

# Immanuel Messenger

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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September 2014

*A Word from the Pastor*

## Stewardship of Time, Too

This fall we are planning a financial stewardship campaign. I hope that we will conduct many such campaigns as the years go by.

Our congregation does not have all the money in the world, but even if we did, there is still the very personal call to each of us to serve God with our money too. I do not view financial stewardship as a matter of our church budget but rather of a holy life, which is an important matter for each of us. Stewardship is part of our sanctification.

So, that is about *financial* stewardship. Our campaign is set to take place later this fall and will culminate in Consecration Sunday, November 16, 2014. You should hear more about this as time goes by.

Now let me talk about another important form of stewardship: the offering not just of our money, but also of *ourselves and our time*.

A Sunday morning liturgy from long ago still remains in my mind. This was at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, back when I was a college student. After his sermon, Pastor Raymond Shaheen announced to us the terrible news that one of the families of our congregation had lost everything in a fire. It had just happened, maybe a day before. Then Pastor Shaheen said that he was asking the ushers to distribute a sign-up sheet of things we people in the pews could contribute to help get this family back on its feet. The sign-up sheet had lots of suggestions, including money, as I recall. Pastor Shaheen had one direction for us: he wanted each of us to sign up for *something*, right then and there. He did not want us to take the sheet home and think about it. He wanted us to sign up for something right then and return the sheet to the ushers.

I want to do a similar thing concerning our stewardship of time. At the end of this fall's liturgies, just before the Benediction, I mean to lift up various volunteer opportunities in our church. It might take just a minute or two. I might lift up a "Meals on Heels" tin, for example, and say "This is what the tin for a meal looks like. It has three compartments – one big and two small. This is one way in which you could offer yourself to God: by helping to cook Meals on Heels meals for the frail elderly."

I figure I'll continue that for a good number of Sundays, lifting up various ways you could lend a hand in our congregation.

Pastors face a dilemma: On the one hand, we want people to come to church and to have the sense that all is ready for them – that there is no scurrying around, nothing left undone that should have been done. We want you to be able to worship in peace, with quiet and undistracted minds, not even thinking about the background labors that help the liturgy to go smoothly. On the other hand, there are many, many such background labors that go into the life of a congregation, and we need

people to do those things. So, we need to ask for your help. Plus, pastors want people to offer themselves to the Lord's work for *their own* sake, for the sake of a holy life.

So, some Sunday, after we've looked at various ways to serve, we will ask the ushers to distribute a sign-up sheet and ask you to sign up for *something* right then and there. It might be as simple but as important as "I volunteer to join the list of Presenters of the Offering." I think volunteering for some concrete ministry like this will be good for each of us and for our piety. We can also hope this will richly supply our need for lectors, presenters, greeters, Altar Guild workers, Sunday School teachers, Sunday School helpers, Meals on Heels cooks and walkers, and so on.

I hope you will enjoy these brief introductions to volunteer opportunities at Immanuel and that you will begin thinking of things you can sign up for. Let's begin with these brief introductions to ministries on Sunday, September 21. That's the Sunday when Sunday School and Children's Choir begin again too.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

# Sunday School and Children's Choir

Starting on Sunday, September 21

Sunday School will start up at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The children will meet in the large Sunday School Room. Please enter at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 88<sup>th</sup> Street.

Our Children's Choir rehearsals will also be starting up again under the direction of Tiffany Rosenquist and Jim Miller. They will also meet in the large Sunday School Room for the time-being. Rehearsals start at 12:30 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Vacation Bible School

“Wilderness Escape”

Thank you everyone!



Hot, hungry and exhausted our Israelites marched through the “wilderness” that was our undercroft the week of August 18<sup>th</sup>. In the Moses tent, children followed Moses as he led them through the Red Sea and into the desert. Our whining Israelite Karen Rombey (a.k.a. Malachi) complained to Moses played by Hans Stöhrer, Lara Simone-Bhasin and Karen Bazik on their journey through the desert. They

left the Moses tent to join Jean Fischer as she taught the children to construct crafts which reinforced the message of our stories about Moses. With the help of Josiane Rajoelson, Jim Miller and Alison Alampi led the children in songs which they kept singing as we marched down the street to our outdoor games. Louisa Laverde and her friend Jean Montoya danced with the children as Miriam had to celebrate the freedom of

