



# Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
122 East 88<sup>th</sup> Street ❖ New York, NY 10128

Eighty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan  
[www.immanuelnyc.org](http://www.immanuelnyc.org)

The Rev. Gregory P. Fryer, Pastor  
Email: [gpfryer@gmail.com](mailto:gpfryer@gmail.com)

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

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December 2010  
*A Word from the Pastor*

## Advent Lessons and Carols

The Third Sunday of Advent  
11 a.m. December 12, 2010

*Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Shepherds and Wise Men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.*

Thus begins the lovely prayer of the Dean of King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, at the start of that College's traditional Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The story of humanity's fall into sin, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine lessons, with carols spaced between the readings.

I am delighted to say that we mean to celebrate Lessons and Carols this year, on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 12th. We will be led by children of our congregation. We are not planning to do all nine lessons, but five of them -- the ones for which our Children's Choir has been preparing. This liturgy of Lessons and Carols also features Immanuel's Adult Choir, as well as music from our Recorder Ensemble. I bet we will find this service to be moving and charming, so try your best to be present that Sunday. Bring friends too.

Let me continue with the Dean's prayer. His final petition enlarges the perspective by reminding us of the Communion of Saints. He speaks of those "on another shore and in a greater light." This is both comforting and thrilling, to realize that we join with countless others who have waited in hope for the One who invites us to own him as our Saviour:

*Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and let us pray that we may be counted among the communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people, and giving reverence to all that he hath made. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us: Our Father...*

Warm thanks are due Music Director Dr. Gwendolyn Toth and Children's Choir Directors Tiffany Rosenquist and James Miller for preparing this Advent festival of Lessons and Carols for us.

I hope you enjoy this Advent and December now stretching before us. Our city and our church certainly have beauty this time of year. Regularly I pray for both -- for both you and for our town. God grant you a season of spiritual refreshment this Advent and Christmas.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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## Christmas Bazaar a Huge Help!

The Christmas Bazaar was able to generate \$2,601.14 for our church and steeple roof fund. So the total for this year's two bazaars was around \$5,000. Thank you to all those who worked so hard marking each week's donations every Sunday after church working until 6 and 7 p.m. for months: Marion Molno, Maria Van Der Merwe, Louise Hansen de Laverde, Louisa Laverde and Mary Ford, friend of Kathy Jolowicz from the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council. Special thanks also to Chris Schulze who kept the flow of donations organized, and to those volunteers who came the last day to set up, as well as those volunteers working on Bazaar day who helped to tie it all up into one neat package, including Maria's wonderful food which she cooked for the Immanuel Café. Last but not least, special thanks to Kathy Jolowicz who coordinated the entire event.

# Christmas Caroling at Lenox Hill Hospital

Friday, December 10, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

On Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, let's meet in the lobby of Lenox Hill Hospital (100 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street) at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas caroling and fellowship gathering. After caroling there, we are invited to the church parsonage (108 East 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt. 7C) for some refreshments, fellowship, and sitting around the fireplace. Alas, we are not supposed to bring children into the hospital, but otherwise, everyone is welcome!

## Christmas Poinsettia and Music Fund

The church is decorated at Christmas with a lighted tree and poinsettias. Members and friends may wish to place one or more poinsettia plants in the church to honor the memory of departed loved ones or simply as a gift to the glory of God in the incarnate Christ. A gift of \$15.00 for each plant as well as gifts toward the Christmas Music Fund will be received by Ester Ramos after church on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Fraternité Notre Dame Toy Collection

Once again this year the Sisters of the Fraternité Notre Dame will be hosting a Christmas party for needy children. This year the party will be on Friday, December 17. They are asking for donations of new toys. If you can give a toy, please wrap it and mark it as to the age of the child and whether it is for a boy or girl. (Please no guns or violent toys.) The Sisters will also accept toiletries or

clothing as they distribute gifts to the hospitalized and homeless as well. No need to wrap these. You may leave your gifts in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or bring them to the church office during the week. The last day for bringing gifts is Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, as the Sisters will pick them up from the church office on Monday morning, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Sunday School Mitten Tree

The Sunday School will have a mitten tree once again this year. Please give the mittens you bring to one of our Sunday School teachers. The mittens will be given to the

Fraternité Notre Dame who will distribute them to needy children. The mitten tree will be put up during the Hanging of the Greens on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

# *Midtown Concerts' December Schedule*

All concerts Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Admission free!

DECEMBER 1

Nell Snaidas and Dan Swenberg: Sehnsucht

Nell Snaidas, soprano and Dan Swenberg, guitar perform lieder about sleep, love, and longing from Schubert, Spohr, and Mertz as originally published for voice and 19th-century guitar.

