

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

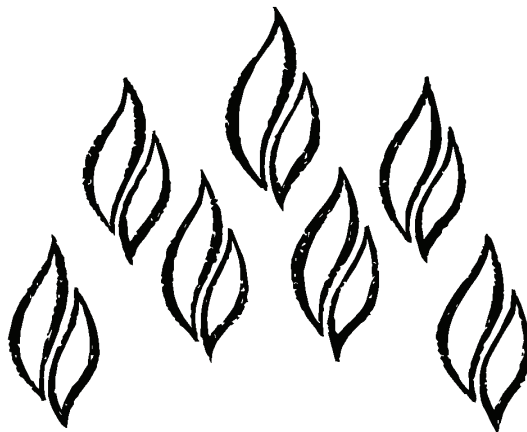
(212) 828-3665, church fax

June 2011

A Word from the Pastor

Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

June 12, 2011



The sevenfold gifts of the Spirit:

wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety, and awe before the Lord.

(Isaiah 11:2-3)

It is customary for the Bishop to confirm the young people, and so two years ago I arranged with Bishop Rimbo to be with us this Pentecost Sunday for the Confirmation of our three students, Annie Scherba, Robert Berk, and Bobby Franzese. Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo, Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA, is esteemed for his liturgical learning and is a lovely presider. When the Bishop is present, it is proper to invite him to preach and preside. Bishop Rimbo kindly agreed to preside, but encouraged me to be the preacher for the day, for which I am grateful. I am eager to look these three dear young people in the eye and to do what I can in the sermon to stir up in them the Holy Spirit.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to move the Gospel from our heads to our hearts. The Holy Spirit works to convert the good news about Jesus from being theory or theology to something much more important: conversion. The Holy Spirit works to make saints on earth. As Martin Luther put it, the Holy Spirit makes us holy by first leading us “into his holy community, placing us in the church’s lap, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ. (Luther’s *Large Catechism*, on “The Creed”)

Recently I wrote to one of our former members -- a teenager whose family moved away a few years ago. She is set to be confirmed in her own church this Pentecost Sunday, same as our Confirmands. In my letter, I congratulated her on her upcoming Confirmation, and I tried to express why I am so happy that she is being confirmed. My joy is twofold: both for her and for the Church:

Let me tell you why I am so happy that you are being confirmed: There is no sure science or mathematics to keeping our churches alive. It all depends on the next generation stepping forward and taking on the roles that their parents and earlier generations filled.

Perhaps more important than that, I want you to be happy and to have a great life, and I think that your commitment to Jesus will help with that.

So, when you are confirmed, you will be signaling to all the people who love you that you mean to walk with Christ, to help his church, and to be the best person our Maker wants you to be. That will be encouraging and a good example for each of us.

Likewise with our three young people this Pentecost Sunday: their Confirmations will be good news for them, for Christ’s Church, and for our world. As Annie, Bobby, and Robert speak their Yes to their Confirmations, I hope each of us looking on will whisper an Amen too, for them and for ourselves.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Summer Worship Schedule


July 10 - August 28, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

We are modifying somewhat the summer worship schedule we tried two summers ago. This time, we are retaining our traditional hour for Sunday worship, 11 a.m., but adding an evening service at 6:30 p.m. We hope the evening service will be helpful for people who are getting home from weekend travel or who cannot make the morning service for whatever reason. As best we can achieve it, these will be identical liturgies. Welcome to either service. Enjoy!

Ascension Sunday

June 5 -- The Sunday *before* Pentecost Sunday



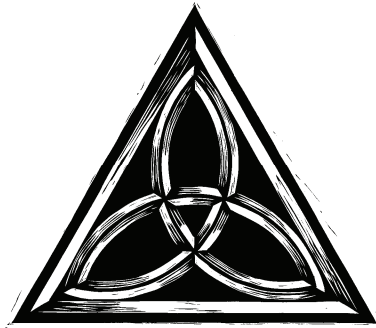
 Our Lord's Ascension took place forty days after his Resurrection, which means that Ascension Day is always on a Thursday. But it is such an important festival, that sometimes Gwen and I relocate the festival from Thursday to Sunday, in hope that more people will enjoy it. We are doing that this year. Our Children's Choir is scheduled to sing the prelude then, "Here I Am, Lord," so aim to arrive early for that. Also, it will be good, as always, to hear our congregation sing "Beautiful Savior" that day.

Pastor Fryer

Trinity Sunday

The Sunday *following* Pentecost Sunday, June 19, 2011

Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt, Guest Pastor that day



We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another. But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty. What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit. (from the Athanasian Creed)

We are scheduled for a strong blessing for Trinity Sunday: Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt is set to serve as guest pastor then. He is a chaplain at the VA Hospital in the Bronx and sings in our Immanuel Choir when he can.

Council Meeting

Sunday, June 26, 2011 – 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting of Church Council will be Sunday, June 26th, at 12:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room.

Roof Fund

Our campaign goal to replace our church and steeple roof is \$350,000. We started our three-year campaign about a year ago. “Commitment Sunday” was April 25, 2010. Since then we have received pledges sufficient for our goal, which is thrilling and uplifting.

As of May 31, 2011 we have an account balance of \$217,936 in our Roof Fund. This includes the initial \$50,000 campaign gift and the recent \$50,000 bequest from Anne Fischer. Many folks are fulfilling their pledges in a methodical way, dividing their total pledge up over the three years, and giving a portion at regular intervals. That’s how Carol and I do it. So, after one year, our church’s campaign is about where we should be toward our goal -- maybe a little behind, but not much.

Our next step is to hire a Project Manager, to guide us in preparing drawings and specifications for bidding the project, awarding the contract, and overseeing the work. We have recommendations for managers skilled in this sort of work and expect to have proposals for the Voters’ Assembly this coming fall, 2011.

Thank you, everyone, for supporting this roof campaign.

Pastor Fryer

Pastor Schulze’s Memorial Service

April 3, 2011, The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Former Pastor Raymond C. Schulze lived to be 78 years old. Our memorial service for him was magnificent, in my opinion, with strong presiding by Pastor David Lotz, strong preaching by Fr. Leonard Klein, strong singing, and strong attendance -- 215 people, including a good number of clergy. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to that service. I think the beauty of that service was fitting for such an extraordinary pastor.

Glad to say, we have an audio recording of this service and mean soon to post it on our church website: www.immanuelnyc.org. It will be under the “Gallery” tab.

Pastor Fryer