

The monthly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger: December 2016

Pastor's Message

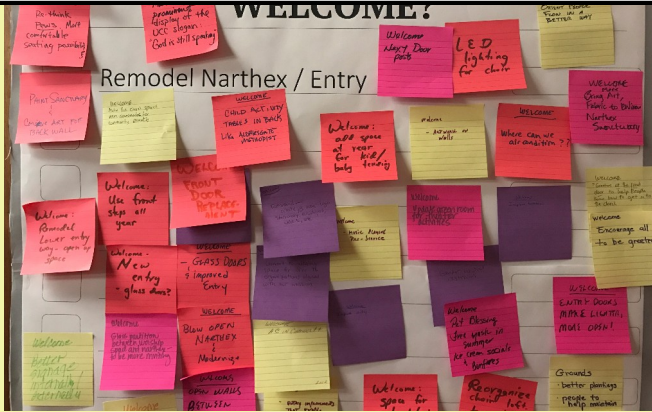


On November 29th, an energetic group of EMC folks gathered in the church narthex to renew dreams about our building and/or ministries, beginning a process to consider a capital campaign in the first half of 2017.

Those present brainstormed about the needs, opportunities and desires in our congregation and community. Our three response sheets were covered in stickie notes by the end of the night, and this is just the beginning!

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Let me share a bit more about why and how we're starting this process. Capital campaigns are focused, time-limited drives to raise a large amount of money, generally in support of anticipated building remodels or construction. EMC has discussed a capital campaign for several years, but we've been waiting for the right timing. We've had dreams and visions about what's possible with our building, and we've also known about needed building repairs that are getting more expensive year after year. (That's why we're doing the current construction work; see below for an update on that.) Our leaders explored campaign options a year ago, and decided to wait until we had a new settled pastor. Knowing that EMC had the talent to explore a campaign and lead necessary repairs in the interim was one of the reasons I wanted to be that next pastor!

While Thom Miller, Sonja Martens, Jeff Strickler, Charlie Green and I have met as a preliminary "task force" over the last several months, we've learned that any successful campaign arises out of the church's vision for its future. Therefore, we must discern as the church how a capital campaign could help us raise the funds needed to better live out our draft Purpose Statement, which I wrote about

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In Our Prayers

Bruce Barrett
and all who
recover from
surgery

campaign-shaping process invites YOU to reflect on three questions: **1) How can we share more joy? 2) How can we offer a warmer welcome? and 3) How can we better serve?**

The November 29th gathering was only the first way to hear from the congregation. Volunteers are now summarizing common themes among those first responses, and by Sunday you'll have more space on the boards in the narthex to share your thoughts. We also want to hear from homebound folks, youth, children and non-church members, so we'll have multiple ways to provide input. After several weeks of brainstorming and summarizing common themes, we'll begin prioritizing items by asking you to vote on your favorite possibilities. This will help us discern the most energizing and vital projects to plan for in a funding campaign. If all goes well, the church would vote early next year to authorize the campaign. Watch for more details as this process goes along, but for now I'd love to have you consider: What might be needed so that we can share more joy, offer a warmer welcome, and better serve the Morningside community for decades to come?

***With anticipation,
Pastor Oby***

P.S. Check out our **new Advent video** here, and join us for worship any Sunday at 10am, and **Christmas Eve at 4pm or 10pm!**

heart conditions

Stephanie
*(granddaughter of
Diane Vanko),
John
Bridgeman, and
all who live with
cancer*

Gwen Williams,
*and all who seek
healing from
sexual abuse*

**Wayne and Lois
Thompson and
all whose health
is fragile**

*All who are in
grief, especially
the **family and
friends of John
Vanko, Betsy
Bennett, Richard
Jamieson, and
Betty Busch.***

**Veap
Holiday Toy
Drive**



Faith Formation

Sunday, December 4, 3:00-5:00 p.m.



A joyful Edina Morningside tradition returns with crafts for young people and old at the Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall. Bring pocket change: crafts cost \$0.50-\$2.00 to offset the cost of materials. Adults will have a chance to make fresh centerpieces for \$3-\$10, depending on the size. You'll come home with Christmas decorations for your home and joy in your heart. Don't forget to invite a friend: the more, the merrier!

**Saturday, December 10,
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**



The holidays can be a challenging time for low-income families. Often, parents must choose between purchasing holiday gifts or maintaining the basic necessities of every day life.

You can help!

Donate a new, unwrapped toy November 15 – December 9.

There is a "Santa bag" in the narthex for collecting donations. For a list of needs click [here](#). Thank you for your continued generosity!

**Front Porch
Friday**

for brunch at Victory 44 at 11:00 a.m.— investing in a North Minneapolis business— then head out to Victory Memorial Parkway for caroling at 12:45. Janet Anderson will bring the caroling books, the Hershey Kisses and the candy canes to give to passersby. All you need to bring is a voice (and it doesn't have to be The Voice.) All ages are welcome. [RSVP](#) for brunch so that we can make a reservation.