the Israelites. Our hungry Israelites shared “manna and quail” rolls along with other snacks that were based on food the Israelites found in the desert provided by Ann and Barbara Chomko. With the help of our teen tribe leaders Kirsten Kibler, Kieran O’Carroll, Emma O’Carroll, Elisa Rajoelson, Sophia Liffey and Hans Kibler, our children participated in games like our quail rockets which were showered down on the Israelites like the quail in the desert. Jean Fischer showed each child during Tribe Time activities things like the disappearing ink which washed away like our sins when washed by water. Pastor Fryer closed each day relating the stories of Moses to our Lord Jesus and leading us in a prayer of thanks.

We wish to thank all those who gave their time and support for our wonderful mission. Thank you to those who raised money at our pancake supper. Thank you to the Tota family for donating all the beverages provided to the children. Thank you to the Schreiber family for donating our beloved camels. Thank you to Jean Fischer for her hours of work to provide fun crafts and tribe time activities for the children. Thank you to Jim and Alison for leading the children in songs that they shall never forget.

Thank you to Louisa Laverde and Jean Montoya for choreographing a dance for our children. Thank you to Ann and Barbara Chomko, and our teen helpers for helping to feed our hungry children. Big thanks to all our volunteers Victor Steinberg, Luis Cartagena, Amy and Wong Poon, Joanne Brown and Bree Maldonado who walked and guided our little ones safely to and from our outdoor games and helped break down tables later at the end of each VBS. Thank you to Pastor for leading us with the loving words of Christ. Thank you to Karen Rombey for all her administrative work as well as her portrayal of the whining Israelite. Thank you to Lara Simone-Bhasin for sharing the joy of teaching in the Moses tent with Hans Stöhrer and Karen Bazik. Thank you to Chris Schulze for arranging for our children to have a safe place to play and for putting up the Moses tent. Thank you to Jean Fischer for all the wonderful photos she took and which can be found on our website at [www.immanuelnyc.org](http://www.immanuelnyc.org) and also on all our bulletin boards in the undercroft. Thank you to all our children who brought their open hearts and joyous energy to our program. Thank you to the congregation for your prayers and support.



VBS "Tribe Leaders"

## Roof Fund-raiser at 92nd Y Street Fair

Sunday, September 14, 2014  
(12 noon – 5 p.m.)

As already reported in last month's newsletter, we will be part of the 92nd Street Y Street Fair on Lexington Avenue RAIN OR SHINE on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. We plan to have two Holy Communion liturgies that day, so that the workers at the fair can also attend worship that day. The services will be at our usual 11 a.m. hour and then another service at 6:00 p.m. that evening.

Setup time for the Street Fair is 9:00 a.m. and breakdown is at 5:00 p.m. This is a very busy Fair and attracts a large

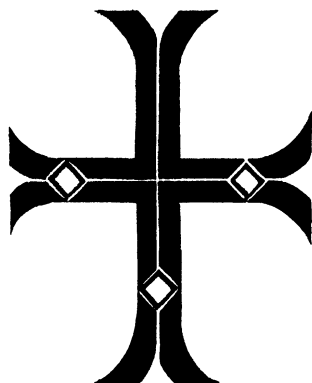
moving crowd, from 92<sup>nd</sup> to 79<sup>th</sup> Street. It will be fun and the children love selling the raffle tickets, and working in the Kid's Mart. The History Panels will be displayed and we will also have brochures about Immanuel to hand out.

Contact Kathy Jolowicz at [212/249-0125](tel:2122490125) or email her at [Kaj133@aol.com](mailto:Kaj133@aol.com) or call Karen Rombey in the church office, at [212/289-8128](tel:2122898128) for more information about volunteering and scheduling donations. Saturday, September 13, is the last day to bring in donations.

# I Been Waitin' All Day for Sunday Night!

11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, September 14, Holy Cross Sunday

A Note from Pastor Fryer



This month's newsletter uses dark red for our color scheme in honor of Holy Cross Sunday, September 14. The way of the Cross will be our theme for *two* liturgies that day.

A few summers ago our church tried our hand at offering two Sunday liturgies of equal stature and dignity. Our evening liturgy was meant to include people who had been out of town for the weekend, but were now getting home. They were invited to come to church as they were, in jeans

and sandals from the beach or Central Park or wherever.

