

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 2012

A Word from the Pastor

Cherishing the Presence of Christ

Here at Immanuel Lutheran Church, we have special reason for affection for St. John the Evangelist, for he stands in our altarpiece, with the eagle at his feet expressing the elevated, majestic perspective of the Fourth Gospel. And certainly John's Gospel is majestic, with its colossal image of Jesus as the Son of God who existed even before creation itself came into being. But St. John's Gospel is also the most intimate and personal of Gospels. It does not much care about distinctions of office or gifts within the church. Matters that meant so much to St. Paul, like the variety of gifts for apostleship, prophecy, teaching, healing, speaking in tongues, or administration, are hardly even mentioned by St. John. What matters for St. John is the love between Jesus and the disciple. His hero is not so much St. Peter, but "the beloved disciple." St. John certainly believed in the corporate nature of the church, as we can see in his image of the Good Shepherd and his *flock*, but St. John will not let the individual Christian escape the question Jesus pressed upon Peter, "Peter, do you love me?" (John 21)

A few Sundays back, our Gospel Lesson was from John 15. It spoke of the "vine and the branches":


[And Jesus said], "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5, RSV)

In my opinion, we were blessed that day to have Pastor Thomas Nelson Green as preacher. In his sermon, he included some practical suggestions for doing what Jesus urges: abiding in him, in Jesus. Pastor Green started off with first things first: he urged us to be people of the church, so that we regularly gather with Jesus

in the liturgy. But then Pastor Green urged that abiding with Christ should continue day-by-day throughout the week:

And the practice of the presence of God continues! Begin each day by greeting Him! It is much better to begin a day by saying, “Good morning, God,” rather than saying, “Good God, it’s morning.” Begin the day with prayer, be it long or short. When you talk to Him, He is present. Take a comforting passage of scripture with you as you go through the day. A verse from the Psalms such as, “*I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.*” When you begin a task that is difficult and daunting, begin it with an earnest prayer, “God, help me!” “God, be with me now!” He will deliver you from all your fears even as He delivered the psalmist. When you take a break from your tasks, take it with Christ. Thank Him for his aid and direction. When you return home, thank Him for your family. Remember always that while He has promised to be present, you must take Him along with you as you move through your day.

The years and centuries have gone by since our Lord’s resurrection, yet such daily practices remain appropriate even for us city people of the twenty-first century. Our goal always should be to draw nearer in love to the One who loves us overwhelmingly, even to the giving of his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom belongs the glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

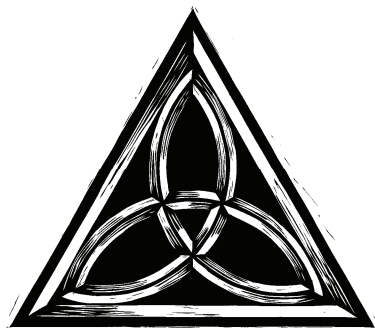
In Christ,

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Trinity Sunday

The Sunday following Pentecost Sunday, June 3, 2012

Choir Recognition

Photos from Pastor Fryer's vacation to Spain, during Coffee Hour



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)

Benefit Concert for Roof Fund

Duets and songs by Brahms, Berlioz, Poulenc, Sullivan and more

Sarah Chalfy, soprano

Juli Borst, mezzo soprano

Richard Gordon, piano

Wednesday, June 6th, at 7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10 suggested donation. Proceeds benefit our Roof Project here at Immanuel. See the end page of this newsletter for the promotion sheet about this generous concert by Sarah and Juli.

Summer Worship Schedule

11 a.m. Sunday mornings

In recent years we have added in a second Sunday liturgy during the summertime: an evening liturgy, in hope that people returning from weekends away could attend that liturgy. This year though we are going just with our normal 11 a.m. worship service. This simplifies things in face of our Roof Project, which we anticipate starting sometime this summer.

