



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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A Word from the Pastor

Reformation Day, Sunday, October 31, 2010

Rev. Dr. Stephen Hultgren

Assistant Professor of Theology at Fordham University, preaching



Professor Stephen Hultgren is one of the young stars of the Lutheran Church, in my opinion. He earned his MDiv. from Luther Seminary in 1997 and his Ph.D. from Duke

University in 2001. He is a member of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue in the United States and is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

His research interests include Paul and Palestinian Judaism, Pauline Theology, Dead Sea Scrolls, History and Theology of the Synoptic Tradition, and Ancient Judaism. He has written two books, many articles, and is a popular lecturer. He and I serve together on the Board of Directors of the *American Lutheran Publicity Bureau*.

Let me lift up a passage from my journal about why I am especially eager for Professor Hultgren's visit to Immanuel. He is learned in Luther and the Lutheran Confessions and passionately committed to the Lutheran tradition. He is the kind of scholar, he is the kind of faithful Christian, who is able to give answer to this sad conversation I recorded in my journal:

Just recently, summer 2008, I was troubled by a phone call from a visitor to our city. He phoned to ask whether we are a Missouri Synod congregation. I answered that no, we are no longer Missouri Synod, and I referred him to a midtown Missouri Synod congregation, Church for All Nations, 417 West 57th Street. He asked, "Well, what kind of a Lutheran Church is your church?" I answered that we are a congregation of the ELCA. He chuckled, as if in pity for us. "But our family cares about the liturgy," he said. "So do we," I answered. He chuckled some more. "But we take the Bible literally." "So do we," I started to say, wanting to make a distinction between a literal reading of the Bible versus a fundamentalist reading of it. But it was too late. He had already hung up on me.

This conversation rather hurt my feelings. For one thing, I bet that our liturgy here at Immanuel is as fine as the liturgies at some Missouri Synod congregations. Likewise, I bet we care about and honor the Bible as much as some Missouri Synod congregations do.

In any case, Professor Hultgren is equipped to talk about the difference within Lutheranism between a literal reading of the Bible versus a fundamentalist one. He might not preach on this on Reformation Sunday, for we want him to preach whatever the Lord lays on his heart, but we will get to meet him, hear him in the liturgy, and perhaps chat with him in Coffee Hour.

I hope you can make it then, Reformation Sunday, October 31. In fact, I hope to see you here at Immanuel always.

In Christ,
Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Psalm Class

Starting again, 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 18, 2010

In my own devotional reading of the Psalms, I use the *King James Version*. My prayers for the parish are built on the Psalms. My pastoral prayer list is placed in my mother's old King James Bible, and I pray for the people based on the day's Psalm.

From time to time, I find myself smiling with satisfaction at how beautifully the *King James Version* has put one of the Psalms. Modern translations are helpful in those few cases where the meaning of the old KJV might no longer be clear to us, but still, by and large, I prefer the KJV.

So, let's continue our study of the Psalms using the *King James Version*. I am pleased with myself over a new batch of KJV Bibles we just received. There is an online service called "Bibles by the Case." It sells Bibles at quite a discount, but only by the case. So, I studied the KJV Bibles available and chose one in particular. It was out of stock and I had to wait a while, but the case arrived just yesterday. I am pleased with these Bibles. They have fairly large fonts and are hardbound, so they should hold up to our handling in class.

Let's begin this semester with Psalm 69. It begins thus: "Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul."

Pastor Fryer

Voters' Assembly

Sunday, October 24th, 2010

Our Voters' Assembly is scheduled to meet on Sunday, October 24th. At that time will review and adopt a proposed budget for 2011, hear the Treasurer's Report and reports from the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, the Endowment Fund Committee and the Pastor. 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.*

Twenty-eight years later.

Their twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination

Engagement



Anderson-Fryer

The Rev. and Mrs. Carl A. Anderson, Three Rivers, Michigan, announce the engagement of their daughter Carol to Gregory Paul Fryer of Denton, Maryland. He is the son of Mrs. Rachel Geneva Fryer and the late Vincent Paul Fryer of Whiting, New Jersey.

The groom-elect is a second-year student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg PA. He was graduated from the University of Maryland in 1974.

Miss Anderson is a 1979 graduate of Hope College, Holland, Michigan, and is in her first year at the seminary. Both are preparing for the pastoral ministry in the Lutheran Church.

The couple is planning a May 23 wedding at the Church of the Abiding Presence at the campus seminary.

The 25th Anniversary of Ordination of Carol and Gregory Fryer

Carol's Celebration: Reformation Sunday afternoon, 4 p.m. October 31, 2010
With Pastor Gregory Fryer, preaching
And Immanuel's Music Director, Dr. Gwendolyn Toth, Organist for Carol's Liturgy

Oh! I hope many of you can attend the celebration of Carol's anniversary of ordination. For one thing, it will give you a chance to see the lovely Wartburg campus and chapel. The chapel is spectacular, in my opinion. Especially I am drawn to the windows. In olden days, The Wartburg was established as an orphanage for orphans of the Civil War. Because of this early orientation toward children, the windows have an emphasis on Bible stories of women and children.

I mean to take a Metro North train after our Reformation liturgy up to the Pelham station. That station is within walking distance of The Wartburg, though I might take a taxi that afternoon to be sure to get there on time, since I'm the preacher!

It increases the joy of that day that Gwen and James Miller, who plays those wonderful trumpets in our choir, are going to help with the music for Carol's celebration.

There will be a nice reception afterwards. We are asked to RSVP for that by October 20. Contact Karen Thomas (914) 513-5308 or kthomas@the.wartburg.org.

Gregory's Celebration: The main liturgy at Immanuel
11 a.m. Sunday, November 14, 2010
With Rev. Dr. Robert W. Jenson, preaching

Dr. Jenson is our mentor. He and his wife, Blanche, gave us our pre-marriage counseling, and they have been involved at just about every important point of our lives since then, including our ordinations, installations, and baptisms of our children.

Plus, he is one of this world's foremost theologians.

The music is sure to be great that day, as it always is here at Immanuel. Wayne Hill, who is one of my favorite baritones from a church we served back in our Gettysburg days, is planning to sing that day. His wife, Sue, is planning to come too, as are some clergy friends who have been dear to Carol and me over the years.

I am eager for two other things that weekend. On Saturday night, the evening before, Music Director Gwendolyn Toth and her early music group, Artek, are planning a concert. The music is all secular madrigals written by Monteverdi. His patron was the Duke of Mantua, and so Gwen is thinking of doing something a little theatrical like having Carol and me be introduced as "the Duke and Duchess" with special "guests of honor" seats. Gwen is providing free tickets to this concert for our congregation. More details later.

The other thing I am eager for is the Coffee Hour after the Sunday liturgy. The food is sure to be great and your fellowship will mean a lot to Carol and me.

Midtown Concerts' October Schedule

Listed below are the upcoming concerts being held every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Concerts, presenting music by a variety of early music ensembles and recitalists, are free and last about 35 minutes long. Please join us!

October 6 Cynthia Freivogel and Gwendolyn Toth:
Bach Sonatas for Violin and Harpsichord

October 13 The Soul's Delight:
Music from the Court of Frederick the Great

October 20 Anne-Marie Dicce of the Bach Collegium San Diego:
Music of the Italian Baroque

October 27 Sinfonia Players:
Music from 18th-Century France

Halloween Party

Sunday, October 31st, during Coffee Hour

Ghosts and goblins beware! It's time for our annual Halloween Party. This year it will be held on Sunday, October 31st, during Coffee Hour. Games and activities will be provided for children. Children (and adults too!) are encouraged to bring costumes. Come one, come all!