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.

Join us this Pageant Sunday for our first ever Christmas movie. Children and youth will be filming a Christmas pageant this year, and the result will premier during worship. (Note: filming will take place during Sunday school on the 4th and the 11th. [Contact Janet Anderson](#) if you want your child to have a part in the movie.) Even more enticement: the Bake Sale will take place after the movie!

Monday, December 26th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



We will be serving Families Moving Forward at Parkway UCC in North Minneapolis on Boxing Day. Women's Fellowship will be ordering a catered meal, but we will need a few supplemental items like clementines, soda, and Christmas cookies. And we'll need folks who can clean up after supper as well as make crafts or play with children. This is a



On **December 9 2016**, EMC Front Porch Friday will view the Martin Luther Art and the Reformation exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, followed by lunch at the Black Forest Inn. The exhibit marks the 500th anniversary of the 95 theses and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. It is the first (and may be the only) time that the exhibit has left Germany, and includes artifacts that Luther handled, archaeological finds from his parents' house, and the earliest surviving copy of the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God".

raising money to provide Christmas gifts for FMF families, and Janet Anderson will be bringing over baked goods for breakfast on Christmas Day. If you can help in any way, sign up in the narthex or [email Janet](#).

Our Whole Lives Class

In observance of Christmas, there is no OWL class in December. OWL returns on Wednesday, January 25th.

The board of Christian education will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8th at the church.

Janet Anderson
Director, Christian Education,
Youth, & Family Life

of its Lutheran population, the largest in the nation. We will gather at the church at 10:00 AM and car pool to Mia. For one of the remaining \$16 tickets, please contact [Molly Cox](#).

December Calendar



[December Calendar](#)

December Worship Notes

December 4th: For the **Second Sunday in Advent**, we consider the theme of “Peace” alongside Joel 2:12-13, 28-29, a call to repentance and a promise of the Holy Spirit on all flesh. We also celebrate the baptism of Natalie Olive Eidsness, then share communion together.

December 11th: On the **Third Sunday in Advent**, “Joy” calls us together, especially in light of Isaiah’s prophecy in 61:1-11. Come to see the sanctuary fully decorated for Christmas, and stay afterward for a congregational meeting to adopt the 2017 budget.

Christmas Bake Sale and Cookie Walk



Christmas is coming and so is the Women’s Fellowship Bake

Advent is when we celebrate the talents of our youth, musicians and faith formation programs! We begin in the sanctuary with choral music and the story of Mary's visitation by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-49), then go downstairs in worship to see the youth-led Christmas video, then enjoy the Women's Fellowship bake sale!

December 24th: Our **Christmas Eve services are at 4pm and 10pm**, with candlelight singing at both, child-friendly liturgy at the afternoon service, and choral music at the evening service. Bring family members and friends to join in this worldwide celebration of Christ's birth!

December 25th: This year **Christmas Day** falls on a Sunday, which gives us another chance to sing and worship together! Our informal service features Christmas carols, the musical leadership of Lisa Lally, and first-person reflections from those at the manger with Jesus.

Holiday Fun

"We should not live by bread alone, but by soup too." —Pastor Oby

Dec. 18th (same day as the Pageant) Fellowship Hall will be filled with cookies, cakes, pies, candy, breads and other good things to eat and share with friends and family. If you would like to donate goodies for the sale, please have them at church before Sunday worship on the 18th or notify [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#) when you would like to drop them off. Please mark them for the sale. More details as the date approaches.....

Taizé



What: **Soup & Bread Blitz (plus Games)**

Where: **Fellowship Hall, EMC**

When: **Thursday, December 29, 6 to 8 p.m.**

Come join EMC members and friends for our first-ever Soup and Bread Blitz. Join us for this fun night of eating, competing and game playing.



Whip up a pot of your best soup or a loaf of bread to share, and bring your favorite game to play! We'll make a meal of it, and afterwards, we'll vote for the most popular foods. Awards will be provided for the top soup makers and bread bakers. Make sure to bring your family or a friend or two, and prepare for fun!

Cool Planet Presentation



Please join us every third Sunday at 7PM during the winter months for a warm and centering Taize-style worship service in the sanctuary. Our 30 minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is followed by a simple soup supper in the library. Our next gathering is Sunday December 18th. Please join us and bring a friend. Consider signing up in the Narthex, so that we may plan accordingly. Questions? Contact [Jane Williams](#) or [Barb Green](#)



Mindy Ahler, Morningside resident and Co-Director of Morningside based Cool Planet (Neighborhood FUN - Action for our Planet!) will share her cross-country bike-adventure in our Fellowship Hall on Monday, December 12.

Come at 6:30pm for refreshments and socializing, then a 7pm program and discussion of action opportunities.

