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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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March Messenger/ Friday Update: March 1, 2019

March 3rd: Transfiguration and Mardi Gras Sunday!

The transfiguration of Jesus is a Gospel story in which Jesus took several disciples with him to the top of a mountain. While they were there, Jesus' face was suddenly lit with a dazzling light that completely changed his appearance. Jesus was still himself, but he no longer looked like himself to the disciples. Was it a disguise or was it that the fullness of Jesus' inner being and spirit was now fully apparent outside?

Mardi Gras became a legal holiday in Louisiana in 1875. Ancient Roman religious leaders borrowed from familiar pagan traditions to create the Carnival Season and the Christian feast day now known as Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. During early Mardi Gras celebrations hundreds of years ago, wearing costumes and masks made it possible for wearers to escape class constraints or social demands.



So, on Sunday, wear your favorite mask, or one will be available for you. We hope you'll take a mask whether you wear it or not and let it be a metaphor for the ways we sometimes mask constraints and expectations we feel. How are we tempted to hide our own tender, light-filled spirits or the shamed parts of ourselves? What safer place to examine and perhaps remove our 'masks' and show our true selves than at the Communion table. The children of our church will light the way for all of us with luminaries they have made and will celebrate the feast of love with us.

Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast

This Sunday after worship, Second Hour is our **Pancake Breakfast fundraiser** for the Daylight Center and School. Join the crowd in Fellowship Hall for traditional pre-Lenten feasting on pancakes and sausage! Tickets are \$5.00/plate and donations are welcome. All funds raised will go to Daylight. Invite your friends! Mmmmm--pancakes!



Sunday Worship Service - March 3, 2019

Before Worship

- Fill out prayer request slips and Volunteer Ministry interest forms

This Week's Leaders

- **Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts:** Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Faith Formation Director:** Janet Anderson
- **Song Leaders:** Bob Beyerl, Mary and Doug Engelke, Wendy Grim, Lisa Lally
- **Readers:** Bob Beyerl, Jane Chang, Pam DeLaittre, Charlie Green, Mark Mironer and Larry Williams
- **Nursery Attendant:** Becky Phelan
- **Ushers:** Diane Halpin and Donella Neuhaus

During Worship

- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Nursery Care available
- Time with Children, followed by a youth Story and Craft
- Loose coins collected in March donated to [Daylight Center and School](#)

After Worship

- Second Hour: Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast
-

In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

INVITATIONS TO FAITH FORMATION

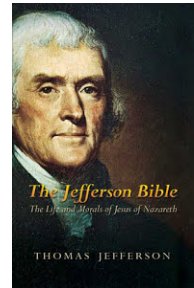


Story & Craft

This week we celebrate Mardi Gras and Transfiguration. Children will be making luminaries representing the light of Christ and bringing them to the communion table for our ritual feast. That will be followed by an actual feast of pancakes after worship--a fundraiser for teachers and friends at The Daylight School and Center.

2 English Teachers Read the Bible

We'll be taking March off in order to participate in Lenten discussions of *The Book of Joy*. But Larry and I will still be reading, and we invite you to join us. In April, we'll be discussing Thomas Jefferson's *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*: the founding father's edit of the gospels. Jefferson worked on it in the White House in 1804, and his guiding principle was that Jesus' message of love and service was authentic, while miraculous stories could be stripped from it. You can read the so-called [Jefferson Bible](#) at the Smithsonian Institution, [purchase a copy](#) wherever books are sold, or [reserve it](#) at the library.



Youth Service to the Women' Prison Book Project



On Sunday, March 17, youth from EMC and Linden Hills are invited to volunteer to pick and pack titles for women in prison throughout the United States. We'll leave from church at 11:30 a.m. and have lunch at the Seward Café and Creamery. Then we'll volunteer at Boneshaker Books from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Space at the bookstore is limited, so please [RSVP](#). We can only bring a limited number of youth.

You can check out the Seward Café [here](#).

You can check out Boneshaker Books [here](#).

You can check out the Women's Prison Book Project [here](#).

At-Home Practice

At Home Practice

As we enter Lent, Fr. Richard Rohr of the Center for Action and Contemplation is establishing a podcast to share his reflections about Christ in the world. Rohr has been a guide, a challenge, and a comfort to many in the Spiritual Writing Group. [Subscribe by following this link](#) if you'd like to receive regular opportunities to think, feel, meditate, and act in God's world.

