Karen Reicks	Karen Reicks	Tim Johnson	
<b>S School</b>	Wendy & Verlie	<i>No Sunday School</i>	Verlie & Wendy	-----	-----
<b>Coffee</b>	Verlie Sinning	Cleone Sherman Wendy Zander	Rachael Sinning		

**Remember in Your Prayers::** All clergy serving Emmanuel - Bishop Brian Prior - Jana & Charles Preble - Don & Ann Hultstrand - Laird Barber - Hunter Botz - John - The Weinmann Family - Mike & Lana - Jim - Edith's daughter Dana - JoEllen's father Al - Total Ministry Team - Law Enforcement Officers - Military Personnel - Peace in the World - The Food Shelf, volunteers & all who use it - Heartland Girls Ranch - People affected by Hurricane Mathew





Address service requested

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