Let's do that again this Sunday, September 14, Holy Cross Sunday. We plan to have our normal 11 a.m. liturgy and then a second one, just like it as far as possible, at 6 p.m. That way, workers at the Street Fair can worship in the evening, along with lots of us, I hope.

Remember, we are worshiping down in the undercroft these days.

## Monday Evening Bible Class

6:30 p.m. Mondays, Starting September 22

The Gospel According to Saint Mark

In the Martin Luther Room

Our last Bible Class was on the Psalms. I think it took us three or four years to work our way through all 150 Psalms. And I wish we could start all over again on those Psalms. There is more to be learned, and it would be good for our souls to study those Psalms again. But the Holy Spirit beckons to us in the rest of the Bible

too, so let's move on. This fall, I suggest that we study the Gospel of St. Mark. I think that it will be good preparation for this coming liturgical year – the year called “Year B.” Year B is the one that concentrates on St. Mark.

The Gospel According to Saint Mark is a lean, spare Gospel. It does

not have the beautiful Christmas story of the shepherds in the field and the angelic message of the birth of the Saviour. It does not have the majestic doctrine of St. John about the eternal existence of the Word and how the Word was made flesh. It does not have the grand parables of the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son. It does not have the Sermon on the Mount. What it does have is a bracing focus on the ministry of Jesus and his way of the cross.

Let's begin with an introduction to St. Mark on Monday evening, September 22, starting at 6:30 p.m. Class will be held in the Martin Luther Room, which is two doors to the right of our church steps.

Following our first class's introduction, our next two classes will be devoted to a DVD recitation of St. Mark by the great English actor Alec McCowen. He recites the King James Version by memory. This will give us a moving overview of the whole gospel before we turn to the individual chapters.

The only kind of scholarly skill you need for these classes is that most excellent one: the desire to read the Bible and to let it shape you. All are welcome. If you cannot make every session, come nonetheless, whenever you can.

Pastor Fryer

## A Scholarship Possibility

Wittenberg University

Springfield, Ohio

Note from Pastor Fryer

Wittenberg University has been affiliated with the Lutheran Church since its founding in 1845. It offers a "Martin Luther Scholar Award," worth \$20,000 year, renewable over four years for a total of \$80,000. The website for the University is [www.wittenberg.edu](http://www.wittenberg.edu).

I can nominate students for this award. To qualify, students must have a

minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, be a member of a Lutheran church, and be nominated by November 1. If you are interested, please let me know.

We have put a promo sheet about opportunities at Wittenberg on a bulletin board in the undercroft.

# Update on Our Roof Project

Some Notes from Pastor Fryer



You might think the above photo is pretty dull, but let me tell you about it! It is really beautiful! It is a delivery of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood for the roof system "sandwich" for our church roof. The removal of the old slate from our church roof is done. That phase is complete. Now we are moving on to building our new roof. It promises to be better than our old one in many ways. For one thing, it will include insulation. In fact, our roof system is an impressive layering of things. I asked our project manager, architect Nancy Rankin of John G. Waite Associates, Architects, to describe that roof sandwich for us:

The roof assembly is a temporary weatherproof membrane installed over the original 1" wood sheathing boards, a recovery board that is installed over that to provide a more-even surface for the insulation installation, 3" of insulation, then the exterior plywood pictured above, then a final waterproof membrane adhered to that plywood, and then the two-color slate roof is installed on top of that membrane.



Our slate is renowned for its durability. The whole sandwich is pretty heavy, but no problem! A consultant who studied our church told us that we could hang a 747 from the rafters of our church, it is so strong.

Let me show you a couple more fun photos. Here is an old hand-cut 4-inch nail from our old roof:



My wife, Carol, tells me that if we get more of these great old nails, we should tie ribbons around them and sell them for a fundraiser.

And here is a photo of a mock-up of the snow guards for our new roof:



In this photo, the snow guard mock-up is on the table in the Martin Luther Room. That's where we have weekly construction meetings, including Greg Maher from contractor Baschnagel Bros, Nancy Rankin and/or Lyndon Julien-Sehl from John G. Waite Associates, Architects, Sexton Chris Schulze, and roof committee members Darryl Scherba and Evelyn Junge when they can. These people are all knowledgeable and dedicated workers. They fill me with confidence and excitement about our roof project.