Janet Anderson
Director of Faith Formation

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours:	M-Th	10am-3pm
Pastor's Office Hours:	Tu, W, Th	appointments encouraged
Faith Formation Days:	M, W, Th	
Preschool Hours:	Tu - Fr	9am-1pm

Monday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach (St. Louis Park)**
- 7pm MNA Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study**

Wednesday

- 9:30am Women's Fellowship (Towerlight)
 - 5:30pm Hand of AA (Fellowship Hall)
 - 7pm **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**
 - 8:15pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**
-

Preschool Babysitting Night!



Spread the word - parents can bring their children to EMC for a fun night with friends while they have a night out! The next Parent's Night Out is on Saturday, March 2nd from 4-7pm. Our



wonderful Preschool Board has volunteered to provide fun for ages 1-9. There will be art, games, slide, blocks and outside play, weather permitting. Email [Jessie and Destiny](mailto:Jessie.and.Destiny) to register your child's participation. Free will donation suggested \$5 per child/per hour.

VOLUNTEER AT PERSPECTIVES



One or two more volunteers are needed at the upcoming outreach opportunity at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on **March 4th from 3:30-6:30pm**. Help others by preparing a meal with kids of low-income families. You'll love the kids, and no prior cooking experience is required. You can now sign up through the end of the school year - [Sign up today!](#)

March Women's Fellowship

It has become our tradition to hold one of our Women's Fellowship meetings at TowerLight each year so we can include three of our very dear and longtime members who live there and cannot normally meet with us. Norma Stout, Lois Obert and Barb Jonson live at TowerLight and we are hoping that Charlotte Beegle will also be able to join us. This year we are meeting there for our March 6th meeting. Other than the location, all of our meeting plans are as usual.



When: Wednesday, March 6, 9:30 AM

Where: TowerLight Senior Living, 3601 Wooddale Ave. S., St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Go through the dining room to the meeting room at the far end. [\(952\) 881-6322](tel:(952)881-6322) office

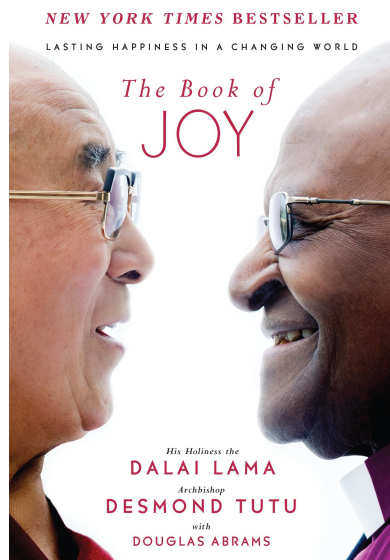
March 6th: Ash Wednesday Opportunities

Ash Wednesday is coming up in less than one week! We hope you will join in **worship at a 7pm** service on March 6th, and/or come by earlier in the day for **"Ashes to Go"** from Pastor Oby, on the sidewalk in front of the church throughout the day: 8:30-9am, 12:30-1pm, and 5-5:30pm.

With the themes of authenticity and light still echoing from Mardi Gras Sunday's worship, Jesus invites us into humility. When the disciples ask, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven," Jesus called a child and said, "Become humble like this child...and put no stumbling block before a child." Janet Anderson will preach at the evening worship about what she calls, "the paradox of humility." The service will also include the traditional wearing of ashes, offered by Pastor Oby. Invite others to join also as we mark Ash Wednesday together, the beginning of Lent.



"The Book of Joy" in Lent



How can we find greater joy? How can we encourage it in others, and in the world?

This year for Lent, EMC will read insights on joy from Christianity, Buddhism and science. We'll be using this book by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Pick up your copy of **"The Book of Joy"** at EMC starting February 10th (purchase price \$16), and prepare to join a weekly small group for discussions in March and April!

If you are interested in joining a weekly small group to discuss **"The Book of Joy"** [please let the church office know.](#)

March Worship and Second Hour Preview

March 6th: We share communion by intuition, and hear the story of Jesus' birth.

March 3rd: We share communion by intinction, and hear the story of Jesus' bright transfiguration on a mountaintop (Matthew 16:24-17:8), bringing an end to this Epiphany season. **Bring your bling**—masks, boas, beads, etc—because this is our annual Mardi Gras service as well! Second Hour is our **Pancake Breakfast fundraiser** for the Daylight School.

March 6th (7pm): For **Ash Wednesday** worship, we receive the mark of ashes on head or hand, a traditional sign of penitence and starting anew. This year Janet Anderson reflects on Matthew 18:1-9, how being “like a child” honors our experiences of being small, needing help, and receiving it.

March 10th: This **First Sunday in Lent**, we begin our series on the Book of Joy, in partnership with Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13). We consider what makes for true joy, and continue after worship with book discussion and joy practice groups.

