

The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

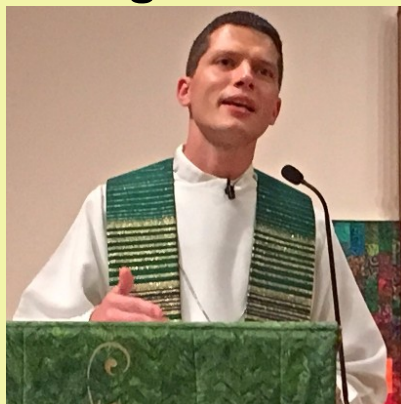
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The Messenger: November 2016

Pastor's Message

November is the season for next-year pledges in the church, but I'm not going to address that right now.



(Read Sonja Martens' excellent comments below, and come to dedicate your 2017 pledges in worship this Sunday!) November is also the season of gratitude and the start of Advent, but I won't address those directly here either. (Check out the Worship Preview for November to see how we'll live into those.) Instead, I invite you to learn more about and help develop another critical element of our congregational life: a new Purpose Statement.

At the end of September, I attended a Leadership Institute at [Church of the](#)

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term vitality, but the most significant insight was the importance of shared purpose, mission and vision to unite and energize a congregation. That church was founded with a specific purpose and vision in mind, and it has grown from a congregation meeting in a funeral parlor to one that now welcomes ten thousand people in worship each weekend. Members and guests there cannot miss the purpose, vision and mission statements written in 20-inch letters around the gathering spaces of the church. These help to hold the congregation accountable to what God is doing with their common life, and serve as guides for all the actions the church takes.

I don't expect us to become a ten-thousand member congregation, but I am inspired by the focus that comes with such clear guiding principles. Therefore, the first thing our governance task force did when we met in early October was to examine our church's mission and vision statements. (There's no sense trying to create or live into a new structure if it doesn't serve our congregational priorities.) Fortunately, you have recently developed vision and mission documents, so we looked at common themes of those to see if we might come up with a draft purpose statement. (Purpose statements address "why" we exist, Vision statements name "where" we believe God is leading us, and Mission statements clarify "how" we intend to get there.) To that end, and building on the vision and mission statements, we came up with this **draft purpose statement: "Sharing the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving"**. Our goal is that it would be short

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In our Prayers

We remember these members and friends in our prayers:

Front Porch Friday

Will you help us test this to see how it feels? The Cabinet discussed it at our last meeting, and now we'd like to get broader input. Does this match your impression of why Edina Morningside Church exists? Are "sharing", "welcoming" and "serving" the right general descriptors for what the church is about? Is "the joy of Christ's love" a persuasive summary of the Good News that gathers us together? Or are we on the wrong track altogether? This is a draft that we hope to test and develop further with your help. Please take it to your team and ministry gatherings and discuss it briefly. Pray on it and ask if there are ways we should develop it further. I'd love to hear back from you whether this "fits" our purpose, before we start to use it as a regular part of the church's life. Thank you!

With gratitude,
[Pastor Oby](#)

From the Moderator

Happy November! As you know, it is pledge season. I wanted to share some thoughts about the why behind pledging to EMC with you.

Tom and I have been members here at Edina Morningside for about 12 years now, and the first committee I was asked to join – at coffee the day we joined – was Stewardship. I have been on some committee ever since, except for the last year and a half when I have served as moderator. (Which means I am technically on EVERY committee – you'll be relieved to know I don't



On **November 11**
starting at 10am

Front Porch
Friday will meet
at church in the
library. Molly Cox
will share
pictures and
stories from her
trip to Cuba! For
more information,
contact [Molly
Cox](#) or [Laura
Simonson](#).

November Calendar



[November
Calendar](#)

Meatloaf Lunch

as well. So, you might say I have spent my entire membership time here at EMC learning about, and hopefully growing in, Christian “stewardship.”

Stewardship is generally understood to mean the management or care of something. But personally, I think Christian stewardship is a whole lot more than that. Christian stewardship is two things: (1) it is the response we make out of our gratitude for the abundance we have been given, and (2) it is how we grow our gratitude and faith.