DECEMBER 8

Dongsok Shin: Masterful Mozart

Virtuoso fortepianist, Dongsok Shin performs a concerto by Mozart with the renowned Baroque ensemble, REBEL. An event not to be missed!

DECEMBER 15

Black Marble: The Italian Muse

Jörg-Michael Schwarz and Karen Marie Marmer, violins, explore the 18th-c. "Italian style" in music of three composers, all of them violinists: Georg Phillip Telemann, Jean-Marie Leclair, and Emanuele Barbella.

DECEMBER 22

Sinfonia Praetorius: Music for Advent & Christmas

A concert of medieval and baroque Christmas music, featuring members of Immanuel's own early music ensemble: sopranos Lauren Alfano and Linnea Shin, daughter of music director Gwendolyn Toth. They will be joined by James Miller on cornetto, Vita Wallace on violin and Jessica Powell on viola da gamba.

DECEMBER 29

My Lord Chamberlain's Consort: A Renaissance Christmas

In what has become a Midtown Concerts tradition, the Consort celebrates the warmth, beauty, and fellowship of Midwinter Solstice with Advent, Nativity, Epiphany, and good old pagan revelry.

# Thank you!

A note from Pastor Fryer

Carol and I were highly honored and delighted by the recent celebrations of our twenty-fifth anniversaries of ordination. I had not imagined that I would enjoy these celebrations as thoroughly as I did. I mean, time marches on, and in the course of its marching, twenty-five years pass. I had not imagined that something so natural as an accumulation of years should be saluted, especially when the true blessing is not anything I *have done*, but rather the goodness I *have received* simply in being pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Nonetheless, Carol and I did indeed enjoy these celebrations and were very moved by them. During the reception on my anniversary Sunday, I mentioned the Artek concert the evening before, when Music Director Gwendolyn Toth dressed up Carol and me as a renaissance duke and duchess sponsoring the concert. People bowed and curtsied to us and directed flowery speeches toward us, and I leaned over to Carol and whispered that “I like being Duke!” But I tell you, the flowery speeches that really touched our hearts were the real speeches from Congregation President Thomas Wicks, and greetings from beloved Pastoral Associate David Lotz and from Pastor Tari and the people of the Estonian Lutheran Church that worships here at Immanuel. I have reprinted these things for you to enjoy.

Carol and I received a beautiful album of artwork by Immanuel’s Sunday School children. And we received cards and gifts and money. Let us tell you what Carol and I have in mind for the money. We have set it aside in a savings account, except for a tithe to the church, for a trip next summer. That’s when I turn sixty. We have it in mind then to visit Iona, which is an island off the coast of Scotland. There is an ancient Irish monastery there that dates back to one of my heroes: St. Columba. You might have heard me quote his great line before. When he had given his testimony of Christ to one of the Scottish kings, the king asked the very sensible question, “And if I become Christ’s man, what will become *of me?*” And the saint’s good answer goes like this: “Ahh, if you become Christ’s man, you will set out on adventure upon adventure, and every one of them true!” I think I have this story right. I think it was St. Columba who gave this answer. Perhaps when we visit Iona we will be able to confirm it. In any case, I love the line because it raises an important distinction: It is one thing to set out on an adventure. It is something else, something higher, to set out on an adventure that is *true*, that is worthwhile, that can stand in the Great Day because it is the kind of adventure done in the name of Christ. So, that’s what we have in mind: a trip through the English countryside, up to Scotland, and across the ferry to Iona.

Immanuel’s webmaster, Sean Curnyn, has posted some nice things from the November 14 anniversary celebration, including a video of theologian Robert W. Jenson’s sermon that day. You can see these things under the “Gallery” tab on the Immanuel website: [www.immanuelnyc.org](http://www.immanuelnyc.org).

Here are the greetings from Thomas Wicks, Pastor David Lotz, and Pastor Uudo Tari:

## Congregation President Thomas Wicks

His greetings during the reception, November 14, 2010

Dear Pastor Fryer,

I want to say a few words of thanks on behalf of our congregation to you on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your ordination. We all had our own reasons for joining Immanuel Lutheran Church, and we all have our own reasons for being here year in and year out, but we also all share a common appreciation for The Gospel taught well and a deep affection for our Pastor.

Over the years, fellow parishioners tell me again and again how important it is to them, important to us, that you preach The Gospel directly and truly. We can rely on you to refine our understanding of The Word, to whittle away misunderstanding and continuously point us in the right direction. Much like the ancient Roman roads that can still occasionally be found crossing Europe in ruler-straight lines, you map out the true and ancient path. While some of us may stray, or stick to the access road for a while, thanks to you, we all know the proper way forward and can always find our way back.

I am glad our selection committee had the foresight and courage to pick a young pastor from Pennsylvania to lead our metropolitan church, but then I assume they could see that you were on that ancient and ruler-straight path and could be our navigator along the way.