March 17th: For the **Second Sunday in Lent**, we explore some of the challenges to joy, especially fear, stress and anxiety. Jesus' parable about guests at a wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14) offers ample evidence of these challenges. In Book of Joy small groups during Second Hour, we explore the joy in practices of breath meditation and exercise.

March 17th (7pm): We gather for a warm and centering **Taizé** worship in the sanctuary. This 30-minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is followed by a simple soup supper in the Meeting Room. Please join in; all are welcome!



March 24th: We reflect further on challenges to joy during the **Third Sunday in Lent**, including loneliness, envy, illness and fear of death. Jesus speaks to “envy” in particular with the parable of servants in a vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). Second Hour is a **Potluck and Ministries brunch**, where we continue “Book of Joy” conversations, build community over a meal and meet to coordinate the ministries of the church.

March 31st: On the **Fourth Sunday in Lent** we turn our attention to pillars of joy, especially perspective, humility, humor, acceptance and forgiveness. Jesus commands forgiveness (Matthew 18:15-35), and the Book of Joy groups after worship consider ways to best live out this teaching.

Lenten Fundraising Challenge



HELP SUPPORT TWO DAYLIGHT TEACHERS' SALARIES

Money is always scarce at Daylight. As with the EMC budget, salaries are the largest expense. During the season of Lent, the members of our congregation would like to raise enough funds to sponsor the salaries for TWO teachers at the Daylight School in Kenya. A teacher's average annual salary there is \$1,200.

Our goal is to raise \$2,400 by Easter!

We can do it!

All donations are welcome

Let us remember: One book, One pen, One child and One teacher can change the world.

- Malala Yousafzai

VEAP's March Food & Fund Drive



VEAP's annual drive for food and funds in 2019 is happening now!! It goes from February 25 to April 7. Their goal is to raise \$175,000 and 75,000 lbs of food - and we can help achieve this goal!

Our plan at EMC this year is to focus each week on certain foods, so by the end we have a good variety. We've listed a few suggestions below, but feel free to bring others.

- March 3 - Breakfast or Baking items - cereal, muffin mixes, flour, sugar, cooking oil
- March 10 - Lunch items - soup, canned fruit, peanut butter, nutella, canned tuna or chicken
- March 17 - Supper items - pasta, rice, beans, canned vegetables
- March 24 - Snack items - healthy if possible!
- March 31 - Personal care items - soap, toothpaste, laundry detergent - or anything else you want!!

AND of course, donations are always most welcome. VEAP can stretch dollars further than we can. VEAP can feed one person for one week for \$1.50, which means just \$78 will feed one person each week for a year!

So let's work to bring in both food and funds for VEAP this March!

Youth Group Collecting Toilet Paper and Diapers

Can you **donate toilet paper and/or diapers for [VEAP](#)** in the next month? On March 20th, our youth group is participating in a "Donate and Do" service event with the Bloomington food shelf and community agency. We're hoping to gather 1000 diapers and 1000 rolls of toilet paper to bring with us. (These are the most likely non-food items to be skipped by low-income clients forced to make hard choices.) If you'd like to help us with this goal, bring contributions to the church office anytime between now and March 20th. Thanks in advance!



March Birthdays



March 1 - Nicole Martens

March 3 - Bennett Kersten

March 5 - Katie Kersten

March 8 - Lollie Fidsness

March 8 - Emily Eidsness
Ben Neuhaus
March 9 - Natalie Eidsness
March 10 - Catriona Ray
March 11 - Jay Eidsness
Matt Gennrich
March 12 - Marge Ellingson
March 13 - Doug Fuerst
March 16 - Roth Kersten
March 17 - Reid Williams
March 19 - Jane Chang
March 21 - Rianna Ray
March 25 - Betty Scriver
March 26 - Laurie Chidester
Kirk Engelke
Paul Jasper
March 28 - Cameron Green
March 29 - Piper DeLong
Silvia Schumacher

Please [let us know](#) if we missed your big day!!

Daylight News



Daylight
Center & School

This month you can [meet Elijah](#) a 4th grade student at Daylight with presidential ambitions and learn about the new desks being built for the classrooms.

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



Meet Your Legislators at EMC!



In April, EMC is hosting an important meeting between elected representatives from this district and people from this church and the surrounding community. We are doing this in conjunction with ISAIAH. ISAIAH, as you may know, is a faith-based organization that encourages legislators to support positions that further the well-being of individuals and the community. As such, it is a multi-faith and multi-racial organization. Two of the main activities of ISAIAH are legislative actions at the capital, and “in-district meetings” like the one we are planning.



