



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

Eighty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan
www.immanuelnyc.org

Rev. Gregory P. Fryer, Pastor
Email: gpfryer@gmail.com

(212) 289-8128, church phone
(212) 828-3665, church fax

October 2014

A Word from the Pastor

Reformation Sunday

Sermon Written by Rev. Dr. David Lotz

In addition to Pastor Lotz's renown as a Church Historian and Reformation Scholar, he also possesses a beautiful speaking voice. Pastor Lotz has a deep, melodious voice with an actor's sense of pace and delivery. There is no matching the sound of his preaching, at least for me. But I am going to give it a try this Reformation Sunday, thanks to Pastor Lotz's grace in sending us one of his magnificent Reformation sermons. He means to send me his sermon some days in advance and I mean to practice and practice in delivering it. What a blessed people we were to have Pastor Lotz in our pulpit all those years! For twenty-seven years he graced the pulpit and altar here at Immanuel.

We had hoped to be back up in our church nave by Reformation Sunday, but I fear that we are not going to make it. The roof project is not the problem. We are zooming along on that. The delay is not because of the work on our roof, but because this is such a useful time for doing some other work in our nave. Especially we hope to refinish our church floors, make some improvements in our lights, and mend some of our pews — maybe even put some padding on our pew kneelers if we can afford it. It seems



sensible to work on the lights before the floor project so that wear and tear from the scaffolding will not mar our new floor.

So, we are eager to return back upstairs to our beautiful church, but these delays should make it even more beautiful by the time we arrive.

Meanwhile, I continue to enjoy worshiping in the undercroft. Choir has begun its new season, and it is a joy to be so close to them as we are in the undercroft.

This is the time of year when our church attendance begins to rebound. I hope you will all be part of it.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Roof Fund-raiser at 92nd Y Street Fair

Our Street Fair Event on September 14th proved successful. Blessed with beautiful weather we raised \$1,218.49 for our roof fund. But it was not all about the money. Immanuel members and friends of Immanuel were able to bond and work together.

We want to thank those who worked on the Kids' Market: Karen Bazik, Priscilla O'Carroll, Maggie Schreiber, and Yolanda Borrás of *I'm Bilingual*. Our young people (Kirsten Kibler, Emma and Kieran O'Carroll, Katarina Schreiber, and Elisa Rajoelson) all did a terrific job. Thomas Wicks was Immanuel's Good Will Ambassador who was loyal to the Immanuel table where people could read about our history from the history panels. He gave out our informational brochures and refrigerator magnets and graciously offered information about Immanuel to passersby. Ellie Watrous, Evelyn

Junge, Richard Schreiber and Claudionai Penha manned an almost sold out book and records table. The jewelry table was successfully manned by Marion Molno, Elly Spangenberg, and Sally Graudons; and the flea market workers: Maria Van Der Merwe, Louise Hansen de la Verde, Louisa Laverde, Josiane Rajoelson, Elisa Rajoelson and Sree Panda worked on that lucrative spot. Everyone is to be commended for setting up and breaking down within the guidelines of the Street Fair rules, including Dan Franzese, Jazo and Kumi Ichikawa, Borge Christiansen, Chris Schulze and Luis Cartagena. And, of course a big thank you to all of you who donated the items we sold. A special thanks to Kathy Jolowicz who kept everyone coordinated and things running smoothly before, during and after the event.

Update on Our Roof Project

Some Notes from Pastor Fryer

A happy thought is starting to come upon me: Soon our Roof and Steeple Project will be finished. Then we will be able to say, “We are the generation that did this good thing! Immanuel members far and wide contributed to this project, and it is something to be proud of. Indeed, it seems worthy of the heritage we have received.”

Let us share with you some photos of the work. And as you look at the photos, please join us in saying a prayer for the safety of the construction workers:

Here is a view from above. We are glad that the workers have their safety harnesses and ropes.



Work has begun on the scaffold to the very top of our high, high steeple.



Preparing to work on a finial (an ornament at the tip of a spire or tower)



We have been referring to our project as the “Roof and Steeple Project.” But it turns out to be a “Mortar Project” too. It is only sensible to do this while we have the workers and the scaffolding. The mortar work involves both the bricks and the stones in our church.



Children's Choir

A big thank you to Tiffany Rosenquist and Jim Miller, Co-Directors of our Children's Choir, and to all those children who have been participating since we resumed rehearsals last month. The Children's Choir performs at our worship services approximately four times a year. In addition to raising their voices in song, the children will also have the opportunity to use handbells

and other musical instruments. Rehearsals take place at 12:30 p.m. every Sunday in the large Sunday School Room. If you have any questions about the program, please see Tiffany or Jim or call Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office (212) 289-8128. All children ages 3 and up are invited to join.

Consecration Sunday Is Coming!

Sunday, November 16, 2014

[Note from Pastor Fryer: Here is the first of the recommended letters from the "New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program." I believe in the theme of this program. I believe that financial stewardship is less a matter of our congregation's budget (which, naturally, I do have high hopes for), but rather a matter of individual piety. Giving to the church is a matter of a holy life for each of us. Stewardship is part of our sanctification.]

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their

financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Immanuel's 2014 Stewardship Team

Artek presents De Profundis: In the Shadow of Death

Saturday, November 1st at 8:00 p.m.

Free lecture at 7 pm

St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 552 West End Avenue at 87th Street

Funeral cantatas and motets by German baroque composer Johann Rosenmüller (1619-1684), in honor of All Hallows' Day, including De Profundis, Dies Irae, Ad Dominum cum Tribularer, In te Domine, Welt Ade, and more. ARTEK, directed by Immanuel Lutheran organist Gwendolyn Toth, is a renowned American ensemble celebrating its 30th anniversary this season lauded by The New York Times for its “consistently polished, finely balanced

performances.” With singers Laura Heimes, soprano; Clara Rottsohl, soprano; Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo soprano; Philip Anderson, tenor; Peter Becker, bass-baritone and string ensemble led by Cynthia Freivogel.

Tickets: \$50 preferred seats; \$40 regular seats (\$30 seniors, students); \$30 rear seats (\$15 seniors, students). Tickets available from Gotham Early Music Scene: www.gemsny.org or phone (212) 866-0468. Tickets also available at the door.