God has been very good to me and my family. We certainly have everything we need: food, shelter, clothing, community – in abundance. If I listed everything we have to be thankful for, this would be a long article! And we feel it is important to us to give back. Just like it is important to thank your mother for the birthday gift, even though she would send it whether you thank her or not, it is important to thank God for what we have. After all, it all came from God originally.

And intentional, planned giving increases my gratitude and strengthens my faith. Every month when I make our pledge payment, it gives me a chance to reflect on how blessed we are to be able to make that gift and to affirm that God continues to provide. Especially in those months where I am concerned that we might be just a little short, things are a little tight, it reminds me to appreciate the true abundance of blessings we enjoy and to put what is really important first.

And what are we caring for here at Edina Morningside Community Church? How does our stewardship here at EMC give back to



Are you hungry again? We hope so! On Sunday, November 13th, Women's Fellowship will be serving our annual meatloaf lunch after worship in Fellowship Hall. Meatloaf, fluffy baked potatoes with the trimmings, vegetables, jello cups, dessert and beverages! What more could you ask! Tickets are on sale now: Adults - \$12.00, Children \$6.00 and a family maximum of \$40.00. The best deal in town! If you would like any takeout meals, please sign up in advance so we

about social media from our teens to providing meals and children's activities for homeless families through Families Moving Forward to buying goats for Daylight School in Kenya. We are making long-needed repairs on our building, which serves as a gathering place for us and for our neighborhood, we support and care for one another and we reach out to the world to support and care for others beyond our walls.

The way we do all of that is by working together, by being a community where each member contributes their time, talent and treasure as they are able, because together we can do so much more than we could do as individuals. It is like the Bell Choir, which I play in. I have four bells that I am generally responsible for: F, F#, G and G#. I could get up and ring my heart out with my four bells and it might be a little monotonous but it would be pretty because the sound of bells is pretty, but the reason the bell choir plays beautiful music because each member of the choir rings their notes to the best of their ability and in close cooperation with the other members. It is a group effort.

And so, I ask you to prayerfully consider your blessings and to include your pledge to Edina Morningside Church as part of your stewardship of the many gifts you have been given. Be a part of this ministry and see just how much we can accomplish when we do it together and trust in God.

Sonja Martens, Moderator

Looking forward to seeing you there! Any questions or want to make a reservation? Contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#).

November Birthdays



Nov. 1 -
Anthony Fantin
Nov. 3 -
Anna Clay
Nov. 8 -
Kris Kulevsky
Nov. 9 -
Gwen Williams
Nov. 10 -
Annabell
Sorensen
Nov. 10 -
Luke Sorensen
Nov. 11 -
Wendy Grim
Nov. 14 -
Barb Green
Nov. 19 -
Jayne Stevenson
Nov. 20 -

Welcome



On October 30th, we had the joy of welcoming eight new members: Frank Bennett and Mary Lenard, Lisa Dearhamer and Tim Comes Flying, Lisa Lally and Elaine Kirkland, Diane Halpin, and Brad Gangon. **Welcome to Edina Morningside Church!**

Faith Formation

First Thursday, November 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The Resource Center for Churches is open First Thursday evenings during the faith formation program year for volunteers and church staff to check new resources, address questions and meet colleagues. The RCC is located in the Minnesota Church Center at 122 W Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Contact [Janet Anderson](#) or RCC director [Lizabeth Bougie](#) with questions.

Chocolate Indulgence, Saturday, November 5, 10:00-Noon

Register through the [EMC website](#) or the [church office](#) to secure your place in Laurie Cory's Morningside U class on making dipped chocolates! Truffles, Kentucky bourbon balls, and cherry creams will be demonstrated and

Molly Cox

Nov. 23 -

Charles Scriver

Nov. 27 -

Ruth Stauffer

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

Taize



Join us in the EMC Sanctuary on **Sunday, November 20th** from **7-7:30 pm** for our first **Taize** service of the program year. All are welcome!

Daylight News



There is an incredible hand built water system at

your Christmas preparations or wish list!