State representatives Heather Edelson and Steve Elkins from district 49 have agreed to be there. State senator Melissa Franzen is a “maybe”. The ISAIAH core team at Morningside is planning for a meeting of about 125 people. To achieve this, we are really hoping for a large turnout of church members. We are also doing some publicizing in the community, on Facebook, etc.

Please plan to attend this meeting on **April 14 at 1 PM** here at the church. We are going to try to personally invite as many members as possible; don't be surprised if one of us calls you in the next week or so.

You can find out more about Isaiah, the issues we are pursuing this legislative year, etc. at www.isaiahmnn.org. You could also talk to either Bruce Fisher (612-309-5965) / brfisher49@comcast.net or Pastor Oby.

March Calendar



Click [here](#) to see what is happening at EMC in March.

Member and Community Happenings



Longtime friend of EMC, Barbara Hunter (Darlene Clay's Mom) has moved into assisted living and would love to receive cards and letters. Her new address is:

**Barbara Hunter
725 Fuller Drive
Apt. 105
Windom, MN 56101**

The St. Louis Park High School Choirs Gala Performance of “The Sound of Music” (including Christopher Audette)

7:00pm on Thurs. 2/28, Fri. 3/1, Sat. 3/2 and at 2:00pm on Sun. 3/3.

\$10 adults, \$8 kids – tickets can be purchased at the show.

St. Louis Park High School, 6425 West 33rd Street, St Louis Park, MN 55426
Carl A. Holmstrom Auditorium

A Toast to VEAP

Friday March 1st 6-8pm

VEAP Warehouse, 9600 Aldrich Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420

A Toast to VEAP supports the March Food & Fund Drive. It will be a festive evening of beer, wine, savories and sweets. Join in the fun on March 1 in VEAP's warehouse and distribution areas to enjoy food from local restaurants, craft beer and wine from Edina Liquor distributors. Get your [tickets here](#)

Free Mental Health First Aid Course in St. Paul

Saturday, March 2nd 8am - 5pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 Snelling Ave S., in St. Paul

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold a free Mental Health First Aid training course designed to teach the basic first aid skills needed to help a person who is experiencing a mental health problem or crisis. It is not intended for professionals who have a background in mental health. To register (required) or get more detailed information, please contact NAMI at 651-645-2948 or see “classes” at namimn.org.

QPR - Suicide Prevention Classes in St. Paul

Monday, March 4th 5:30-6:30pm

Thursday, March 21st 12-1pm

NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave.W., Suite 400

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help

prevent suicide - Question, Persuade and Refer. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. QPR is the most widely taught gatekeeper training program in the United States, and more than one million adults have been trained in classroom settings in more than 48 states. For information or to register call 651-645-2948 x198 or see “classes” at namimn.org.

St.Louis Park High School POPS Concert (incl. Will Gednalske)

Tuesday, March 5 7pm

St. Louis Park High School Auditorium 6425 W. 33rd St. St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Hope for Recovery Workshop in St. Paul

Saturday, March 9th 9am - 3pm

NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave., Suite 400, in St. Paul

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold a free workshop that provides information on mental illnesses, treatments, crisis management, suicide prevention, the mental health system and local resources along with practical strategies for helping a loved one or friend. This includes learning the LEAP strategy for improving communication: Listen, Empathize, Agree-on what you can, and Partner. This workshop is for family and friends of a teen or adult living with a mental illness and people living with a mental illness who are doing well in their recovery. For information or to register call 651-645-2948 or see “classes” at namimn.org.

United Theological Seminary Open House & Service of Blessings

March 11, 2019

Come help us celebrate United’s vibrant new campus in St. Paul on **Monday, March 11, 2019!** We welcome alums; friends; current and former trustees, faculty and staff; faith communities; and all those connected to United to join us for this special event. Go on a tour, learn about what the seminary is focused on, and help us bless this space. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided. The event is free, but advance registration is appreciated. [Register here](#)

2019 Homeless Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 13th

Central Presbyterian Church | State Capitol

500 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55101

St. Paul, MN 55102

[Register for Homeless Day on the Hill](#), happening Wednesday, March 13. Meet with legislators to advocate for the [Homes for All MN legislative agenda](#).



Mental Health Day at the Capitol

Thursday, March 14

An issues briefing session will be held at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, 105

University Ave., in St. Paul at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Mental Health Rally in the Capitol Rotunda from 11:00-Noon. Visits are being scheduled with Legislators for after the Rally. The event is sponsored by the Mental Health Legislative Network, a coalition of nearly 40 organizations working to improve mental health services in Minnesota. For information, contact network co-chair NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) at 651-645-2948 or 1-888-626-4435 or go to namimn.org

Do you have events or news to share? [Please email us](#) the information by Wednesday for inclusion in the next Friday Update.

Contact Us

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[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

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