

# Immanuel Messenger

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

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March 2015

*A Word from the Pastor*

## Lent

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. (Hebrews 12:3, NRSV)

In 1519, Martin Luther wrote a devotional treatise called *A Meditation on Christ's Passion*. He wrote it in the midst of other heavy work, including an exposition of the Lord's Prayer, a commentary on Galatians, and preparing for an important debate with his Catholic opponent John Eck. Why did he take time to work on this meditation on our Lord's Passion? Because people needed it. Their hearts cried out for it.

In the introduction to Luther's popular treatise, the American translator notes this:

The quick and widespread acceptance of this tract attests to the inner needs of the common people. Writings such as this, with their pastoral emphasis, attracted even more readers than those concerned with protest. ...his contact with the people in the parish forced him to take note of the areas in which the search for peace and salvation was most desperate. (LW 42:5)

Luther offers three main ideas when thinking about the cross and passion of Jesus:

(Continued, over)

- (1) *We* are involved in our Lord's crucifixion. More than a century before Johann Heermann wrote *Ah, Holy Jesus*, with its moving line, "Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee," Luther urged a similar conviction upon his people:

It must be an inexpressible and unbearable earnestness that forces such a great and infinite person to suffer and die to appease it... Therefore, when you see the nails piercing Christ's hands, you can be certain that it is your work. When you behold his crown of thorns, you may rest assured that these are your evil thoughts, etc.

- (2) Lest we despair when pondering the true measure of our sins — a measure so earnest that it cost the life of Jesus — Luther looks ahead to Easter and the revelation of God's love for us:

...you must no longer contemplate the suffering of Christ (for this has already done its work and terrified you), but pass beyond that and see his friendly heart and how this heart beats with such love for you that it impels him to bear with pain your conscience and your sin... We know God aright when we grasp him not in his might or wisdom (for then he proves terrifying), but in his kindness and love.

- (3) Finally, Luther urges us to take the pattern of Christ's passion as our own:

After your heart has thus become firm in Christ, and love, not fear of pain, has made you a foe of sin, then Christ's passion must from that day on become a pattern for your entire life... If hatred, envy, and vindictiveness beset you, recall that Christ, who indeed had more reason to avenge himself, interceded with tears and cries for you and for all his enemies...

Jesus is the center of our Gospel. Our sorrow for sin, our pattern of daily life, and our hope in God's love all rest in him. May God grant us a good and holy Lent pondering his passion.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

# Midweek Lent 2015

“The Seven Last Words of Jesus”

Recently-Published Sermons by Theologian Gilbert Meilaender

6:30 p.m. in our beautiful church

Some notes from Pastor Fryer

The “Seven Last Words” are often the text for Good Friday. Here in our town, I have preached three times over the years at nearby St. Ignatius during their three-hour Good Friday service.

This Lent we are hearing sermons by Lutheran theologian Gilbert Meilaender on the Seven Last Words. He has written two sermons for each word, so that is fourteen sermons altogether. If we double-up on Holy Wednesday, we can do seven sermons this year. That would leave another seven for next year. They are worth it!

Rev. Dr. Gilbert Meilaender is longtime professor of Christian Ethics at Valparaiso University. He has preached here at Immanuel, back in 1995.

Here is the schedule for this year’s sermons:

DATE	TOPIC
February 25, 2015	The First Word: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
March 4	The Second Word: “Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
March 11	The Third Word: “Woman, behold your son! Son, behold your mother!”
March 18	The Fourth Word: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
March 25	The Fifth Word: “I Thirst”
April 1, Holy Wednesday	The Sixth Word: “It is finished.” The Seventh Word: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

I hope to see you in church for midweek Lent and Sundays.

## Daylight Saving Time

“Fall back; Spring ahead!” Be sure to put your clocks ahead one hour before turning in on Saturday night, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Children’s Choir to Sing

On Sunday, March 8, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

Our Children’s Choir, under the direction of Tiffany Rosenquist and Jim Miller, will delight us with their voices again on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and then on Palm Sunday and Easter morning. A triple blessing for us all!

# Upcoming ARTEK Concerts here at Immanuel Harpsichords of Germany

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m.

and

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m.

Gwendolyn Toth will be playing her new 1739 Gräbner harpsichord by John Phillips on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. There will also be a free lecture on Friday evening at 7 p.m. on German harpsichords. So come early and join us for the lecture too. What a perfect way to learn more about Gwen's new instrument! Then on Saturday, March

14<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. Gwendolyn Toth, Dongsok Shin, Stephen Rapp, and Bradley Brookshire, will play harpsichords with strings. Some free tickets are available for members of the congregation. Please see Parish Secretary Karen Rombey for these tickets.

## Bishops

Rev. John F. Bradosky

Bishop of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

Bishop Bradosky is scheduled to preach for us on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, this March 22.

The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Rimbo

Bishop of the Metro New York Synod, ELCA

Bishop Rimbo is scheduled to confirm our young people on Pentecost Sunday, this May 24.

It is an honor to be visited by bishops, and Pastor Fryer hopes you can attend on these Sundays if at all possible.

## Pastor Fryer to receive OTTY Award

Monday, March 16, 2015 – 6 to 8 p.m.

The Mount Sinai Hospital

1470 Madison Ave. (101<sup>st</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Congratulations to Pastor Gregory Fryer on being awarded an OTTY Award (“Our Town Thanks You.”). The OTTY Award is given by *Our Town* newspaper honoring people who have contributed to the Upper East Side Community. R.S.V.P. to [RSVP@Strausnews.com](mailto:RSVP@Strausnews.com) if you can join him on this happy occasion. Please see the invitation on the next page.

