

# December Messenger 2017 (Copy 01)

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## The Monthly Newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger/Friday Update: December 3, 2017



Check out the video for our advent series #donotbeafraid. This week we send out the message #morepeace.

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**Preschool Stay and Play  
Open House  
Saturday, December 2nd  
10-11:30am**

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The weather is turning colder, which makes it harder to spend time outside! Spread the word to

come use our large indoor space to burn some energy and check out all the wonderful things our preschool has to offer! Bring the whole family. We will have activities set-up in both of our classrooms for you and your child/children to enjoy together!

## Preschool Babysitting Night This Saturday, December 2nd 4-7pm

Bring your children to school at EMC for a fun night with their friends while you have a night out--more time for shopping, baking or whatever! 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. **Friends are most welcome too.** Freewill donation suggested (\$5 per child/per hour), which benefits the Edina Morningside Preschool Scholarship Fund. **We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with this fundraiser - if you can join us on Saturday please get in touch with [Megan Gratzek](#).**

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## Through the Lens of Faith

*Hello, and happy Advent! I'm going to*



try my hand at a weekly paragraph in our Friday Update newsletters in order to share my thoughts more regularly, and keep these monthly Messenger articles from getting too long.



Each week, I hope to reflect "through the lens of faith" on what's going on in the world or the church, as it relates to our purpose, "Sharing the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving".

Like most of us, I've been surprised by the revelations concerning sexual misconduct in the workplace throughout our society. Well, "surprised" is the wrong word--I've suspected that women face far greater harassment in the workplace than I do as a man, but the confirmation of this is dismaying, to say the least. It's placed us as a society, as a church community, and as people of God in the uncomfortable but necessary position of discerning what behaviors are unseemly, unethical, and/or illegal. What the apostle Paul suggests about the freedom of Christian living (1 Corinthians 6) is instructive here, namely that even if something is lawful, it does not necessarily build up the body of Christ. Even when sexual misconduct does not violate the letter of the law, it can cause grave damage to the fabric of human community. As people of faith, we want to believe that people are redeemable; that past actions can be repented of, repaired, and forgiven. We also know that there must be meaningful consequences for misbehavior if we hope to create a world that better reflects God's realm on earth as in heaven. Much of

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## **In Our Prayers**

*We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:*

...our faith on earth as in heaven. Much of what we are seeing in the news today are the "chickens coming home to roost" after decades of men behaving badly, but being given a free pass because of sexism and the power of their positions. Our faithful response can be to believe those who are coming forward, call for reasonable investigation to determine truth, applaud when such findings result in corrective action, and work for the rebuilding of community standards (including reparations with offenders, where possible). As [Adrienne Maree has said](#) (of the Black Lives Matter movement), "things are not getting worse, they are getting uncovered. we must hold each other tight & continue to pull back the veil."

I've also wanted to check on our own church's policies and practices. Fortunately, your leaders worked on this just last year. In his final months, Pastor Howard and the EMC Cabinet crafted an anti-discrimination, anti-harassment policy, which was adopted in April 2016. [Please read it here to see how it applies to you as a church member and volunteer.](#) This week and next, I'm sharing the church's policy with our staff to make sure they understand their protections and responsibilities. Together, we will continue to create a church that is safe for all, sharing the joy of Christ's love in our words and actions.

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## December Worship and Second Hours

**December 3rd:** Worship for the Second Week of Advent includes focus on the "Angels Among Us" and their message #DoNotBeAfraid. This week, we

## December Birthdays



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  
12/17 Karin  
    Miller  
12/19 Jeff Beyerl  
12/21 Lisa  
    Comes Flying  
12/23 Oby  
    Ballinger  
12/25 Jeff Rice  
12/27 Mary  
    Engelke  
12/27 Denise  
    Cochran  
12/29 Charlie  
    Green  
12/30 Darlene  
    Clay

*Please let us know if we missed your big day!!*

experience the gospel story of Gabriel's appearance to Mary and her response (Luke 1:26-56), receive communion at the front of the church, and leave with feathers to remind us of the angelic message, #morepeace. Second hour invites us to help with final prep for the Advent Workshop, this afternoon from 3-5pm.

