

# December Messenger/Friday Update: November 30, 2018 (Copy 01)

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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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December Messenger/Friday Update: November 30, 2018

## Through the Lens of Faith, by Pastor Oby

*What's happening in the world and the church, as it relates to God's purpose for Edina Morningside Church: "Sharing the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving".*

Pastor Amy Zietlow [describes](#) learning to dance as a baby angel, at the age of five, in *The Nutcracker* ballet. "The baby angels were entrusted with the important



task of carrying the light of hope and serving as divine companions to Clara, the ballet's main character, through her coming-of-age journey." Through all that Clara faces in the classic dance, fighting the Mouse King and his men, the angels accompanied her with hopeful light and subtle encouragement." Zietlow suggests the same to us, as we enter this season of Advent on Sunday. No matter what troubles we battle,

evade or succumb to, the community of Christ bears light even (especially) in times of gathering night. Advent is part of the perpetual promise of Christian faith, that even when the daylight goes away and nighttime approaches, the light of Christ is still within and around us.

That is the promise of Advent, the hope that draws us together as we begin the season this Sunday. Zietlow concludes, "Each week of Advent, the light grows stronger as more candles are lit, culminating on Christmas Eve in a sanctuary filled with light. As I grasp my lit candle and sing 'Silent Night,' I am transported back to my days as a baby angel, when I first learned that women like Mary, Elizabeth, Clara, and the Sugar Plum Fairy can be messengers of the divine. I dance alongside a diverse communion of saints who give witness to the light that shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome." So bring your dancing or sorrowful self to worship this Sunday if you can. Together we will observe the candles lit at the start of worship, and the eternal promise of hope catches flame within us once more. Welcome to Advent!

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## Sunday Worship Service - December 2, 2018

### Before Worship

- Rehearsal of service parts
- Fill out prayer request slips

### This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts:** Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Song Leaders:** Darlene Clay & Charlie Green
- **Scripture Reader:** Pam DeLaittre
- **Faith Formation Director:** Janet Anderson
- **Nursery Attendant:** Rebecca Sorensen
- **Ushers:** Chuck Clay, Brad Gangnon, Sarah Gednalske and Diane Halpin
- **Fellowship Hosts:** Mary & Doug Engelke, Sonja Martens
- **Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke

### During Worship

- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Story and Snowflakes with Janet Anderson
- Nursery Care available
- Lighting the first advent candle
- Communion by intinction
- Loose coins collected in November go to Meals on Wheels

## After worship

- **Second Hour:** Community Open House/Advent Workshop Prep
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## In Our Prayers

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

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## Community Open House and Advent Workshop



Come to church Sunday afternoon for our **Community Open House and Advent Workshop!** On the afternoon of **December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3-5pm**, Edina Morningside welcomes the neighborhood and congregation to our newly remodeled space. Come see our completed project upstairs, and head down to Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of holiday crafting, from the simple to the modestly taxing. Dreaming of snow globes and luminaries? Reindeer and elves? Houses made

of sugar? Celebrate this season of togetherness with conversation, smiles, and lots and lots of glue.

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## Invitations from Janet Anderson, Faith Formation Director

### STORY AND...SNOWFLAKES!

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the children's activity during worship will be to tell the nativity story with stickers and to practice for roles as snowflakes in the Christmas program. This week, we'll talk about Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, and we'll learn how snow is made. Next week, we'll revisit the shepherds and magi, and we'll make some deep sea creatures (snow flows to the ocean) to be used in the Christmas program. All children are welcome, regardless of their participation in the program on December 16th.



### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Remember to mark your calendars for rehearsals on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> after worship and Saturday.

Remember to mark your calendar for **Reflections on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** from nine to noon!

### OWLS OF HOPE



Children and youth who have written letters of hope for refugees should submit those to me by this Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adults, as you think about Mary and Joseph and their baby far from home at this season, maybe you'd like to write a letter of hope to a refugee, too.

