



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

December 2014

A Word from the Pastor

Advent/Christmas

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

(Isaiah 40:1, KJV)

Now let me say again, if you've found yourself the miserable one, stained and sullied by your sin, wondering if there can be any meaning come out of this thing any more at all, then take heart, my friend, for the God who comes to us in Christ comes to speak comfort, to give you courage, and to enable you to stand strongly and firmly.

There was an old man who was ending his preaching ministry. Somebody said to him, "Tell us, if you had to begin your ministry all over again, what notes would you strike that heretofore you have not struck? or with what accent would you preach the Gospel in a way that might be different than what you've already done?" And the man who had lived the years fully and well simply replied: "If I had my years to live over again, I would strike the note of comfort in a way that I've never struck it before. For if the years have taught me anything, the years have taught me that men need to be empowered by God, they need to be put on their feet, they need to be given courage to persevere."

Rev. Raymond Shaheen

"Four Words of Advent: Comfort"

Sermon for the Third Sunday of Advent

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland

December 17, 1967

My dear old pastor, Rev. Raymond Shaheen, used to preach sermon series. Each summer he would retreat to his country cottage and plan his sermons for the coming year. He planned them, not according to the lectionary, but according to themes he wanted to develop. It is an old-fashioned way of preaching. In his case, it was a wonderful way of preaching.

The above excerpt comes from his Advent series of sermons called “Four Words of Advent.” The other three words were “Forgiveness,” “Fear,” and “Behold.”

In this particular sermon, Pastor Shaheen made the point that as the Bible reckons things, “comfort” is not a sweet, subjective emotion, but rather the sharing of strength with someone. It is the way of us humans that from time to time we find ourselves in such straits that if someone

does not help us along, we might not make it. We stand in need of comfort.

The old preacher was right: One of the great privileges of the ordained ministry is the chance to try to make people stronger — not so much with earthly nourishment but with the food of heaven, with the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Pastor Shaheen sought to do that throughout his long ministry. I am trying too. Every pastor tries.

Let us each one come to church this Advent, this Christmas, and all the year long with our hearts open for the comfort and strength of God’s Word.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Back in the Sanctuary

Some notes from Pastor Fryer

The nave lights in the next page’s picture are whimsical, but temporary. In our vast space, they look like moons and planets and heavenly orbs. The photo shows the fresh linen white of our walls, with contrasting pure white trim, light blue arch above our Transfiguration painting, and gold ornamental features.

Many thanks are due to Sexton Chris Schulze and his crew for their work in our church nave. Chris arranged for a floor company to refinish our floors. Chris and his crew repaired and refinished our pews. And a light designer has been crafting Gothic-style pendant lights to be suspended over our pews as they were in olden days. We have cleaned our beautiful rear altar and we are working on improving

the lighting on our Transfiguration painting. Chris and his workers also have been working in the balcony. They removed the worn-out green carpet in the aisles and sanded and painted the wood to provide a harder sound surface for our organ and choir. Also, they have painted the emblems above the doors throughout the nave — emblems that I had not even noticed before because they were painted over with white paint.

Our new Gothic-style pendants should be in place for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21. Our church looks beautiful! Come and see!





Lessons and Carols

Led by Immanuel's Children's Choir
Advent 3, 11 a.m. December 14, 2014

Immanuel is marking the Advent Season with a service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14th. The children of Immanuel will lead this service celebrating the birth of Jesus with readings from the Bible and carols and hymns of the holiday season. Immanuel's Children's

Choir, under the direction of Tiffany Rosenquist and Jim Miller, will delight us with their voices. The Sunday School children and Confirmands will read the lessons. Please join us for this Advent tradition.

Caroling at Lenox Hill Hospital

Friday, December 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

On Friday, December 12th, let's meet in the lobby of Lenox Hill Hospital (100 East 77th Street) at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas caroling and fellowship gathering. After caroling there, we are invited to the church parsonage (108 East

82nd Street, Apt. 7C) for some refreshments, fellowship, and sitting around the fireplace. Alas, we are not supposed to bring children into the hospital, but otherwise, everyone is welcome!

Fraternité Notre Dame Toy Collection

Once again this year the Sisters of the Fraternité Notre Dame will be hosting a Christmas party for needy children. This year the party will be on Thursday, December 18th. They are asking for donations of new toys. If you can give a toy, please wrap it and mark it as to the age of the child and whether it is for a boy or girl. (Please no guns or violent toys.) The Sisters will also accept toiletries or

clothing as they distribute gifts to the hospitalized and homeless as well. No need to wrap these. You may leave your gifts in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or bring them to the church office during the week. The last day for bringing gifts is Sunday, December 14th, as the Sisters will pick them up from the church office on Monday morning, December 15th.

Sunday School Mitten Tree

The Sunday School will have a mitten tree once again this year. Please give the mittens you bring to one of our Sunday School teachers. The mittens will be given to the Fraternité Notre Dame who will

distribute them to needy children. The mitten tree will be put up during the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 20th.

Hangings of the Greens and St. Nicholas Party

Hold the date! Saturday, December 20th: We'll decorate the sanctuary for Christmas from 2 to 5 p.m. and then our St. Nicholas Party will go from 5 to 9 p.m. Swing with David Buddin on the piano, Gaku Takanashi on bass, Kevin Shea on

drums, Al Quirong on tenor sax, and vocalist, Vi Quirong. The band will play from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. followed by a Christmas carol sing-a-long and supper with hams and pot-luck side dishes and desserts, and a visit from Santa!

ARTEK at Immanuel

“Music for a Prince: The Esterhazy Orchestra”

January 3 at 8 pm

ARTEK will be performing an all-Haydn concert at Immanuel Lutheran Church on: “Music for a Prince: The Esterhazy Orchestra.”

Haydn served Prince Esterhazy for nearly 30 years, leaving an amazing legacy of symphonies, concertos, and operas. The ARTEK orchestra, directed by Gwendolyn Toth, will perform Symphony # 6, “Le Matin”; Concerto for violin and harpsichord; Symphony #49, “La

Passione”; and an aria (featuring soprano Sarah Chalfy) from the opera *Armida*.

The concert will also be the debut of Ms. Toth’s fabulous new German harpsichord, recently arrived at Immanuel Lutheran. Don’t miss this gala performance!

50 pairs of free tickets for Immanuel Lutheran members will be available from Karen Rombey in the office (regular price is \$50, \$40 and \$30).