**December 10th:** The Third Week of Advent invites us to focus on #morejoy, and how we share it with others. The Gospel story is from Matthew 1:18-25, an angel's appearance to Joseph in a dream after he's learned of Mary's pregnancy. We'll hear a Now Testament from Rev. Molly Cox about her ministry of visiting retired clergy families, receive a special offering for [the Christmas Fund](#) (which benefits retired clergy and lay church workers), and go out singing another favorite Christmas carol, "Joy to the World". Second Hour is rehearsal for the Christmas pageant the following week.

**December 17th (10am):** Our annual Christmas Pageant this year is fully intergenerational, with all ages leading five EMC-interpreted tellings of the Christmas story through movement, word and music. Second Hour downstairs afterward is the legendary Cookie Walk fundraiser organized by Women's Fellowship--bring friends and your favorite cookie containers!

### **December 17th**

**(7pm):** Please join us every third Sunday at 7pm during the winter months for a warm and centering Taizé-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. Please join in; all are welcome!



**December 21st (7pm):** This year we offer a new

## **Volunteer at Perspectives**



Since early 2017, EMC members have been helping kids create healthy dinners once a month at Perspectives, an award-winning human services nonprofit in St. Louis Park. This volunteer opportunity is open to you too—even if you barely know your way around a kitchen! Sign up in the office or email [Laurie](#).

Upcoming volunteer times are **3:30-6:30pm** on **December 4, January 29 and February 5.**

## **December Calendar**

service for the Christmas season, called "**Lay Down Your Burdens**". This Thursday evening service comes on the longest night of the year, and is a soothing counter-voice to the "fa-la-la-la" cultural frenzy. We especially invite those who are feeling down amid the holidays, and anyone who might appreciate a spiritual break amid the hectic pace of Christmas plans.

**December 24th:** We will not worship on Sunday morning. **Christmas Eve worship is 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 31st:** New Year's Eve invites us to sing Christmas and Epiphany carols, recall the journey of wise travelers to see Jesus, and hear the prophecy of John the Baptist (John 1:19-34), announcing all that would soon come to be in Jesus. No Second Hour today, but plenty of Christmas sweets!

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## Faith Formation

### SUNDAY SCHOOL



This being the month during which we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we've got special plans and special schedules. Advent faith formation classes are detailed below. And don't forget to review the schedules under the



Find out what's happening at EMC in the coming weeks -

[December Calendar.](#)

## Mitten Tree



### Women's Fellowship –

For the month of December we are bringing back the Mitten Tree. We are collecting all sizes mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for **Community Emergency Services**. The tree is up in the narthex where you can hang your contributions. Let's cover the tree with things to warm the hands,

Christmas Pageant heading as well!

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** All ages K-12 will have faith formation classes that will include lessons and small group pageant rehearsal.

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>:** All ages K-12 will have faith formation classes that will include lessons and small group pageant rehearsal. (There will also be a full-rehearsal from 11:30-1:30.)

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:** Pageant Sunday. There will be no Sunday school. Please join us for stories and music in worship!

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve.** There will be no morning worship or Sunday school. A 4:00 p.m. service will be geared—in timing and content—to younger children. A 10:00 p.m. service will be offered for those who can stay up late.

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Eve.** There will be no Sunday school. Class will be back in session for all grades on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



This year, our **Christmas pageant** will be held on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. In conjunction with the music committee, the board of Christian education has put together a worship service in stories, instrumental

heads and hearts  
of the CES  
clientele.  
Blessings!

## Christmas Bake Sale & Cookie Walk



### Sunday, December 17

After church come down to coffee hour and pick out some tasty holiday treats to buy for home or for friends and family. It's the annual Women's Fellowship Christmas bake sale!

Baked and pastry donations are welcome - just bring them to Fellowship Hall before worship on the 17<sup>th</sup> or

music, and songs, and dozens of members of the congregation will be performing. If you have questions about when your small group will be rehearsing its story or music, please connect with [Janet Anderson](#) or [Tom Martens](#). All musicians and storytellers will have full rehearsals on the following dates:

- **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:30.** We will order additional food at fellowship hour so that performers are fueled. We will focus on hitting our marks, using props, and divvying up microphones, as well as on our performances.
- **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** This will be a dress rehearsal —i.e., with costumes.

Thank you to all of our participants and leaders! And don't forget that the Cookie Walk follows the pageant service!

### **ADVENT WORKSHOP**

The annual Advent Workshop will be held on **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00-5:00**



**p.m.** You can check out crafts to be offered at this year's workshop in the church narthex. The community is welcome to come and make everything from paper snowmen to sugar cube houses to Bethlehem signposts to greenery centerpieces. This is a ticketed event, with most crafts costing between \$0.50 and \$2.00. Centerpieces range from \$3.00-\$15.00, depending upon the size of the

arrange to drop them off at the church during the week!

