



# Immanuel Messenger

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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September 2011

*A Word from the Pastor*

## Holy Cross Sunday, September 11, 2011

### “His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

<sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:29-31, NRSV)

As long as we can remember anything at all, we are likely to remember September 11, 2001. Even if we have not much spoken about that awful day, it remains part of our memory and part of our heart.

The tenth anniversary of 9/11 happens to fall on a Sunday this year. I reckon that a gift from God, beckoning us back to church on a day when it will be especially good to be in church. A decade ago, many people gathered in the churches of our city during that heartrending week, following a Godly instinct to draw near to the One who is a harbor, a refuge, and a consolation in the troubles which hang over us.

When we gather again on September 11 this year, I mean to preach the old, old story of Jesus and his love as best I can. We will celebrate Holy Cross Sunday that day, with its moving Gospel reading from John 3, including John 3:16: “For God so loved the world...”

(Continued)

I have something else in store too -- an idea I have kept in the back of my mind for a good while now. Like many Lutheran congregations, we take to heart Luther's good saying about sacred music:

Next to theology I give to music the highest place and honor. Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

This is why we cherish our choirs so much here at Immanuel -- both the Immanuel Choir and our Children's Choir: they help proclaim the gospel through their singing.

Well, the singing of the gospel is also important to the dear elderly folks at The Wartburg. They especially love it when my wife, Chaplain Carol Fryer, uses her boom box with her cd of blues singer Natalie Douglas. And they love it best of all when Natalie sings the gospel hymn "His Eye Is on the Sparrow."

Natalie Douglas lives here in New York City. Carol and I know her and her husband, Billy Joe. So, I've asked Natalie to sing that gospel hymn for us this September 11, for the offertory. I think it will be good to be reminded then that our God keeps his eye on the sparrow and even more keeps his eye on you and on me.

I earnestly hope that we can all be in church this moving Sunday, September 11, 2011.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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## Summer Worship Schedule

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

We are nearly finished with our summer worship schedule. Our traditional 11 a.m. Sunday morning liturgy has remained well attended. The evening service has been a smaller congregation, with 15-20 people, but it has been a well-done and happy liturgy, in my opinion. I have enjoyed the summer worship schedule, but soon it ends and we move back to our traditional single Sunday service at 11 a.m. Also, we continue the traditional 6:30 p.m. midweek liturgy on Wednesdays.

Pastor Fryer

# Vacation Bible School

## “PandaMania: Where God Is Wild about You!”

August 22 – 26  
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Children ages 3 - 10

Our church is about to be invaded by a pack of fun-loving Panda Bears! Our VBS program -- “PandaMania: Where God is Wild About You!”-- is the week of August 22 - 26. It will run from 10:00 to 12:30 pm daily. Children ages 3 - 10 are invited to attend. Join us as we discover that God has a plan and a purpose for everyone and that he crafted us with his loving hands. Our days will be filled with stories, games, crafts, songs and play. Come and join the fun! Please contact Karen Rombey in the church office at 212-289-8128 for more details or to register your children, or see Karen Bazik after church on Sunday.

We need volunteers to help supervise the children during craft activities and snack times. We also need people to help construct our bamboo forest Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, before it all begins. It is going to be a lot of fun. To sign up and meet our giant bear, please call Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office (212-289-8128).

## Holy Cross Sunday Barbecue

Coffee Hour, Sunday, September 11



We are planning another of our popular courtyard barbecues. We are aiming for Sunday September 11, after the morning liturgy.

The church will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, soda and beer, but you all are invited to bring along either a dessert or barbecue-type salad (potato salad, macaroni salad, cole slaw, etc.) No need to notify us of what type of dessert or salad you'll be bringing. Welcome, everyone!

## Homecoming Sunday: September 18 Sunday School and Choir Startup

All kinds of good things begin again on September 18: Sunday School, The Immanuel Choir, and The Immanuel Children's Choir.

The Immanuel Choir will return to the organ loft on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. As always, new members are welcomed. Rehearsals are Sundays at 9 a.m., and the choir sings regularly each Sunday at 11 a.m. as well as for special services at Christmas and Holy Week. If you would like to join, please contact Director Gwendolyn Toth at [artekgwent@aol.com](mailto:artekgwent@aol.com).



*It is to just such as these that  
the kingdom of God belongs*

**CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM:**  
12:30 p.m. on Sunday mornings. This program is for children from ages five to eleven (school age) who want to be involved in learning and performing sacred music. Children learn simple songs appropriate for church while they begin to learn about rhythm, note-reading and age-appropriate vocal technique. They will also have the opportunity to play beginner hand bells. Teachers are Tiffany Rosenquist and James Miller. They are splendid musicians and lovely and gentle teachers. Parents are welcome to stay and sing along during the session if they would like.