Sunday School in November

November 6: There will be class for grades K-5. Grades 6-12 will be in worship. Youth who can staff the nursery or read in church should contact [Janet](#).

November 13: There will be classes for grades K-12.

November 20: There will be class for grades K-5. Grades 6-12 will be in worship. Youth who can staff the nursery, read or acolyte in church should contact [Janet](#).

At 11:00 a.m., there will be a brief meeting of youth interested in being cast in or working on this year's Christmas movie. **At 11:30**, youth will go to **Boneshaker Books** in Minneapolis to work for the Women's Prison Book Project, sending titles to women in prison. We will work from noon until 2:00 and arrive back at church at 2:30 p.m. Please [RSVP](#) to Janet if your youth would like to participate or if you can be a driver.

November 27: K-12 students will be together to begin planning and shooting this year's Christmas movie. Joey Miller will be our director. Please [RSVP](#) to Janet if you can be an adult helper with this project.

Our Whole Lives, Wednesday, November 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

OWL class for students in grades 7-9 meets on the fifth Wednesday this month to allow time for Thanksgiving celebrations. We'll be

amazing story of teamwork and dedication that made it so!

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 December messenger to the church office by November 21st.

Halloween Party Recap

The **Board of Christian Education** will meet on **Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.** at the church.

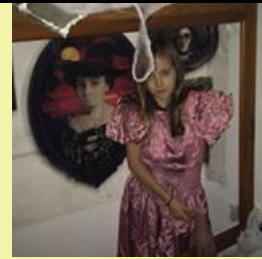
Janet Anderson
Director, Christian Education,
Youth, & Family Life

Worship Preview for November

November 6th: Worship themes of unity despite difference call us together this Sunday. We'll enjoy a skit of Jonah's story, and then reflect on who we are called to love, even against our will. We'll dedicate our 2017 financial pledges, lift up our prayers for the election on Tuesday, and receive Holy Communion in the pews.

November 13th: This Sunday we focus again on issues of civic life, using the text of Isaiah's call to prophetic ministry (Isaiah 6:1-8). Bill DeLaitre leads us in a special prayer for Veteran's Day, and we also welcome baby Emily Dearhamer into the Christian faith through baptism!

November 20th: On **Thanksgiving Sunday**, we consider the "new covenant" written by God on human hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34). We confess the brokenness of the world, especially in the murdered lives we lament as part of Transgender Day of Remembrance. We then give thanks for the divine grace and the bounty of creation, rejoicing in the chance



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Halloween party a success! Thank you, Jane Chang for bringing us WonderWeavers Storytellers; Steve Ray, Diane Halpin, Sarah Gednalske, Jane Putzier and Larry Williams and the youth for your work on the third floor;



Wendy Grim for the Hostess prizes and for hosting a game; Matt Gennrich and Laurie Eckberg for

November 27th: This **First Sunday of Advent** calls us to prepare for the coming of Christ with hope. Just as God rescues Daniel from the lion's den (Daniel 6:6-27), God will deliver us from the forces that threaten our spirits and our world.

A Conversation Drive!

One of the gifts of being church together is that we get to know others and are known deeply ourselves. We name heartbreak and gladness in ways that are uncommon in the rest of our lives, and out of that comes real, loving, close-knit and generous community.

To encourage getting to know each other on such a deeper level, we invite you to join in a "conversation drive" over the next two months at Edina Morningside Church, starting with a training on Monday evening, November 14th from 6:30-8:30pm. At the training, we'll learn and practice going deeper in our interactions with each other. We'll then each receive a half-dozen names of other church members to have a focused conversation with by mid-January. Please speak with Pastor Oby if you have questions, and/or [let him know if you plan to attend](#). Together we'll grow in understanding the deep needs and joys of our community. Hope to see you there!

Morningside U:

Preston, Rianna Ray, Jane and Hsien-Hsin Chang for hosting games; Pam Olson, Laurie Cory, Lollie Eidsness, Diane Halpin for working in the craft room; Jane Williams for hosting the cauldron;



Megan Gratzek for hosting the Preschool fundraiser; Janet Anderson for generally keeping the whole show moving; and Pastor ObyWan Kenobi for announcing the costume parade and playing along with our Halloween fun! Thanks to all who helped with the cleanup (and to Mary and Doug Engelke for

Saturday, November 5th 10 am - 12 pm



Instructor: Laurie Cory

Class Limit: 30 - children over 10 welcome with an adult helper.