Use one of ours or bring your own container for the Cookie Walk.

Questions?

Contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#)

## **3 Great Loves**



### **Love of Neighbor**

**Every Christmas we show special care for members and friends** who cannot join us on Sunday mornings. After the December 17th pageant and bake sale, an EMC Deacon makes a visit to each homebound



container chosen. This is one of the warmest events of the year at Edina Morningside. Invite your friends, and celebrate the season!

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation class will be held on

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** This month's faith formation outside the classroom is participation in the Christmas pageant. If you have a confirmation student, please review the information under the Sunday School and Christmas Pageant headings and put rehearsal dates (Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>) on your calendar. Students may participate in the pageant as musicians, actors, or storytellers.

### ECONOMIC JUSTICE



Economic justice means putting your money where your heart is, as one way to support a community is to support its businesses. For our

**third annual Economic Brunch and Caroling**, we have branched out and found another tasty venue, the Lowry Cafe in North Minneapolis, 2207 Lowry Av. N. We will meet for breakfast at the Lowry at 8:30, eat right away, then carol on Victory Memorial Parkway, and end up at Glass Goddess for hot cider and artisan shopping. You may choose to come to 1) breakfast 2) breakfast and caroling or 3) just the caroling. We will sing at Victory Memorial Parkway at the memorial, which is at 4499 Victory Memorial Drive starting around 10 a.m. Please RSVP by Dec. 5th to Cathy Baldwin (952.994.6424)

member, bringing a poinsettia and a plate of homemade goodies. If you would like to give a poinsettia (\$10-15) [please contact the church office](#). If you would like to send a holiday greeting [click here](#) for the names and addresses of those folks we hold in special care.

### VEAP UPDATE



VEAP recently completed a year-long strategic listening and planning process called **Hope for the Future**. The result is a new vision, mission and program focus areas and

by Dec. 3 to Cathy Baldwin (952-994-0451).

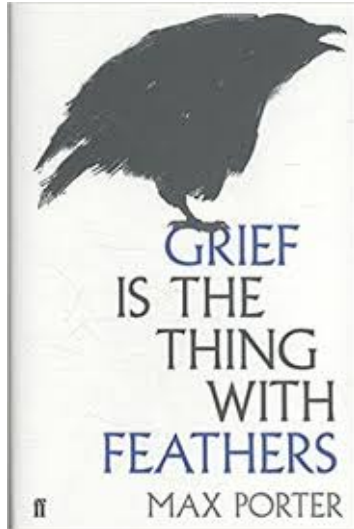
## VACATION

I will be on vacation starting on Christmas Day and returning on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope that all of you, too, are enjoying rest that week. –Janet Anderson

## SECOND HOUR BOOK CLUB:

### Coming January 7th

Remember to pick up a copy of *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers* by Max Porter is you would like to join the Second Hour book club discussion on January 7th. The book is a slim novel in the form



of a fable about grief. The characters are a father, his two sons, and the crow who visits them after a wife and mother has died. The crow is loud, rude, boorish, cruel, and a trickster, as well as kind, gentle, and therapeutic. If you have experienced loss—or have a tendency to feel grief in winter—you are welcome to come and share your thoughts and feelings.

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## Sunday Service - December 3, 2017

Scripture reading: [Luke 1: 26-56](#)

## Before Worship

goals that will help better serve their clients.

**When clients with children were asked, "What is it that you most need for your family to thrive?" They answered, "Food, a home and a support system". Therefore, effective immediately, VEAP is discontinuing the Holiday Toy program and refocusing efforts and capacity to meet clients stated needs. This means VEAP is no longer requesting donations of toys and gift cards.**

As past supporters of the Toy Program we have been asked to continue to invest in VEAP's mission and

- Rehearsal of service parts
- Fill out prayer requests

## This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts:** Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Liturgist and Readers:** Leah Lamon, Jane Williams, Catriona Ray, Pam DeLaitre
- **Song Leaders:** Charlie Green and Lisa Lally
- **Advent Candle Lighting:** Rev. Frank Bennett and Mary Lenard
- **Nursery Attendant:** Sarah Gednalske
- **Teachers:** Laurie Eckberg, Mary Lenard, Janet Anderson
- **Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke
- **Ushers:** Chuck Clay and Brad Gangnon

