

# Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10128

Eighty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan

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July-August 2014

*A Word from the Pastor*

## We are underway!



Our scaffold banner along Lexington Avenue



Worshiping in the Undercroft

# The Green Season

We have used green in this newsletter as a salute to the Green Season. The green paraments of this Season after Pentecost put us in mind of the growing crops in the fields and express this season's focus on growth — both for us as individual Christians and for our congregation. This too is important: day-by-day faithfulness and maturing in the life of the spirit.

We are worshiping in the undercroft this summer for the happy reason that work has begun overhead, replacing our church roof. We miss our church nave, naturally, and yet it is rather pleasant worshiping in the undercroft. Things feel more intimate and personal. Please join us whenever you can.

Also, we have moved the Wednesday evening liturgy from the church nave to the Martin Luther Room. That's in the church office building, two doors to the right of our church's front steps. The liturgy is at 6:30 p.m. Again, we seem to enjoy this shift of location. It is a cozy and friendly setting. In fact, we might continue in the Martin Luther Room even when the church nave is available again. It would save us the cost of heating and air conditioning the big nave. Midweek Lent liturgies and midweek festivals would need to be in the nave, because we would need the larger space. But for ordinary Wednesday evening liturgies, we might consider our Martin Luther Room to be a chapel for those services.

Welcome!

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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## The Roof Fund

Some Notes from Pastor Fryer

Looking back on our Church Roof Campaign, I think we can be very grateful for it and rather proud of what we accomplished. The campaign was a three-year campaign, 2010-2013, with a goal of \$350,000. We met and exceeded that goal. Our total so far is \$504,000.

An interesting and heartwarming thing for me is that we still occasionally receive Roof Fund contributions. We receive them from folks who are finishing up their pledge, from folks

who have completed their pledge and continue to give anyway, and from folks who gave no pledge at all but support the roof project nonetheless.

Each time we receive a Roof Fund contribution, I smile with satisfaction and think to myself, "Well, that buys us some more pieces of slate for our roof." To be more exact, each piece of slate costs about \$2.25. So, if we receive a \$50 contribution, I think to myself, "Great! That's another twenty-two pieces of slate!" We need a lot of them

— more than 10,000 pieces of slate, besides the other materials and the labor. It adds up to a lot of money, which we can do, but it will be tight. So every penny helps.

If you would like to contribute to the Roof Fund, make out your check to Immanuel Lutheran Church and put “Roof Fund” on your memo line. Thanks!

## A Research Update

Coffee Hour, Sunday, July 27, 2014

Some notes from Pastor Fryer

I have been having a pleasant summer so far looking again at the history of Lutheranism in America, trying to place the history of our congregation in context. Our congregational history is a lovely slender volume going back to 1938 – the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation. But here we are, one-hundred-fifty-one years old now. It is time for an update of our congregational history.

What a whirlwind of history and forces was Immanuel born into! First off, our congregation’s age – 151 years – is a noble age indeed. But we are youngsters compared to St. Matthew Lutheran Church here in our town. St. Matthew’s is celebrating its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!

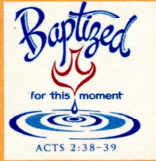
Our congregation was born in the midst of the Civil War. I have often mentioned that with a sense of wonder and gratitude, that even during heartbreaking days of war the Spirit of God was still moving, still inspiring people, and still establishing congregations.

So the Civil War was a prominent part of Immanuel’s context. But there was much more. Immanuel was established amidst great passions concerning slavery, temperance, American revivalism, English and American Deism, French skepticism, wrenching language shifts from German to English, the reaction to Samuel Simon Schumcker’s *Definite Platform* (including his *American Recension of the Augsburg Confession*), the flood of German immigrants into New York City, recommitment to the Lutheran Confessions, and the energetic work of the fairly new-on-the-scene Missouri Synod. Plus daily life went on, including nice things like Brahms composing his *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* in the same year that Immanuel was founded, 1863.

There is too much to include in a slender volume of congregational history, so let me share some of it with you during Coffee Hour this Sunday, July 27.

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Celebrates its 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church  
of  
St. Matthew

*A friendly  
household of faith*

Chartered Dec 6, 1664

...now in its  
**350<sup>th</sup>**  
year of ministry.

A congregation of  
The Lutheran Church –  
Missouri Synod.

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[facebook.com/  
StMatthewnyc](https://facebook.com/StMatthewnyc)

## Celebrating 350 years of Gospel Ministry

The first Lutheran congregation on the Hudson River in the Americas was founded in the 1640s. Two decades later, on December 6, 1664, these spiritual ancestors of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew** received a charter from the first British governor of New York on the island of Manhattan granting freedom to “exercise divine worship according to their consciences.” We are America's oldest extant Lutheran congregation.

This year marks the 350th anniversary of this very significant event in our congregation's history and of Lutheranism in America.

We invite you to join with us in our celebration as we give thanks to God for the great things He has done.