Update on Our Roof Project

With the help of a roof consultant, an architectural firm, and a structural engineer, our Roof Committee has been making careful progress toward this big project. We spent much of this springtime dealing with a bit of a curveball: our church tower and steeple. We had assumed that these magnificent architectural elements were in good shape, and that all we needed was to replace the slate on the steeple. But an architectural survey of our building rightly pointed out that we needed to confirm the structural integrity of our steeple. In particular, we needed to confirm that the connection between the wood-frame steeple and the stone/brick tower on which it rests is solid. Inspecting these things required building safer ladders and platforms in the steeple. We know that there is masonry work we must do on the church tower, but glad to say, the initial report on the overall integrity of the steeple is good. The roof consultant put it this way: "...the gist is that we found nothing to indicate that there are any problems with the steeple that would divert funds from the roof project." Sexton Chris Schulze used a saying about our church steeple we like: "It is built like a tank!" The Roof Committee awaits the official report from the structural engineer, but meanwhile we are encouraged. We hope to have more details for the congregation at our upcoming Voters' Assembly, Sunday, June 24.

Pastor Fryer

Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer to give talk about her upcoming Mount Kilimanjaro Climb

Sunday, June 10, 2012 during Coffee Hour

Pastor Carol has been earnestly training for this adventure. It is a fund-raising event for the Malaria Campaign. You can read about it online, http://www.mnys.org/climbing_kilimanjaro_to_conquer_malaria/, but I think it will be even more fun to see the adventurer herself talk about her upcoming climb. Carol plans to be in Africa July 10-31, with her climb during the first part of that time, followed by visits to mission sites in Tanzania. I am awfully proud of Carol and hope you can attend this presentation.

Pastor Gregory Fryer

Blessing the Climb

Advent Lutheran Church at 94th and Broadway
2:15 pm, Sunday, July 8, 2012

There will be a Metro New York Synod-wide service of prayer for the Mt. Kilimanjaro climbers. Please join us as we ask God's blessings on Pastors Carol Fryer and Jack Horner as they are sent off to Tanzania to climb the great mountain.

Voters' Assembly

Sunday, June 24th, following Liturgy

At this meeting we will 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.

Sky Vacation Bible School

"Everything is possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

August 20 – 24, 2012

Our VBS will return on wings to Immanuel Lutheran Church this year. We are planning to take off on Monday, August 20th, and continue soaring through Friday, August 24th. Our Sky VBS will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that week. All children aged 3 - 10 are welcome to attend. It will be a fun week of stories, games, crafts, music and snacks. At Sky VBS, kids discover that by trusting God, everything is possible. To register call Karen Rombey at the church office (212-289-8128).

We will need volunteers to set up for VBS. Our set-up date will be Sunday, August 19th, during Coffee Hour. All are welcome to help us get ready for our special event.

Volunteers are also needed to help out during VBS week (with craft activities and snack times). Please contact Karen Rombey if you can help any time during that week.

Memorial Service for Dr. Borisse Paulin

Saturday, June 23rd, at 12 noon (Reception follows.)

A Memorial Service will be held for Dr. Borisse Paulin who died on March 12th at the age of 72. The service will be held here at Immanuel on Saturday, June 23rd, at 12 noon. Please call Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office if you plan on staying for the reception (212/289-8128).

Block Party

Saturday, September 29th

Hold the date! On Saturday, September 29th, Immanuel will have a Block Party, rain or shine. 88th Street will be closed to traffic all day from Park Avenue to Lexington Avenue. This was just approved by Community Board 8. All the proceeds will go towards the Roof Fund and will be run by a professional company who will handle all the legal aspects of the setup. There will be street vendors who will rent ten-foot square spots, bringing us income, as well as our own spots.

Thus we will need volunteers to work that day on our spots: the flea market table, book table, children's toys and clothes' table, as well as the Immanuel Cafe where we will sell food and baked goods. There will also be a raffle table so we will need someone to sell raffle tickets. The church doors will be open so we need someone to welcome all visitors to view our beautiful interior and learn about our history.

We will also need donations of home and personal accessories, books, toys and children's clothing and children's clothes hangers (no adults' clothing, please), and baked goods.

Please let Kathy Jolowicz know if you are interested in being a part of the Block Party Committee by e-mailing her at kaj133@aol.com or calling 212/249-0125, or call Karen Rombey in the church office at 212/289-8128.

DUETS

*...by Brahms, Berlioz,
Poulenc, Sullivan and more*

Wednesday, June 6 at 7:30 pm



SARAH CHALFY

soprano

JULI BORST

mezzo-soprano

RICHARD GORDON

piano

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at Lexington Avenue

New York City

Admission: \$10 suggested donation