## Catechism: Fall Semester

Starting 1 p.m. September 28

Year Two of our Catechism Class begins 1 p.m. Sunday, September 28 after Children's Choir practice. Class meets in the Martin Luther Room.

### From Our Music Director

[Note from Pastor Fryer: I asked Music Director Dr. Gwendolyn Toth to share some notes and photos about her summer travels and performances.]



Langweer

I spent several weeks in Europe last June and July. Arriving in the Netherlands on June 25, I traveled to Zeerijp, Groningen Province, Netherlands, where I visited and rehearsed on my favorite organ, the 1649 Faber organ. Then, I travelled to Langweer, Friesland, Netherlands where I played a solo organ concert on the 1784 Van Dam organ on Wednesday, July 2. Next, I travelled to Hamburg Germany for a brief side-trip to visit the newly reconstructed organ at St. Katherine's Church on July 4th in Hamburg, Germany. This was basically a new organ, and I have to admit I was disappointed because they did not replicate the organ's original 17th

century design, but "updated" it to play 18th-century music as well.

Next, I went back to Amsterdam in the Netherlands where I played a house concert on July 6th accompanying ARTEK violinist Cynthia Freivogel, who now also lives in Amsterdam, on the harpsichord, performing music of 17th-century German composers. Cynthia is working towards recording sonatas of Vilsmayr, and she was brilliant! The real excitement during these weeks was watching the World Cup, since Netherlands made it to the semi finals - unfortunately, losing on July 9 to Argentina, but in one final match on Saturday July 12, winning 3rd place over Brazil. What a time to be in the Netherlands! I was only grateful the third place match was over before my next concert back in Zeerijp on Sunday, July 13, a direct hit with the finals; otherwise, I think attendance at my concert would have been very sparse! That concert was a collaboration with ARTEK mezzo-soprano Barbara Hollinshead, who was also in the Netherlands at this time, as well as a local Dutch soprano, Reina Zijlstra (a member of the wonderful Dutch family that has hosted me for years in Zeerijp).



Zeerijp

The next day, Barbara and I flew to Milan where we performed on July 15 in San Bartolomeo Church. Although this was a 20th-century instrument, the church had a beautiful acoustic, and the audience received our program with great enthusiasm. Afterwards we had a great Italian meal! After the Milan concert, Barbara and I had 2 free days. We travelled a short distance to Ferrara, Italy, home of the great Este family who ruled in the 16th and

17th centuries, who were patrons of a great deal of poets and composers including some which ARTEK has performed - Giaches de Wert and Tasso. We visited the places where they worked and performed in Ferrara - a spectacular (but smallish) performing room with a fabulous painted fresco ceiling, and the prison rooms in the Ferrara Castello - the poet Tasso, who suffered from mental illness, was imprisoned there for years while he wrote his famous epic poem "Gerusalemme Liberata" about the Crusades. A grim place indeed.



Music room, Palazzo Costabili, Ferraa

Barbara and I returned to Amsterdam and gave one more house concert with harpsichord and voice on Sunday, July 20, singing again German baroque music but with a special emphasis on the devotional songs of Duchess Sophie Elizabeth of Mecklenburg, who was a rare female composer of that time. After the concert, I returned to Zeerijp where I spent the last two days before leaving for the US in the area of Zeerijp, trying organs for my next recording (possibly, in summer 2015 or 2016). The organs I am considering are the 1704 Schnitger organ in Eenum; the 1704 Schniger organ in Godlinze (despite the same year of being built, the Eenum organ is a real 17th century instrument, and the Godlinze organ more like a later instrument) as well one of the oldest organs in the Netherlands, the Oosthuizen organ of 1521 (this organ was just fabulous, and is probably leading the pack for a CD, I must say!)



Oosthuizen

I think perhaps I had a total of about 4 days of "vacation" my entire trip; there was a lot of tiring travel, long hours of practice and rehearsal involved! Of course, it is so enjoyable to play the old organs and to have the wonderful audiences I had everywhere. On this trip I did not have a car as much of my local travel in the Netherlands was by bicycle. Unfortunately, the Dutch cheese and butter completely negates any healthful aspect! I look forward to returning to Europe again next summer for more musical opportunities. And more cheese.