The local paper for the Upper East Side

**OUR TOWN**



Mount Sinai

*Please join*

**JEANNE STRAUS**

*President - Straus News*

**KYLE POPE**

*Editor in Chief Our Town*

**VINCENT GARDINO**

*Vice President*

To Honor the 2015  
**"OTTY" WINNERS**  
**(Our Town Thanks You)**

**Chris Adams**

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*Vanderbilt YMCA*

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*Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum*

**Rob Byrnes**

*East Midtown Partnership*

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**Rev. Gregory P. Fryer**

*Immanuel Lutheran*

**Claudia Gould**

*Jewish Museum*

**Julian Niccolini**

*The Four Seasons Restaurant*

**Dimitres Pantelidis**

*PSIS 171 - Patrick Henry Preparatory School*

**Daniel S. Ribaldo**

*New York Presbyterian Hospital*

**Nancy Taylor**

*Bideawee*

**John Tweddle**

*Carl Schurz Park*

**Arlene Virga**

*Yorkville Youth Athletic Association*

with Emcee **ROMA TORRE** of 

**MONDAY MARCH 16, 2015, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

at **THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL**

1470 Madison Ave. (101<sup>ST</sup> St. 2nd Floor)

**PLEASE RSVP TO [RSVP@STRAUSNEWS.COM](mailto:RSVP@STRAUSNEWS.COM)**

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## Easter Lilies and Music Fund

Gifts for Easter lilies and special music can be given as memorials to a loved one or friend to add to the beauty of our worship at Easter. Gifts in any amount are sought for the Music Fund; lilies are \$15.00.

Barbara Chomko will be standing by the table in the narthex after the morning service on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Karen Rombey will be there on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Ester Neubacher on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Please see one of them if you are interested in donating to the Music Fund or contributing for lilies at Easter. You may also call Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office (212/289-8128) in this regard. The deadline is Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

A Huge Success!

Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper was a huge success. We made a grand total of \$1,728 which will be directed to our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. A very special thank you to Al and Vi Quirong, David Buddin, Gaku Takanashi and Kevin Shea who provided us with a wonderful hour of entertainment.

## 10-Day Reformation Tour

Germany & Prague  
In the Footsteps of Martin Luther  
October 19-28, 2015

Including Reformation Sunday at the Wartburg Castle, Eisenach

Rev. Carol E.A. Fryer, Tour Host

For more information please call  
Faith Journeys at 1-877-732-4845 Option 1

# Pastor Carol Fryer to Preach at Corpus Christi Church

529 West 121<sup>st</sup> Street, near Broadway, 4 p.m. Sunday, March 15

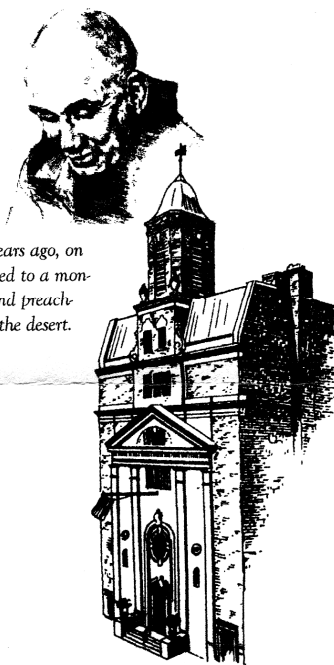
This is a famous church — the church where Columbia graduate student Thomas Merton was instructed in the Christian faith and baptized, back in 1938.

This promo from Corpus Christi lists Carol as Pastor at Immanuel. That's okay. We can forgive that. Welcome to these Lent Vespers liturgies:

## ❖ LENTEN VESPERS SUNDAYS AT 4:00 P.M.

### Encountering God in the Desert and in the City

*Thomas Merton, Trappist monk and spiritual writer, was born one hundred years ago, on January 31, 1915. He encountered God in New York City, then soon retreated to a monastery in Kentucky. In this Lenten Vespers series, through music, psalmody, and preaching, Corpus Christi will explore how we can encounter God in the city and in the desert.*



#### FEBRUARY 22

Preacher: Rabbi Yonah Hain,  
Kraft Center for Jewish Life, Columbia/Barnard Hillel  
Gail Archer, organist  
Director of Music, Barnard College

#### MARCH 1

Preacher: Sr. Mary Francesca  
of the Lamb of God, C.F.R. (Barnard '03)  
Kasia Borowiec, soprano  
Cantor, Corpus Christi Church

#### MARCH 8

Preacher: Rev. Raymond M. Rafferty  
Pastor Emeritus, Corpus Christi Church  
Jeremy Rhizor, baroque violin  
Historical Performance Program, The Juilliard School

#### MARCH 15

Preacher: Pastor Carol Fryer  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, New York City  
The Choir of Corpus Christi Church  
Louise Basbas, Director and Organist

#### MARCH 22

Preacher: Rev. Daniel P. O'Reilly  
Administrator, Corpus Christi Church  
Columbia Catholic Ministry Choir  
Pedro d'Aquino, Director and Organist

### ◆ CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

529 West 121<sup>st</sup> Street, just east of Broadway  
subway: No. 1 to 116th Street-Columbia University; bus: M104, M4, or M11  
212-666-9350 [www.corpus-christi-nyc.org](http://www.corpus-christi-nyc.org)

## Greetings from Madagascar!

Rev. Manoela Tiana Andriatsiafara, his wife Josiane and daughter Elisa send their warmest greetings to us.

