



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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----- January/February 2010 -----

A Word from the Pastor

Epiphany Greeting



Epiphany Sunday: January 3, 2010
The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 10

My heart is still happy because of our Christmas Pageant. What I said to the children in my thank you note afterwards is something I bet we all could say:

The Christmas Story is a wonderful, wonderful story, and it is true! This Christmas Pageant helped tell the story in a beautiful way. Everybody loved it, and I want you to know that we are grateful to you and to everyone who took part.

Let me mention that Immanuel's webmaster, Sean Curnyn, has posted beautiful photos and even a video of this Pageant on our website. It's in a new section called "Gallery." You will see the Gallery tab toward the top right of our homepage: www.immanuelnyc.org. Many thanks to Sean for this.

So, Christmas started a little early for us this year, with the Christmas Pageant toward the end of Advent, and it ends a little early for us too, with the great Epiphany liturgy transferred from its midweek day, January 6, to the Sunday before, January 3rd.

I sure hope you can make this liturgy. It tells the story of the Wise Men visiting infant Jesus.

Long ago, when Carol and I were fresh from seminary, we had seminary friends who went on to serve as missionaries in Cairo, Egypt. We were fascinated to learn from them that the Orthodox Christians of Egypt celebrate Christmas, with devotion and joy, but the Christmas they celebrate is what we call “Epiphany.” Our friends said that it took some getting used to, that nothing much happened on December 25. No Christmas trees, no Christmas lights. All the joy was concentrated on January 6th. That’s when the Orthodox Christians there celebrated Christmas.

There is a kind of logic to this. Certainly it is not meant to deny that Jesus is Israel’s man -- that we believe him to be Israel’s Messiah and Saviour. But the great thing about Epiphany is that it proclaims our great belief that Jesus is also for the Gentiles. That is how vast Christmas is: it is “good tidings of great joy that shall be to *all* people.”

So, that’s why it will be so good to see you in church this Epiphany Sunday and Epiphany Season. Indeed, it is always good to see you all in church.

God be with you in 2010 and always.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Thank you for Advent and Christmas

Advent and Christmas were graced by the labors and contributions of many people here at Immanuel. Heartfelt thanks go to the Christmas carolers at Lenox Hill Hospital, to the cooks, organizers, decorators, and musicians at the St. Nicholas party, to the Altar Guild for their labors of cleaning, polishing, and tending to the paraments and sacramental vessels, to the Immanuel Choir and

musicians for their uplifting and delightful talents, to the preparers of the liturgies and worship folders, to those who helped with the Hanging of the Greens and the handing out of candles, and to those who tended to many, many details. All was done well and with grace, and so thank you, everyone, for a good Advent and Christmas.

Christmas Poinsettias and Music Fund

Once again, we received great support for our annual Christmas Poinsettia and Music Funds. Our church looked spectacular this year, including the poinsettias. Thank you, everyone!

Christmas Mitten Tree and Fraternité Notre Dame Toy Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas mitten tree and to the toy collection for the Fraternité Notre Dame. The toys were given to the Fraternité Notre Dame for their Christmas Party for needy children held in the middle of December and the mittens will soon be distributed to needy children.

Voters' Assembly

Sunday, January 24th 2010

The Voters' Assembly will meet on Sunday, January 24th, after the Liturgy. At this annual meeting we hear reflections and reports on the year just gone by, including year-end reports from the Pastor and Treasurer, as well as reports from the Trustees, Deacons, Council and Endowment Committee. This is the meeting at which we elect our leaders for the coming year.

If you would like to become an official member of the Voters' Assembly, please mention your desire to Pastor Fryer, who will present your name to the Assembly. Our Constitution gives this rule: *The Voters' Assembly shall consist only of such members who have reached the age of eighteen, who are diligent in worship, regularly partake of the Lord's Supper and live a life in conformity with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Transfiguration of our Lord

Sunday, February 14th, 2010

Here at Immanuel, we tend to have a soft spot in our heart for this particular Sunday, Transfiguration Sunday, because it is an anniversary Sunday for our church. The liturgical and inspirational beginning of our church took place back in Civil War days, on Transfiguration Sunday 1863. At 10 a.m. that day, a group of our Immanuel ancestors gathered for

worship in the courthouse, led by The Rev. C. Julius Renz, and afterwards met and voted to establish our congregation. So this coming Transfiguration Sunday will be our 147th anniversary. On the front wall of our church, we have our Transfiguration painting, in tribute to that founding liturgy.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper

Tuesday, February 16, 2009, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16th, is Shrove Tuesday, and Immanuel will hold its

annual Pancake and Sausage Supper for fun and fellowship. We like to direct

receipts from this annual supper to our Sunday School, especially Vacation Bible School.

The doors of the church hall will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please use the Lexington Avenue entrance. The price for the meal is \$5 for adults and \$2 for

children, or whatever you can afford. Hold the date! If you can't make it to the supper, contributions are certainly welcome. Please make your check out to Immanuel with a notation on the memo line that it is for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17th, 2009 – Liturgies at 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



We will have two liturgies again this year – one at 12:15 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. Each of these liturgies has its own blessing. The noontime service is a spoken liturgy and is nice because of the presence of neighborhood people who slip away during their lunch hours for our brief liturgy. The evening liturgy is the main traditional parish liturgy with Choir.