



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street ❖ New York, NY 10128

Eighty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan

www.immanuelnyc.org

The Rev. Gregory P. Fryer, Pastor
Email: gpfryer@gmail.com

(212) 289-8128, church phone
(212) 828-3665, church fax

March 2010

A Word from the Pastor

Becoming New and Different People

This [apostolic] repentance teaches us to recognize sin: namely, that we are all lost, neither hide nor hair of us is good, and we must become absolutely *new and different people*. (Martin Luther, *The Smalcald Articles*, 1537)

Recently I finished teaching a course on *The Lutheran Confessions* in our Metro New York Synod “Diakonia” program. This time through those great Reformation documents, I was struck by the pastoral aim of the Reformers to restore what are called “the consolations of the Gospel.” In this, I believe Lutheranism has been successful. I bet you could attend any Lutheran church in our town or across the land and come out of church afterwards feeling encouraged. Indeed, this would be true, not just for Lutheran churches, but for nearly all Christian churches in our day and age. The kind of tormented conscience and dreadful uncertainty about salvation that might have troubled bygone eras does not so continually trouble us now.

But in Lent, and always, really, it is wholesome to press on with Luther and to try to reckon with the idea that for him the “consolations of the Gospel” are grounded in our life in Christ. That’s what ails the false repentance about which Luther complains in the Smalcald Articles. He opposed the kind of superficial repentance that “did not kill the desire to sin.”

Luther opposed superficial repentance for two reasons. First, if people are led to think that they can earn their salvation through easy-going repentance or even through whole-hearted repentance, that is a violation of the doctrine of justification and a misleading of the soul.

But there is a more positive and joyful reason why Luther opposed an easy-going repentance: he wants us become “new and different people.” That is, Luther wants us to imagine a wonder and miracle of the Holy Spirit: that we could come to echo in our own hearts the cry of St. Paul of old:

(Next page)

I have been crucified with Christ; *it is no longer I who live*, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20, RSV)

The doctrine of justification teaches us that there is no righteousness *in us* that can justify us with God, but that Jesus is the righteous one. His righteousness is our hope, and not our own.

But Luther would have us go beyond these thoughts to a new identity -- to us becoming a new and different person, so that we too can one day say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." In me! Let us ponder nothing small-minded here.

I am not exactly sure how to accomplish this. But I am quite sure that we ought not to watch Jesus in his Lenten walk toward Golgotha and remain unchanged thereby. It just does not do to claim that Jesus is our righteousness, and then to sit around like a bump on a log. By Baptism we are given to Christ. That sounds like a new destiny, a new assignment for us each morning, that we will become so lost in Him that He lives in us, with all his righteousness, goodness, and love.

Let us have a holy Lent.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Midweek Lent Series

6:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings

We are already midstride in this midweek Lent Series. Here is the schedule:

- ✦ February 24, 2010 The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)
- ✦ March 3 Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39:1-20)
- ✦ March 10 Jonah in the Belly of the Whale (Jonah 1 and 2)
- ✦ March 17 The Fourth Song of the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53)
- ✦ March 24 Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:1-28)

Sermons for these midweek Lent liturgies are available on our church website: www.immanuelnyc.org. Go to the homepage and then to right hand column, "News and Events."

Daylight Saving Time – Fall back; Spring ahead!

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 13th.

Easter Lilies and Music Fund

Gifts for Easter lilies and special music can be given as memorials to a loved one or friend to add to the beauty of our worship at Easter. Gifts in any amount are sought for the Music Fund; lilies are \$15.00.

Lara Simone Bhasin and Ester Ramos will be standing by the table in the narthex after the morning service on Sunday, March 14th, Sunday, March 21st and Sunday, March 28th. Please see them if you are interested in donating to the Music Fund or contributing for lilies at Easter.