We thank you for your dedication to Immanuel Lutheran Church, for sharing your love of the Gospel, and for growing this congregation with us. We truly look forward to the many years to come as you lead our congregation and together we continue to build on the solid foundation of faith in our lives and in the life of this church.

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Next we have letters of greeting from Pastor Lotz and from Pastor Tari and Congregation President Voldemar Lundre:

8 November 2010

The Rev. Gregory P. Fryer  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
122 East 88th Street  
New York, New York 10128

My Dear Gregory,

Word recently reached me, while I was away from Naples for an extended period, that on this coming Sunday (November 14) Immanuel will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of your Ordination to the Holy Ministry.

What joyful news, indeed! Norma and I certainly wish we could be there to join in the festivities honoring this signal event in your life and career.

Circumstances, alas, do not permit our physical presence; but you surely know that we are with you in the thoughts of our hearts and the prayers on our lips. And I know that our dear Jens will deliver the Word that is "truly meet, right and salutary" on such a day of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord of the Church for having blessed His people with such a faithful pastor over these many years.

For my part, I ever give Him thanks for all the kindnesses you so unstintingly extended to me during my years of serving with you in a pastoral capacity at Immanuel--years that were among the happiest in my life.

I learned much from you, cherished friend, in witnessing your loving concern for and care of the saints at Immanuel; your concern, no less, for the well-being of the Church Catholic and of our own ELCA; your care for the proper ordering and conduct of the Divine Liturgy and, not least, for sounding forth from the pulpit the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and not an alien message of human devising. May our merciful Lord grant you many more years in His service.

Please extend to your beloved Carol my heartiest and heartfelt congratulations on the 25th anniversary of her ordination. She, too, remains in my prayers.

And please greet all the dear people at Immanuel. I sorely miss them and ever keep them in heart, mind, and prayer.

Faithfully yours, in Christ,



David W. Lotz

589 Wedgewood Way  
Naples, FL 34119

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ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NEW YORK  
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P.O. Box 481, Gracie Station, New York, NY 10028 Tel:(516)484-1764  
Rev. Uudo Tari, Dean: 41 Martin Ter, Glastonbury, CT 06033 Tel:(860)633-6661

*November 7, 2010*

*The Rev. Gregory D. Fryer, Pastor  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
88th Street & Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY*

*Dear Pastor, our friend in Christ at the Immanuel,*

*The NY Estonian Ev. Lutheran Congregation joins in Spirit in the celebration of your 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Ministry of the Word and Sacraments. We dedicate the following Words of the psalmist:*

*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it . . . Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you." (Ps 118:24,26)*

*We recognize indeed that the Lord has made this day and every day of your ministry over the years. Indeed we rejoice and are glad in it as you and your Congregation at the Immanuel give thanks to the Lord for this great privilege and gift. We all are blessed as we come in the name of the Lord.*

*Our Congregation is grateful for the communion and fellowship that we have shared with you and your Congregation over the years – an affiliation reaching into many decades. We wish Lord's blessings to your continued service of the Lord for many decades to come.*

*As you continue in His service, may His peace, "which transcends all understanding, guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus" – now and for ever more! Amen!*

*Praise the Lord! God bless!*

*Voldemar Lundre*  
Voldemar Lundre  
Chair

*Uudo Tari*  
Rev. Uudo Tari  
Pastor

# Hanging of the Greens

2-5 p.m. Saturday, December 18, 2010

It's not too early to mark your calendars for that important and gratifying work session we call "Hanging of the Greens." Advent is the time in the church year for preparing our hearts for the joy of Christ's first coming among us at Christmas. We will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, to be followed by our popular St. Nicholas Party.

## Looking ahead: St. Nicholas Party

5 - 9 p.m. Saturday, December 18, 2010, after the Hanging of the Greens

Our annual St. Nicholas Party is becoming a very popular event for us here at Immanuel. Swing with David Buddin at this year's party featuring David on piano, Al Quirong on tenor sax, Gaku Takanashi on bass, Ray Roberts on drums and vocalist Vi Quirong. The band will play from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. followed by a Christmas carol sing-a-long, and supper with hams and pot-luck side dishes and desserts. We are going to need some work crews, including setup, kitchen, and cleanup afterwards. Hold the date!

## The Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve

6:30 p.m., Friday, December 24, 2010  
with Pre-Service Music at 6:00 p.m.

Perhaps out-of-town friends and relatives can join you for Christmas Eve this year. They could still make it home at a fairly reasonable hour. We are anticipating Immanuel's traditional glories of music and Choir.

Christmas Morning

11 a.m., Saturday, December 25, 2010

The First Sunday of Christmas

11 a.m., Sunday, December 26, 2010

Name of Jesus

11 a.m., Saturday, January 1, 2011