



# Immanuel Messenger

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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March 2011

*A Word from the Pastor*

## Midweek Lent 2011

*Luther's Large Catechism*

Martin Luther's pastor nearly drove him to exhaustion. Rev. John Bugenhagen, Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Wittenberg, was a Reformation era giant. He was a scholar, a preacher, a pastor, and a powerful Reformer, who often traveled to distant places to help spread the Reformation. When he traveled, he left Luther in charge. It nearly did in Luther sometimes. It would have been okay for Luther to cover for Bugenhagen for a week or two, but sometimes Bugenhagen was gone for months. Indeed, we owe Luther's magnificent three-volume *Sermons on St. John* to his preaching in place of Bugenhagen while that pastor was gone for *two years*, bringing the Reformation to Denmark. Poor Luther wrote a letter during that time in which he spoke of his exhaustion, "I am so overloaded with tasks and so troubled with sicknesses that

I have often been compelled, and still am, to leave my duties unperformed."<sup>1</sup> Also during that time Luther wrote to his friend Justus Jonas, "we are overwhelmed ... with cases and duties, to the point of weariness. As an old man who has served his stint (*senex et emeritus*), I should prefer to devote these days to an old man's pleasure, observing the miracles of God in the garden."<sup>2</sup>

In some measure, we owe Luther's *Large Catechism* to his pastoral work at St. Mary's. Luther was like dear Pastor David Lotz: As Pastor Lotz carried a full academic load as an eminent professor at Union Seminary while at the same time often preaching or leading the liturgy

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<sup>1</sup> *Luther's Works, Vol. 22: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 1-4*. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999, c1957 (Luther's Works 22), Introduction, page x.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

here at Immanuel, so Luther preached at St. Mary's while also carrying on his scholarly duties at Wittenberg University. In 1528, while Bugenhagen was away reforming in the city of Braunschweig, Luther assumed the preaching responsibilities, including sermons on the Catechism. These sermons served as background for Luther's *Large Catechism*. It is a book I treasure. Many a new member here at Immanuel has worked his or her way through Luther's *Large Catechism* with me.

There are six parts to Luther's Catechism: The Ten Commandments, The Creed, The Prayer, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confession. So, these will be the topics for this year's

Midweek Lent Series. Interestingly, because there are only five Wednesdays in Lent, I will need to complete the Catechism by discussing Confession on Holy Wednesday. But then, Holy Wednesday's appointed Gospel Lesson concerns Judas -- an interesting case for Confession.

Our Midweek Lent liturgies are at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Here, then, is the schedule:

March 16	The Ten Commandments
March 23	The Creed
March 30	The Prayer
April 6	Holy Baptism
April 13	Holy Communion
April 20	Confession

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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## Transfiguration of our Lord

Sunday, March 6, 2011

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 148<sup>th</sup> 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, March 8, 2011, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 band will play from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and will feature David Buddin on the piano, Yuichi Hirakawa on the drums, Al Quirong playing the tenor sax and vocalist Vi Quirong.

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, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – 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.

## Daylight Saving Time – Fall back; Spring ahead!

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Council Meeting

Sunday, March 20, 2011 – 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2011, at 12:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room.

## *Midtown Concerts' March Schedule*

All concerts Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. here at Immanuel  
Admission free!

MARCH 2

ARTEK: *Rosenmüller Cantatas II*

Counter-tenor Ryland Angel returns for a second program of cantatas for alto by Johann Rosenmüller.

MARCH 9

No Concert: Ash Wednesday

MARCH 16

Repast: *Bach and Before*

A program featuring composers who influenced J. S. Bach, including works by Dietrich Buxtehude and Philipp Heinrich Eriebach.

MARCH 23

Ensemble Leonarda: *La Belle France*

Ensemble Leonarda presents sonatas by French baroque composers: Jacques-Martin Hotteterre, Jean Barrière, and Louis-Antoine Dornel.

MARCH 30

Lyra Consort: *English Chamber Works*

The Lyra Consort performs "Spring" and "Winter" from Christopher Simpson's *The Seasons* and other chamber music featuring lyra viol.

## Two Upcoming Artek Concerts

Sunday, March 20, 2011 – 4:30 p.m. here at Immanuel  
Admission: \$25 (\$15 students and seniors)

Acclaimed European flutist Barthold Kuijken performs as a special guest artist with members of ARTEK (Immanuel Davis, flute; Motomi Igarashi, gamba; Daniel Swenberg, theorbo; Gwendolyn Toth, harpsichord). He will play music by J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, W.F. Bach, Hotteterre, Couperin, and Leclair. Tickets are available in advance through Gotham Early Music Scene - call 212-866-0468 or click on <http://www.gemsny.org/artek20102011.html>

Saturday, April 2, 2011 – 8 p.m. here at Immanuel  
Admission: \$40 reg., \$20 rear (\$30/\$10 for students and seniors)

Weeping, Wailing and Sighing for Love: Music sung by the famous ladies who entertained princes and cardinals in mid-17th c. Rome. Music by Carissimi, Stradella, Rossi, and Giramo. Featuring Laura Heimes, soprano; Jessica Tranzillo, soprano; and Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo-soprano with Christa Patton, harp; Daniel Swenberg, theorbo; Motomi Igarashi, violone; Gwendolyn Toth, harpsichord & director. Tickets available through Gotham Early Music Scene: 212-866-0468 or online at <http://www.gemsny.org/artek20102011.html>

## Bible Readings for Lent

Note from Pastor Fryer: Our *Revised Common Lectionary*, which we share with many other churches across the land, often coordinates the First Lesson with the Gospel Lesson, taking the lead from the Gospel. So, typically, the Gospel Lessons will march ahead, with steady progress through a Gospel, with the First Lesson chosen to match the Gospel Reading. This Lent, then, focuses on St. John, with a variety of Old Testament Lessons matching the various Gospel

Lessons. These Old Testament Lessons are important. Indeed, the apostles evangelized the world through what is called “Christological commentary” on their Bible, viz. the Old Testament. For an example, see Acts 8:26-39 -- the story of Philip’s preaching to the Ethiopian eunuch. A case could be made that if it was good enough for the apostles, it ought to be good enough for us too. At any rate, here are some of the upcoming Lessons for Lent:

DATE	LITURGY	FIRST LESSON	GOSPEL LESSON
3/9	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
3/13	Lent 1	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Matthew 4:1-11
3/20	Lent 2	Genesis 12:1-4a	John 3:1-17
3/27	Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7	John 4:5-42
4/3	Lent 4	1 Samuel 16:1-13	John 9:1-41
4/10	Lent 5	Ezekiel 37:1-14	John 11:1-45