Looking Ahead: Good Friday Evening

7 pm Tenebrae Service, with Bishop Assistant Rev. Dr. Jonathan Linman, preaching
Followed by Candlelight Concert at 8 pm

- ✦ **The service of Tenebrae**, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering through readings, psalmody, and music. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the “strepitus” -- a loud clatter symbolizing the earthquake when our Lord died: *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; (Matthew 27:51, KJV)* Through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.
- ✦ **The St. Matthew Passion by Johann Theile**. The Immanuel Choir and ARTEK will present this beautiful and rarely-heard 17th-century sung passion by the Lutheran early baroque composer Johann Theile (1646-1724), as well as additional music by Franz Tunder (1614-1667), Dietrich Buxtehude (c.1637-1707) and Johann Christoph Bach (1642-1703). An ensemble of violins, viola da gambas, violone, organ, and theorbo will re-create the special sound of sacred German music from three centuries ago. Soloists will be Tiffany Rosenquist and Lauren Alfano, sopranos, and Juli Borst, mezzo-soprano.

Holy Week Schedule

- ✦ Palm Sunday, 11 a.m. Sunday, March 28. In this dramatic and moving liturgy, we meditate on the cross and suffering of our Lord Jesus. Pastor Fryer preaching.
- ✦ Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m. April 1. This is one of our most popular liturgies of Holy Week. Pastor Fryer preaching.
- ✦ Good Friday, 7:00 p.m. April 2, Tenebrae service. Bishop Assistant Rev. Dr. Jonathan Linman preaching.
- ✦ Good Friday, 8:00 p.m. April 2. Candlelight Concert – The St. Matthew Passion by Johann Theile.
- ✦ Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil, 7:00 p.m. April 3. This liturgy is the high point of the church year. We begin on the steps of our darkened church with the blessing and inscribing of the new Paschal Candle. The liturgy includes the Service of Light, Readings of

Holy Scripture, Renewal of Baptism by the whole assembly, and the first Eucharist of Easter. We will have a pot-luck supper following the Vigil.

- ✦ Easter Sunday, 11 a.m. April 4. Festival Choral Eucharist. Sung festival liturgy at 11 a.m. The whole service is the church's way in sermon, song and sacrament of proclaiming, "Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" We will receive the Sacrament standing, rather than kneeling, a sign of our rejoicing throughout the Easter season. Pastor Fryer, preaching.

ARTEK concert

Sunday, March 21st, 4:00 p.m. here at Immanuel

ARTEK will present **Venice to Vienna: New Music from the 17th Century** on Sunday, March 21, at 4 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The program is an exploration of the birth of the violin sonata, from its origins as "modern music" in early seventeenth-century Venice to the fantastic and virtuosic inventions of the brilliant violinist-composers working in late 17th-century Vienna. Performers will be noted baroque violinist Robert Mealy, accompanied by Motomi Igarashi, violone and lirone; Daniel Swenberg, theorbo; Charles Weaver, lute and guitar; and Gwendolyn Toth, harpsichord, organ and director of ARTEK. Music by Cima, dalla Casa, Castello, Fontana, Uccellini, Bertali, Mealli, Biber, and Schmelzer.

Robert Mealy is one of America's leading historical string players; his playing has been praised by the Boston Globe for its "imagination, taste, subtlety, and daring," and the New Yorker described him as "New York's world-class early music violinist." He has performed as a soloist and leader with ARTEK since 1996. Mr. Mealy is also a frequent leader and soloist with other ensembles in New York City, where he was recently appointed concertmaster of Trinity Wall Street's resident baroque orchestra. He has led the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble in three Grammy-nominated recordings and several festival seasons. He is professor of music at Yale, where he directs the Yale Collegium and the Yale School of Music's new postgraduate baroque ensemble. He is also a member of the new historical performance faculty at Juilliard. Tickets are \$40 and \$20 (\$30 and \$10 for seniors and students). To order tickets, call (212) 866-0468 or visit www.artekearlymusic.org.

Midtown Concerts

Midtown Concerts continues in March with concerts at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1:15 pm each Wednesday. Each concert lasts approximately 30-40 minutes. Best of all, the concerts are FREE!