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## The Longest Night: Special Worship on December 21st

Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> is the winter solstice: the longest night of the year. A program of music, words, and images will be offered to welcome the joyful dark and to soothe weary spirits. All souls—from grinchies and humbugs to salt of the earth—are welcome at 7:00 p.m.



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## This Week at EMC

**Church Office Hours:**  
**Pastor's Office Days:**

Tu - Fr  
Tu, W, Th

10am-3pm  
appointments encouraged

**Faith Formation Days:** M, W  
**Preschool Hours:** Tu - Fr 9am-1pm

## Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study**

## Wednesday

- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship**
- 5:30pm Hand of AA
- 6pm **Youth Group (EMC)**
- 6:15pm **Morningside Bells Rehearsal**
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

## Saturday

- 4pm **Preschool Babysitting Night**

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## December Worship and Second Hour Preview

**December 2nd:** For the **First Sunday of Advent**, we explore the hope of coming deliverance according to the prophet Habakkuk. We light the first candle of Advent, and receive communion at the front of the church. Second Hour invites us to help with final prep for the Advent Workshop, this afternoon from 3-5pm.

**December 9th:** The **Second Sunday of Advent** invites us to focus on peace, and how we share it with others. The biblical story of Esther shows a heroic woman's decision to risk her security for the sake of saving people, and we celebrate the baptisms of baby William Eidsness and mother Kaylin Eidsness! Second Hour is rehearsal for the Christmas program the following week.

**December 16th (10am):** Our annual Christmas Program on the **Third Sunday of Advent** is fully intergenerational, with all ages leading five EMC-interpreted tellings of the Christmas story through movement, word and music. We'll also receive a special offering for [the Christmas Fund](#) (which benefits retired clergy and lay church workers). Second Hour downstairs afterward is the legendary Cookie Walk fundraiser organized by Women's Fellowship--bring friends and your favorite cookie containers!

**December 16th (7pm):** Please join us for a warm and



centering **Taizé** 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 Meeting Room. Please join in; all are welcome!



**December 21st (7pm):** This Friday 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 23rd:** Our **Fourth Sunday of Advent** gives us a musical chance to gather once more as a church community, participate in an "Instant Pageant" retelling of the Christmas story, and extend the welcome of the Christian faith to baby Capri Hamm, whose family has a longtime connection to Morningside.

**December 24th: 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 30th:** The **First Sunday of Christmas** invites us to share in the origins of Jesus, with the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew 1. As we look back through time, and look forward to the year ahead, how does the arrival of the Christ child tune our hearts to praise? We'll have no Second Hour, but plenty of Christmas sweets and a chance to sing your favorite Christmas carols!

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## December Birthdays



**December 1** - Brent Nelson

**December 4** - Carol Weidt

**December 5** - Svea Gennrich

**December 10** - Norma Stout

**December 11** - Joey Miller

Mia Miller

**December 14** - Jerry Williams

**December 14** - Larry Williams  
Pete Haugen  
**December 17** - Karin Miller  
**December 19** - Jeff Beyerl  
**December 21** - Lisa Comes Flying  
**December 23** - Oby Ballinger  
**December 24** - Andrew Ramirez  
**December 25** - Jeff Rice  
**December 27** - Mary Engelke  
Denise Cochran  
**December 29** - Charlie Green  
**December 30** - Darlene Clay

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

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## Edina Morningside Preschool Holiday Service Project



Each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Edina Morningside Preschool chooses 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 Hats & Mittens for our service project. Hats & Mittens, an all-volunteer 501c3 organization was founded in 1996 with the goal of ensuring that the children of our community have access to warm hats & mittens during the cold Minnesota winters. If you would like more information about this organization, check out their website at [www.hatsandmittens.org](http://www.hatsandmittens.org).

**From November 27 - December 18** we will be collecting hats & mittens for children and youth ages 3-18. If possible, waterproof mittens are greatly appreciated. Gently used hats & mittens are accepted, too! There is a collection box by the door to the preschool classroom. Thank you for considering donating to this worthy cause.