## During Worship

- Lighting the Advent Candle
- Communion by Intinction at the front
- Nursery Care available
- Sunday School K-5, 6-6, 9-12
- December Loose Coin offering for [Community Emergency Service](#)

## After Worship

- Second Hour: Advent Workshop Prep

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## This Week at EMC

**Church Office Hours:** Tu, W,Th, F

**Pastor's Office Hours:** Tu, W, Th

**Faith Formation Hours:** M, W,TH

**Preschool Hours:** Tu - Fr 9am-1pm

programs by [Giving Funds](#) and by continuing to [Give Food](#).

There are paper shopping bags in the VEAP grocery cart to take home, fill and bring back to church!

## Preschool News



We had a wonderful **Thanksgiving "Feast"** with our students and all of their guests. The preschoolers prepared applesauce, cranberry sherbet, pumpkin muffins and butter for their guests. They also worked hard making decorations and centerpieces to make the classroom look

## Monday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach**
- 7pm MNA Steering Committee

## Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study (Library)**
- 7pm **Cabinet**

## Wednesday

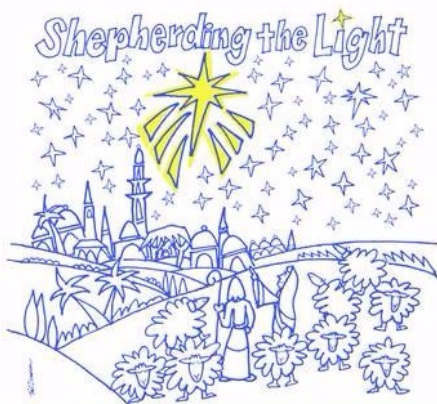
- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship (Library)**
- 12pm UCC Clergy Cluster (Library)
- 5:30pm The Hand of AA (Library)
- 6:15pm **Morningside Bells Rehearsal**
- 6:30pm **Confirmation**
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

## Saturday

- 8:30am **Economic Justice Breakfast and Caroling**

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## Special Offering: Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund



God's love. The fund distributes Christmas "Thank

festive.

Each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas we choose a service project to participate in. It is a great time of year to talk with children about giving to others. This year we have chosen **Pajama Program** for our service project. Pajama Program is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and new storybooks to children in need. **From December 5th through December 19th we will be collecting new books and new, complete set (top and bottoms) pajamas for infants through 5 year olds to donate to this organization.** If you would like to

You' checks, supplements pension income and provides emergency grants for UCC clergy and lay employees. It gives UCC congregations and members an opportunity to help those who have so faithfully served our Church, and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. [You can read more and give online](#), or plan to give when **we collect this special offering in worship on Sunday, December 10th**. Last year's gift was \$587. Thank-you for your continued generosity!

## October Financial Report

	10/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$25,134	\$172,967
Actual Pledges	\$14,692	\$164,606
Difference	(\$10,442)	(\$8,361)

## Front Porch Friday Update



Ten EMC members and friends visited the Minneapolis Institute of Art in November, and enjoyed a tour narrated by Rev. Carol Joyce. The tour was preceded by a lively lunch at the Black Forest Inn. We enjoyed the schnitzel, sauerbraten and red cabbage as well as the lovely works of art! A special treat at the end of our tour was a visit from

participate in this service project with us, there will be a box by the preschool parent center that you may put your donated items in.

On **Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 pm** the preschoolers will be putting on a holiday program in the sanctuary. After the program, we will have a cookie social in the downstairs classroom. **All are welcome** to come enjoy this event!

## Daylight Update



In this months update [read about Deb Schultz's](#) trip to Daylight and the unexpected thank you gift she received - **a chicken!!** Deb was part of the

Mary Rogers' beautiful new grandchild, Vivian. She joined us for coffee in the lobby - along with her parents Caitlin and Conrad.

Looking ahead, Front Porch Friday will take a break in December, but will be



back in January with a visit to 66West, the newly completed Young Adult Housing built by Beacon Interfaith. This is a project we have been interested in and contributed to since it's beginning. Now it is up and running in our own community! Plan to join us on Friday, January 19, 2018 to check it out.