- ❖ March 10: Gavin Black & David Black: Cello Music of Gabrielli, Lanzetti, and Berteau
Cellist David Black and harpsichordist Gavin Black will present a concert of music for cello and continuo. The duo will perform works by Domenico Gabrielli, Salvatore Lanzetti, and Martin Berteau. David Black studied cello with Joyce Lawrence in New Haven, and with Jane Cowan at the International Cello Centre (UK). His repertoire includes unaccompanied cello works spanning 300 years, as well as a variety of chamber music. David is a frequent guest artist with the Practitioners of Musick, Mostly Motets, and other area ensembles. Gavin Black, a graduate of Princeton University and Westminster Choir College, is a founding member of several chamber ensembles including the Princeton Baroque Ensemble, Whitechapel Baroque, and Channel Crossings. He is

currently the continuo player for the ensemble Col Legno, and the principal continuo player for The Practitioners of Musick.

- ❖ March 17: Daniel Swenberg and Nell Snaidas: Music of Schubert, Spohr, and Sor
Daniel Swenberg, guitar, performs regularly with ensembles including: ARTEK, REBEL, Tafelmusik, Opera Atelier, The Metropolitan Opera, The Orchestra of St Luke's, Staatstheater Stuttgart, and New York City Opera. He has accompanied both Renee Fleming and Kathleen Battle at Carnegie Hall. Nell Snaidas, soprano, has been praised by the New York Times for her "beautiful soprano voice, superb sense of line" and "vocally ravishing" performances. Her career ranges from performing zarzuelas in Mexico to performing the music of John Adams with the LA Philharmonic. They will perform early Romantic songs by Franz Schubert (1797-1828), Louis Spohr (1784-1859) and Fernando Sor (1778-1839) for soprano with guitar accompaniment, in original 19th century versions. Mr. Swenberg will perform on a copy of an early 19th century guitar.
- ❖ March 24: Lyra Consort: Chamber Music with Lyra Viol
The Lyra Consort (Beverly Au, Lisa Terry, lyra viol, and Vita Wallace, violin) specializes in performing rarely heard pieces featuring the lyra viol, an English viol particularly suited to playing chordal passages. The program will include two works for violin, lyra viol and continuo by Renaissance viol player and composer Christopher Simpson (c.1602-1669), each using a different lyra tuning. Rounding out the program will be a selection of lyra viol solos by John Jenkins (1592-1678) and a duo for violin and bass viol by Matthew Locke (c.1621-1677).
- ❖ March 31: Infiorare: Sacred Music from Medieval France
Infiorare (Grace Check, soprano, percussion; Holly Mentzer; early harp, flute, and vielle; Jim Miller, cornetto and cornetto muto) has appeared in numerous venues in New York City, as well as the Boston Early Music Festival, the Historic Brass Symposia at Yale, the New York Brass Conference at SUNY Purchase, the New York Early Music Series, and the Church of Saint Luke in the Fields. Infiorare will perform contemplative sacred French medieval music including Dufay's Vergene bella, the anonymous Messe de Toulouse, and Planctus ante nescia by Godefroy de St. Victoire.

“With Joy and Thanksgiving”

Building Fund Campaign

By Pastor Michael Meier, Stewardship Key Leader

With “Joy and Thanksgiving,” as the Offertory Prayer says, you gather on Sundays and other times during the week in your beautiful historic building. Immanuel dedicated this building in 1886 when the congregation was twenty-three years old. Now, after one hundred and forty seven years as a congregation and some one hundred and twenty four years in this building, your house of prayer for all peoples needs some major care. Put simply -- the roof leaks!

As I understand it, your roof is too old to continue being repaired in a patchwork manner. Indeed, the very activity of workmen climbing around on your aging, frail slate has become somewhat like fighting a losing battle. Two years ago you patched the holes that caused raindrops to fall into the chancel, but you have been told that you should not continue this

patchwork, but should aim for a new roof. The problem will not fix itself. Now is the time for this generation to focus its attention on replacing the roof so that Immanuel can go forward with strength into another century.

God has blessed Immanuel Lutheran Church with an excellent building, a strong history and a vigorous ministry to your community. I believe God will bless and encourage you as you embark on a campaign to raise the funds needed to renew your roof for the coming decades.