### ★★ Celebration Events ★★

- **Divine Worship Service**  
Sunday, September 21, 2014 at 1:30 pm  
The Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist  
✠ Preacher: The Rev. Dr. David H. Benke  
President/Bishop, Atlantic District-LCMS  
+ After-worship fellowship meal. Please RSVP (*suggested donation: \$20.00*).  
A limited number of a commemorative medallions will be made available to mark this historic occasion. You may place your orders now!!!  
(Gold - \$50.00; Silver - \$45.00; Antique Bronze – \$35.00)
- **Celebration Concert: Sunday, November 2 at 4:30 pm**  
✠ Featuring the choirs of Concordia College, Bronxville, NY and of local congregations of the Lutheran Church. \* *Refreshments to follow*
- **Panel Discussion: Thursday, November 6 — 7-9 pm**  
Topic: *Lutheranism in America – Past, Present, and Future*  
Venue: Krenz Academic Center, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY.  
Panelists:
  - Dr. Kathryn Galchutt  
Associate Professor of History, Concordia, NY.
  - The Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann  
Campus Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion, Concordia, NY.
  - The Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor  
Pastor, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bronx, NY and First Vice President, Atlantic District-LCMS
- **Display of St. Matthew's artifacts: October 17 thru November 7**  
Venue: Scheele Memorial Library, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY
- **350th Anniversary of Charter: Saturday, December 6**  
Divine Worship Service at 12 noon  
+ After-worship Fellowship  
+ Display of St. Matthew's artifacts; *earliest record book dates back to 1703*  
+ Presentation of an updated history of congregation  
+ Commemorative Journal.
- **Two Servant Events** are being supported, to the glory of God. Your generous thank offering will be used in this regard.

# Blood Drive at Immanuel

*[Note from Pastor Fryer: It is always efficient simply to stop by your local hospital and donate blood. You can do that even if you miss the blood drive here at our church, plus it saves the hospital money because it has the blood directly. But it is convenient and doubtlessly increases the overall blood supply for our city if you could donate during Immanuel's blood drive. The summertime is a tough time for our city's blood supply. I have signed up for 12:30 p.m. on our day, Sunday, August 17. I hope you can make it too.]*

## Immanuel Lutheran Church **BLOOD DRIVE**

**New York Blood Center Bus, 122 East 88th Street**

**Sunday, August 17th, 12:00pm-6:00pm**

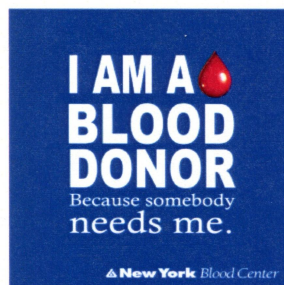
To schedule an appointment,  
please call **(800) 933-2566**.

For medical and travel  
related questions,  
call **(800) 688-0900**.



**Stacey**  
blood recipient

**Stacey** suffers from sickle cell anemia and has received blood transfusions 2-3 times each year since age 11.



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Vacation Bible School

## “Wilderness Escape” – Trek Back in Time

August 18 – 22, 2014

Join us at Wilderness Escape VBS, where we'll explore what life was like for the ancient Israelites. In just a few weeks, we're escaping with the Israelites as they leave Egypt. We will get to hang out with Moses as God leads this surprising adventure! We'll craft cool projects in the Israelite Camp, race through the wilderness, play games, visit with Moses, sing and dance to lively Bible songs and eat some interesting new foods.

Wilderness Escape VBS is open to all children aged 3-10 years old. The caravan leaves the week of August 18

and returns August 22. The adventure starts at 10 a.m. and will end at 12:30 p.m. each day. To register contact Karen Rombey at the church office 212-289-8128.

Due to the construction on the roof, we will be setting up for VBS on Saturday, August 16. If anyone is available even for a short time, we're meeting at 10 a.m. in the undercroft. We need people to open bags, sort items, partially assemble crafts, hang decorations and put toys together. Lunch will be served. Please let Karen Rombey know if you can help out.

## Roof Fund-raiser at 92<sup>nd</sup> Y Street Fair

### Sunday, September 14, 2014

We will not be having our annual fund raiser Block Party this year; instead we will be part of the 92nd Street Y Street Fair on Lexington Avenue. RAIN OR SHINE! on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Our main liturgy that day, will shift to 6 p.m., so that the workers at the fair can also attend worship that day. We will have a simple, but full service of Holy Communion at 11 a.m. for those who cannot make the 6 p.m. liturgy and for visitors to our church that day.

Setup time is 9:00 a.m. and breakdown is at 5:30 p.m. This is a very busy Fair and attracts a large moving crowd, from 92<sup>nd</sup> to 79<sup>th</sup> Street. It will be fun and the kids love selling the raffle tickets, and working in the Kid's Mart. The scaffolding will be an asset to our roof fund-raising goal. The History

Panels will be displayed, as well as a banner on the scaffolding above us. We will also have brochures about Immanuel to give out.

So we will need volunteers, and your “trash” which can be turned into Immanuel “treasures”. We will have tents and our usual tables: Books, Kid's clothing, toys, and regular Flea Market spots. Now you can start cleaning out your home accessories, jewelry, kitchen items, electronics, and other miscellaneous items. (NO large items, unless you can hold it in one hand and NO adult clothing please; we can't display them.)

After Sunday services, we do our price marking of current donated items, so hang around if you can. Contact Kathy Jolowicz at [212/249-0125](tel:2122490125) or, [Kaj133@aol.com](mailto:Kaj133@aol.com) and Karen Rombey in

the church office, at [212/289-8128](tel:2122898128) or [krombey@juno.com](mailto:krombey@juno.com) for more information, and donations.

*Please note: From June 26-August 3, Kathy can be reached via email only.*

## Looking Ahead: Autumn Stewardship Drive

Consecration Sunday, with Banquet: November 16

Some Notes from Pastor Fryer

It has been a good while since we held a Stewardship Campaign here at Immanuel. But I believe in good stewardship, try to practice it in my own life, and commend it to others. I think of stewardship as part of our

sanctification in Christ. This autumn's stewardship campaign will culminate in "Consecration Sunday," November 16, with one of John Stevenson's fun banquets. So please look ahead to that and plan to join us then if you can.