Hear about Mindy's LowCarbon Crossings (LCC), a 4,000-mile bike tour from Seaside, Oregon to Washington, DC. LCC riders travelled through 14 states on the northern tier of America to raise awareness and inspire action on climate change solutions. Presentation includes photos, video and stories from the journey and a discussion of how we all can take positive action to address our changing climate. The program is family friendly for children 8 and older, bring the youth, it's their future we are building.



- 12/4 Carol Weidt
- 12/5 Svea Gennrich
- 12/6 Charlie Fields
- 12/10 Norma Stout
- 12/11 Joey Miller
- 12/11 Mia Miller
- 12/14 Larry Williams
- 12/14 Pete Haugen
- 12/14 Kathleen Lundgren
- 12/17 Karin Miller
- 12/19 Jeff Beyerl
- 12/21 Lisa Dearhamer
- 12/23 Oby Ballinger
- 12/25 Jeff Rice
- 12/27 Mary Engelke
- 12/29 Charlie Green
- 12/30 Darlene Clay

Please let us know if we've missed your big day!!

Prior Crossing News



THANK YOU FROM THE NEW RESIDENTS AT PRIOR CROSSING! There is nothing like

fill up the shelves in Hope's Closet at Prior Crossing and as each young person moves in to their OWN apt they can come to the Closet to select what they need to make them feel at home. Here is what you donated:



- 2 -13 Gallon Tall plastic kitchen garbage cans
- 6 -Paper towel rolls
- 11-All Purpose Spray Cleaner
- 4 -Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- 2 -Toilet Brush and holder
- 1 -Broom
- 2 -Dish sets (4 plates, 4 bowls) + 4 salad plates
- 12 -Glasses
- 2 -Pots and pans
- 5 -Laundry detergent
- Kitchen utensils – 2 spatulas, 2 can openers, 1 set of utensils
- 4 – 5 pc place settings of flatware
- 1 mop
- 1 pkg of scrubby sponges
- 3 – pkgs of disinfectant wipes
- 1 – pkg of kitchen can liners
- 1 – bath mat
- 20 – Target gift cards

News



The Stillwater Medical Team made a recent trip to Daylight. Click [here](#) to see photos and read about their adventure.

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the dedicated people who support Daylight, and the staff and children at Daylight in your prayers.

Blessings!
Pam DeLaittre

Messenger Deadline



Please have articles for the January messenger to the

Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report	10/2016	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$184,627
Actual Pledges	\$25,347	\$172,343
Difference	\$6,884	-\$12,284

Preschool News



The beautiful month of December is special! At preschool, we want to have this month be full of fun and learning about love. We will celebrate **Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa** as part of the December holidays. We will discuss these holidays through music, art, hands on activities and stories. Our social skill for December is showing love.

The preschool board will be hosting a **parent night out event on Saturday, December 3rd** from **4-8 Pm**. Children from ages 1- 9 years can join in on the fun of art, games, the slide, blocks and outside play, weather permitting. Limit is 30 children! Bring a sack dinner for your child. We will eat together and then enjoy a movie on the large screen and snacks will be provided. Donation of \$20 for 4 hours of care per child is suggested. Registration forms are on the table by the office. This is a

Contact us

[Pastor Oby Ballinger](#)
Pastor

[Laurie Eckberg](#)
Administrative
assistant
952-926-6555

Website
emcucc.org



The **preschool holiday program** will be on **Thursday, December 15th at 6:30 PM** in the church sanctuary. The children will sing and play instruments for the holiday songs. There will be a cookie and juice gathering downstairs after the program in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join us for this special event!

For our **December service project** we will be collecting items for the **Minneapolis Crisis Nursery**. This year, they need the following list of items:

New and educational toys for children ages 1-6 years old
Gift cards for \$25 to Target or Walmart
Kitchen and personal items

We will start collecting the above items from Thursday, December 1 through Thursday, December 15. There will be a container by the parent center to place the donated items.

The preschool will continue fundraising in December for new play mats. Be on the look out for Heggies pizza and butter braids sign ups! Thank you for your support ahead of time!

Melissa

Preschool Fun-Raising Update

The EMC preschool needs new gym mats, and fundraising efforts have begun! We need

friends in the preschool to be active and moving. So far, \$130 has been raised..over 10% of our goal!

There are a few different opportunities to support this effort. The preschool board and parent committee will be selling Heggies



Pizza and Butter Braids



until December 6th with a delivery date in time for the holidays. If you have any questions please contact [Megan Gratzek](#).

There will also be an EMC Preschool Night at Hello Pizza (3904 Sunnyside Road).

Hello Pizza will generously be donating 50% of their sales to the preschool



between 5-10pm on Tuesday, December 6th!! The catch is that when folks are placing their order, they need to remember to say that they are supporting the preschool in order for them to donate.



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