On Saturday afternoon, February 27th, a Leadership Team from your congregation met for training. At that meeting I provided information and guidance for this campaign. On Sunday, February 28 you may have heard me preach and met me during Coffee Hour. This eight-week campaign culminates on Commitment Sunday, April 25, when I hope to preach again. I am one of several ELCA staff persons working with what we call “Stewardship Key Leader” programs. We have a strong history of both helping congregations grow spiritually and helping them raise necessary funds for ministry and it is with this experience that I hope to serve you.

The theme of the campaign here at Immanuel Lutheran Church is “With Joy and Thanksgiving.” The financial goal is to provide the balance of the funds needed for the replacement of the roof. You will hear a lot more about the details of the financial goal in the weeks ahead.

I believe too that a plain, practical roof campaign is a good occasion for pausing and taking stock of how important this church is to us. It is important because, chief of all, our Lord Jesus Christ is important, and we want to reckon with that.

During the eight week campaign there will be several brief talks in worship by members of your congregation. There will be prayer and there will be informational mailings and Question and Answer sessions.

When we gather on April 25 for Commitment Sunday in our “With Joy and Thanksgiving” campaign we will pray that the generosity of all may overflow to accomplish the goals of this congregation and strengthen Immanuel for a wonderful future. Commitment Sunday is when we ask those who are able to pledge a gift or a schedule of recurring gifts for this roof project. This is a long term effort, with much planning required, and pledges will enable us to better judge where and when our fund-raising journey may end.

We know that these are tough times, rarely more so than the current time, and we know that individual financial resources vary a great deal. No gift is too small. We will count each gift, large or small, as a high honor and blessing for Immanuel Lutheran Church.

I am really looking forward to working with you these next several weeks and I am glad that I will be able to be with you on Commitment Sunday.

Now, as “With Joy and Thanksgiving” gets underway you may be thinking ahead and you may be asking, “How best can I give for this important project?” Many Immanuel members will give to “With Joy and Thanksgiving” by adding a significant amount to their regular giving for this purpose, and for many this will simply come from their regular income.

Others may also give out of accumulated assets. Those who can give from both regular income and accumulated assets may be able to make much larger gifts – heartwarming gifts - that will allow us to reach and even surpass the financial goal.

Some possibilities for giving separate from your regular income which you may be able to consider are:

1. Gifts of Life Insurance. You may have a paid-up or partially paid-up policy that is no longer needed to protect your family. Giving this policy to the church may provide you with significant tax advantages.
2. Gifts of Stocks and Bonds. Stocks and bonds, purchased or inherited, can be given. If the stock is now worth more than when acquired, you can avoid capital gains taxes on the increased value, and, if you itemize deductions, you can deduct the value of the gift up to 30% of your adjusted gross income with a five-year carry-over for any excess. For this, it is vital that you give the stocks or bonds to the church, rather than selling them first and giving the proceeds to the church. If the stock is now worth less than when acquired, you should sell the stock and give the proceeds to the church. U. S. Savings Bonds cannot be given during the lifetime of the owner.
3. Gifts from an Individual Retirement Account. The tax code for 2009 allowed for persons over age 70 ½ to transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to the church without this amount being considered income. It is very important that this gift follow the prescribed process. At the moment, the law is not yet extended for 2010, but it may be extended in the near future. More information is available at www.elca.org/irarollover.
4. Gifts of Real Estate. Real estate, including mineral rights, can be given to the church. Consider a “split sale” deeding an undivided percentage interest to the church prior to the sale, thus avoiding capital gains taxes on that portion. You may also receive a charitable deduction for up to 30% of adjusted gross income with a five-year carry-over for any excess.
5. Gifts of Personal Property. Antiques, paintings, jewelry, livestock, automobiles are just a few examples. Various tax benefits apply.

Persons considering giving either real estate or personal property should consult with the congregation to verify that the congregation desires the gift. Congregations can receive helpful advice from the ELCA Foundation on this matter. It is very important that you consult with your attorney or financial advisor before making gifts from accumulated assets.

These are suggestions for you to consider. Please be aware that there will be many opportunities to discuss the goals and details of this campaign in the weeks ahead.

I am honored to have this opportunity to work with you during this campaign, “With Joy and Thanksgiving” and I look forward to being in your midst again on April 25th.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Michael Meier
Stewardship Key Leader