Tips and techniques for working with chocolate will provide you the skills you need to make dipped chocolates for your friends and family. Truffles (with multiple flavor options), genuine Kentucky bourbon balls, and bourbon flavored cherry creams will be demonstrated - and sampled! We'll talk about ingredients needed and where to source the best quality at the best price. You will be able to try your hand at dipping several chocolates to take with you, and you'll have tried-and-true recipes that you can use. As a bonus, you'll be provided a list of Laurie's favorite kitchen tools and gadgets-you can get a head start on your Christmas wish list. To register go to our [website](#) or contact the [church office](#).

Fun-Raising for the EMC Preschool

thank you all for
inviting your
friends and family
and keeping us
all in prayer!

Cathy Baldwin



Thank-you



October was a busy month with two memorial lunches, the blessing of Pastor Oby's Installation & reception and the Baked Potato lunch. Each of those gatherings took a lot of planning and many hands to make them



The EMC preschool needs new gym mats, and fundraising efforts have begun! We need \$1200 to purchase 6 sturdy mats for years of fun motor play and to safely allow our little friends in the preschool to be active and moving. So far, \$130 has been raised..over 10% of our goal, and we have only just begun! Your donations are so appreciated!

Here is an excerpt from a lovely fundraising letter written by one of the preschool moms, Lindsey, that will be shared with the other preschool families. Her perspective as a parent of a preschooler is perfect:

...If your child is anything like mine, he or she loves the amount of space that the EMC preschool has available for large motor play. AND, if you're anything like me, you appreciate that they have a safe environment to burn off all of that little person energy, regardless of the season. Whether it's riding bikes, jumping on the trampoline or climbing and going down the slide, it's so great to have an outlet for all of those wiggles. The play mats that are used to keep our little people safe during many of these activities are reaching the end of their lifespan, and the need for new ones has been identified. [...]Before we get too far down the path of brainstorming and planning fundraisers, we thought we would start simply by seeking direct donations. [...]Thank you, in advance,

of you who made the delicious food, helped us set up, serve and clean up! We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you all so much!

Women's Fellowship

Contact us

Pastor

[Pastor Oby Ballinger](#)

Administrative assistant

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

Website

emcucc.org



contribute at this time, be on the look-out for other ways you can help in the coming months!!

Please contact [Megan Gratzek](#) with questions.

Preschool News

With the children this month, we will focus on our thankfulness and celebrate the great variety and bounty of food.



We will learn about where our food comes from - the garden, farm, bakery or hunting and fishing. We will taste and compare many types of food, make applesauce, bread with butter and a dessert, which leads us up to our Thanksgiving Feast. Our social goal for November is thankfulness. We will also be talking about our many blessings of family, homes, warm clothes, books and more.

A fun trip to **Linden Hills Co-op** on Sunnyside Avenue will help us learn more about food. We will be walking for this field trip on **Thursday, November 10.**

Preschool will be hosting a **Thanksgiving "Feast"** on **Thursday, November 17 at 10:30 am and 2 pm.** Parents, Grandparents, siblings and church members may join in at our harvest table for Thanksgiving, preschool family style.

Saturday, November 19th from 10 am - 12 pm. We will have great preschool activities, curriculum information and an opportunity to meet the teachers. Registration will begin in January for the 2017/18 school year.

Preschool will be closed during the week of Thanksgiving.

Our wonderful preschool board will host a **Parent's Night on Saturday, December 3rd from 4 -8 pm.** Children ages 1 -9 years can come join in on the fun. Please provide a bag dinner for your child suggested free will donation is \$20 for 4 hours of care per child.

This is a scholarship fundraiser for preschool families. Please help up get the word out to friends and family.

Melissa

Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report

	9/2016	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$166,164
Actual Pledges	\$19,163	\$146,996
Difference	\$700	-\$19,168



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