Children, bring your recorders  
Music Directors Tiffany and Jim gave you this past spring.

## Midtown Concerts

Midtown Concerts will return to Immanuel Lutheran Church for the 2011-2012 season in September. The first concert will be Wednesday, September 7, at 1:15pm featuring instrumentalists from ARTEK playing chamber music for strings from 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italy and Germany. Concerts will follow each Wednesday through the end of May. As always, the concerts are completely free and last approximately 35 minutes. Please tell your friends! Information on Midtown Concerts online is available at [www.midtownconcerts.org](http://www.midtownconcerts.org). The entire current season will be posted in mid-August.

## Upcoming ARTEK Concerts

ARTEK will present three Thursday evening chamber music concerts at Immanuel Lutheran Church this season. The three concerts will all feature Director Gwendolyn Toth's newly restored antique fortepiano from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The schedule is:

- ✦ Thursday, November 3, 2011, at 8 pm  
Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano) & Dongsok Shin (fortepiano) play Mozart and Clementi sonatas for four-hands.
- ✦ Thursday, January 26, 2012  
Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano), Anssi Karttunen (cello, Finland), Peter Becker (bass-baritone), and Michael Brown (tenor) play Beethoven and Schubert sonatas and lieder.
- ✦ Thursday, April 19, 2012  
Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano), Enrico Gatti (violin, Italy) and Laura Heimes (soprano) play Mozart and Haydn sonatas and songs.

Although tickets for these concerts normally cost \$25, ARTEK has set aside 100 free tickets for each concert for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Starting in September, these tickets will be available from church secretary Karen Rombey in the church office for pickup by members, or directly from music director Gwendolyn Toth after services on Sundays.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Event of World Trade Center Disaster at Yorkville Firehouse on 9/11/11

On Sunday September 11th the Yorkville Firehouse on 85th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues, will be holding a Tenth Anniversary Memorial event of the World Trade Center Disaster, where nine of our firefighters were lost. Kathy Jolowicz will be presenting a large triptych panel depicting the nine memorial free form rocks, found in woods, which were planted in 2001, by her East 83/84th Street Block Association within its 16 block's boundaries. There will also be an album on view, showing the cooperative effort with the fire house, and how the project is still kept alive. Maps will be given out all day to passersby wishing to pay their respects, so they can visit the memorial sites at the 9 buildings which have been maintaining them.

# Update on Our Church Roof Fund

Three-year Campaign Goal:  
\$350,000

Our 3-year campaign began April 25, 2010

Receipts as of 7/30/2011



This summer we have been engaged in the important business of seeking a Project Manager for our roof project. The Project Manager does a set of drawings, writes specifications for bidding the project, guides the awarding of the building contract, and oversees the work. We hope to have recommendations for a Project Manager and for the next steps for our Autumn Voters' Assembly, October 16. We are aiming for construction next summer, 2012.

Pastor Fryer

## German-American Steuben Parade – Sat., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday September 17th, the German/American Steuben Parade will take place once again. Many Immanuel members march behind the German Language Learning Club banner and join in the festivities. Friends, relatives, (4-legged, and 2-legged), wheelchairs, strollers, baby carriages, etc. are all invited to join in. The more the merrier. This year twenty-eight groups will be coming from Switzerland, Austria and Germany as well as from across the U.S. Shortly before that a free, magnificent Mass is held in St. Patrick's Cathedral, where all the groups and bands gather in their costumes before they are ready to march. Lineup is in the East 60s and they march up to 86th Street, about one mile, after which everyone gathers in Central Park at the large Oktoberfest with lots of good beer, food, and ethnic entertainment. Tickets must be bought in advance and are always sold out early. Then on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18, there is a large Oompahfest held in Plattduetsch Park, L.I., with all the marchers. These are great opportunities for picture taking and to meet our foreign guests. For more information call Kathy at [212/249-0125](tel:2122490125).

## 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Lexington Avenue Street Fair – Sunday, Sept. 25th

On Sunday, September 25, the 92nd Street Y will be holding their annual 20-block Lexington Avenue Street Fair, and we will be having a spot in front of our red doors. Instead of our roof fundraiser Christmas Bazaar, we will be selling donated items there instead to a continuously-flowing crowd. Due to the limited space, of a ten-by-ten foot spot, we will not be able to take many large items. Instead we would be interested in any small donations of such things like bric-a-brac, jewelry, books, kids' clothes only - and toys, to sell, and we still have some of the better items we kept from the last bazaar. Our kids from Immanuel will be selling the toys and raffles again. You may bring your donations to the church on Sundays, or call the church office for other drop-off times. We will also be displaying Immanuel's historical panel to acquaint the public with our church.