In the months ahead, we are planning a visit to The Museum of Russian Art for an an Icon exhibit - plus a display of the "stacking" Matroushka dolls. The Walker has a major installation of Cuban art, reflecting Cuba's 50 years following the Revolution. And then there is a re-scheduled visit to the Bakken Museum. Enrich your life and your faith by exploring the wonderful cultural opportunities in our own Twin Cities!

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## ISAIAH House Meeting 12/28

At 7pm on Thursday, December 28th, please join Larry and Jane Williams, Barb and Charlie Green,



Pastor Oby, and other members of Edina Morningside Church (and neighbors) at a house meeting to build community and help change Minnesota through shared stories and neighborhood connections. Our hosts are Larry

was part of the First Presbyterian of Stillwater Medical Team.

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 church office by December 18th.

## Contact us

**Pastor**

[Rev. Oby](#)

[Ballinger](#)

**Administrative assistant**

[Laurie Eckhera](#)

and Jane Williams, at 4016 W. 44th St  
Edina MN 55424. Bring any leftover Christmas  
goodies you want to share; other desserts and  
beverages will be available!

Here's the reason for this invitation: By learning  
what keeps one another up at night, as well as  
what we're motivated to change, we can help  
shape a faithful "platform" of actions to inform  
Minnesota's political process in the 2018 caucuses  
and conventions. Partnering with Christians across  
Minnesota who are connected through ISAIAH, we  
will form a multiracial, ecumenical and faithful  
coalition calling for God's realm of justice and love  
to be reflected in the policies and practices of our  
government. What unites us as people of faith is  
stronger than what would seek to divide us into  
opposing "red" and "blue" camps. Come with  
mutual care for one another and our neighbors,  
plus a desire to see our communities better reflect  
God's "kingdom come on earth as in heaven".  
Please RSVP to Jane Williams so she has a sense  
of who to prepare for. Hope to see you there!

--Pastor Oby

~~952-926-6555~~  
952-926-6555

**Website**  
[emcucc.org](http://emcucc.org)



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## Member and Community Happenings

### **Lake Wobegon Brass Band**

Friday, December 1, 7:30 pm

[Colonial Church of Edina](#)

6200 Colonial Way, Edina

All are invited for an evening of music to  
support Beacon's work to ensure all people  
have a home. It's the annual Lake Wobegon  
Brass Band holiday concert to benefit  
**Beacon's Families Moving Forward** shelter  
program. This concert is free and open to the

public. A free will offering will be taken.

### **Free screening of the documentary *Unrest***

Landmark's Edina Theater

Saturday, December 9, 2017, at 10:45 am.

Please register using this [Eventbrite link](#).

### **Please help get the word out about this event. EMC's Bob and Lianne Beyerl's 23**

**year old son Jeff** is one of the 25% of patients housebound with myalgic encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS). "The treatment of today's ME/CFS patients is comparable to that of lobotomy patients decades ago. When the full history of ME/CFS is written one day, we will all be ashamed of ourselves." –Prof. Dr. Ola Didrik Saugstad, Professor of Pediatrics, World Health Organization Advisor, Norway

### **Here Comes the Sun: [Giving Voice](#) Choruses of St. Paul and Minneapolis**

Caretakers and those living with dementia in these choruses (**founded by EMC's own Mary Lenard!**) offer winter concerts that celebrate sunlight and sunshine. Come inside from the cold and find your "Place in the Sun" as you walk "On the Sunny Side of the Street." For \$12 tickets to any performance, contact Macphail Center for Music at (612) 321-0100.

#### **[St. Paul Chorus](#)**

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 1pm

Antonello Hall at MacPhail Center for Music

501 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN

55401

#### **[Minneapolis Chorus](#) (incl. Rev. Frank Bennett)**

Saturday, December 10, 2017 at 11 am & 4pm



Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 11am & 4pm  
Antonello Hall at MacPhail Center for Music  
501 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN  
55401

**Heartfelt Holiday Performances (Incl.  
Denise Cochran)**

**Women's Art Festival**

Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10:45-11:30  
Colin Powell Youth Leadership Center,  
2924 4th Ave. South, just north of Lake Street

**Holidazzle**

Saturday, Dec. 23 from 5:30-6:00 and from  
6:30-7:00  
Loring Park, Minneapolis

**Holiday with the Masters**

Bloomington Chorale (incl. Rev. Molly Cox)  
The Schneider Theater,  
Bloomington Center for the Arts  
Friday, December 15 at 7:30pm  
Saturday, December 16 at 4pm  
For tickets call 952-563-8575 or order [online](#)

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



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