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## Daylight News



Meet Elijah and his twin sisters, Clare and Clara, in this month's [Daylight update](#). There is a new preschool



classroom under construction and everyone is excited!

*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!*

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## December Calendar



Click [here](#) to see what is happening at EMC in December!

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## VOLUNTEER AT PERSPECTIVES

There is an upcoming outreach opportunity at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. [Sign up today!](#)



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## Exciting news from Morningside Theatre Camp:

Registration is open for our 1st Winter Workshop, for children grades 2nd-5th. Join us for 3 days of musical theatre fun as we learn music and choreography for 3 memorable "kid anthems". Thurs-Sat December 27th-29th. 8:30AM-12 Noon  
On Saturday, we'll serve the kids a pizza lunch at noon, then parents and friends may return at 1PM to enjoy a free





performance of what they've learned, along with a few surprises. 😊 Forms will be downloadable from the church website [emcucc.org](http://emcucc.org) (MTC is listed under the Outreach tab.)

Or pick one up from the counter in our *new* Gathering Space at church! \$99.

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## October Financial Report

|                  | 10/2018  | Year to Date |
|------------------|----------|--------------|
| Budgeted Pledges | \$28,369 | \$182,030    |
| Actual Pledges   | \$36,908 | \$180,274    |
| Difference       | \$8,539  | (\$1,756)    |

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## Christmas Bake Sale & Cookie Walk



**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** (Same day as The Christmas Pageant)

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 and Cookie Walk!

Baked and pastry donations are welcome - just bring them to Fellowship Hall before worship on the 16<sup>th</sup> or 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](#)

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## Member and Community Happenings

**Gray Matters: Depression in Older Adults**  
Monday, December 10, 7-8:30pm

**Monday, December 10, 7-8:30pm**

NAMI Minnesota will offer a free class called Gray Matters: Depression in Older Adults on Dec. 10, from 7:00-8:30, at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave. W., in Roseville. Feelings of sadness, loneliness and grief are normal. However, when this sadness is intense, is felt for a long period of time, interferes with our ability to get along with others or to carry out the activities of every day life, then it could be depression. Join NAMI Minnesota to talk about risk factors, warning signs, stigma, treatment, recovery and resources for depression in older adults. Depression is not a normal part of aging. For more information, contact NAMI Ramsey County at 612-424-1823 or [namiramseycounty@namimn.org](mailto:namiramseycounty@namimn.org).

### **Make a Joyful Noise!**

**Saturday, December 15th**

**Antonello Hall, Macphail Center for Music**

501 South Second Street, Minneapolis 55401

The Giving Voice Minneapolis Morning Chorus will be performing at Antonello Hall on the morning of December 15th starting at 11 am.

The Afternoon Chorus will also perform at Antonello Hall on the 15th starting at 3pm.

Tickets: General Admission: \$12 Children 12 and under are free. *All tickets will be sold through MacPhail, by calling Student Services at (612) 767-5250 or in person at the front desk.*

### **A Ceremony of Carols**

**Bloomington Chorale (incl. Molly Cox)**

**Friday, December 14th 7:30pm**

**Saturday, December 15th 4pm**

**Bloomington Center for the Arts**

Choral Favorites of the season featuring works by Benjamin Britten, Mark Hayes, Marc Huff and John Rutter. For tickets and more information click [here](#)

### **Do you like wrapping Christmas gifts?**

**Saturday, December 15th, 9am to 12pm**

Bloomington Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Home Instead provides Christmas gifts for our Edina Meals on Wheels clients. They need help with wrapping the gifts that are donated. Christmas trees are put up at area

Lund's/Byerly's pharmacies from November 5th – December 14th with gift ideas. If you are

able to help with wrapping the gifts donated, go to the Bloomington Creekside Community Center at 98th and Penn Ave on December 15th from 9am – 12pm. Thanks for helping "Be a Santa to a Senior"!

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

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## Contact Us

### Pastor

[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

### Administrative Assistant

[Laurie Eckberg](#)

952-926-6555

### Website

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

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