

# Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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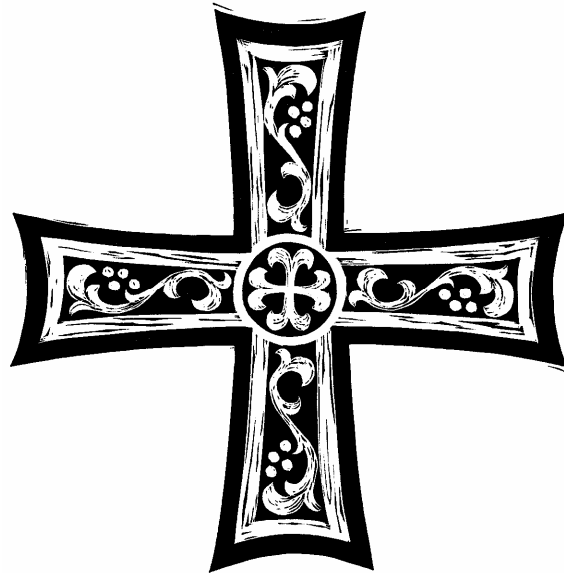
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September 2015

*A Word from the Pastor*

## Holy Cross Sunday

September 13, 2015



With Start-up of Choir

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
My old dog-eared copy of Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* phrases one of his great lines this way:

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

Nowadays, there is a more authoritative English translation of Bonhoeffer's masterpiece. The title has been shortened to *Discipleship*. It is Volume 4 of the *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works*. In this authoritative translation, Bonhoeffer's great line reads this way:

Whenever Christ calls us, his call leads us to death.

The idea is the same. Bonhoeffer puts the inevitability of the cross this way:

The cross is not the terrible end of a pious, happy life. Instead, it stands at the beginning of community with Jesus Christ.

As soon as we are baptized, we begin following Christ, denying ourselves, seeking to grow into his image, and, if need be, accepting the difficulties that come our way as we follow on behind Jesus.

In our congregation, Holy Cross Sunday is a bracing homecoming Sunday for the start of the autumn and festival seasons. We lean our rough-hewn cross from Good Friday up against our Communion Table on Holy Cross Sunday, to connect the passion of Jesus with the daily life of discipleship which lies ahead of us. We have an important autumn before us. Let the holy Cross guide us along our way.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

# Everest Vacation Bible School

God Has the Power!

Some Notes from VBS Director Karen Bazik



A VBS Group Photo

Thanks to VBS staff member Jean Fischer, who is holding the camera  
August 24-28

We had a wonderful journey up the mountain all week! Our Everest crew had 29 little children. Each day began by learning a new Bible verse and meeting an animal guide to help us to remember the Bible point. Our climbing crew traveled to the Base Camp Play and Sing to learn a new song with hand motions. Our expedition crew left the ice and snow to travel back in time for our Bible stories. The children were fed by ravens and hid from earthquakes, fire and wind like Elijah, dipped in the Jordan River to wash away leprosy like Naaman, joined Peter as he hid from soldiers after denying Jesus three times and stood by weeping Mary as she learned Jesus had risen from the dead and was preparing a place for us in heaven. At the end of our stories, the crew stopped at base camp to paint, glue and assemble crafts to use along the way. With a quick mountaintop

treat the crew was ready to travel to the glacier games. The crew led by the Sherpa traveled to play glacier games and then back to the base camp to be surprised at the Imagination Station. Pastor ended each day at our Summit Celebration.

Thank you to our VBS crew who brought boundless energy and enthusiasm every day! Thanks to Jean Fischer who taught arts and crafts, surprised us at the Imagination Station, and spent endless hours organizing, labeling and assembling crafts for our little ones. Thanks to Ann Chomko and her teen helpers who fed our hungry climbers every morning. Thanks to Barbara and Ann Chomko, Luis Cartagena, Chris Schulze and Victor Steinberg who helped us set up, decorate and clean up our Everest base camp. Thanks to Shelley Washington our music teacher who wrangled our eager climbers into an organized musical choir and helped out all day long. Thank you to Alisha Housel, Stephen and Jean Fischer's grandniece who helped us with crafts, Bible expeditions, music time and glacier games, always with a smile. Thank you to Lara Simone-Bhasin for supervising our little ones during the day. Thanks to our teen helpers Emma O'Carroll, Kieran O'Carroll, Katelyn Steinberg, Nadia Stevenson, Kirsten Kibler and Hans Kibler who brought our Bible stories to life, assisted with mountaintop treats and organized and ran our glacier games. Thanks to Pastor Fryer who ended each day with a story of love from the Bible and a prayer. Thank you to the parents, grandparents and nannies who stepped in where needed. Thank you to Evelyn Junge for writing a permission slip to ensure a safe day at the zoo. Thanks to Luz Ortiz for manning the office two mornings during VBS week while we awaited deliveries. Thanks to Kathy Jolowicz for lending us the Christmas trees. Thanks to Lyonel Laverde and Luc Randrianarivony for helping us with the decorations. Thanks to Karen Rombey who lent her acting talents to our Bible stories, organized the Central Park Zoo trip and handled all registration and ordering.

Thank you to our VBS students and parents who helped us raise 160 dollars to send to the Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund sponsored by Lutheran World Relief. We learned that God has the power to provide through us. Thank you to the parents for bringing their children to the zoo so we could see a real snow leopard and bear. Thank you to the congregation for helping us to raise the funds for our program at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and thank you for all your prayers for a safe and fun week. We were pleased that several parents were eager to sign up for next year and enroll their children who were too young to attend this year.



The photos taken by Jean Fischer, our official VBS photographer are already posted on Immanuel's website.

<http://www.immanuelnyc.org/photosmedia/photos/vacation-bible-school-2015>

P.S. from the VBS Staff: A big thank you to Karen Bazik from all of her VBS Staff. It was a joy to work with you.

## Lost Era of Yorkville, Lecture and Exhibit by Kathy Jolowicz Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Kolping House

Sponsored by the Steuben Parade's German American Month, Kathy Jolowicz has been invited to present her Exhibit/Lecture on the Lost Era of Yorkville/Kleindeutschland from the 17th Century through the 60s, (including our Immanuel History Panels). Those of you who did not see it at St. Ignatius will have

the opportunity on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Kolping House, 165 East 88th Street at 6 p.m. \$10.00 donation to benefit the Parade. Tracht (Dirndls and Lederhosen) welcome. No photography permitted. RSVP is a must as space is limited. [kaj133@aol.com](mailto:kaj133@aol.com).

## Street Fair – Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. September 20<sup>th</sup>

We will be exhibiting our fund-raising Flea Market and Kid's Market tables again at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Street Fair. So as usual we are collecting things to sell, i.e. children's clothes, toys, books, games, etc. Also we will need adult's personal and home accessories, books, jewelry, etc. Volunteers are needed for that day!! Some of us are giving up personal obligations to work on that day, so please keep in mind that we do need you. Volunteers are needed to man the tables, as well as set up and break down.

The Fair setup is 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and breakdown is at 5 p.m., so we will need to be there early. There will be a 6 p.m. service held for all volunteer workers.

Donations can be made on Sundays after church where volunteers will be

marking the items as they come in, or they can be left with Karen Rombey in the Church office during the week. Please, no donations on the day of the street fair. In respect for Ann Wilson's Memorial Service on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be no donation activity taking place. Thus donations should NOT BE MADE AFTER THURSDAY, September 17<sup>th</sup>, so we would have time to mark them on Friday. However, on Saturday evening starting at 7 p.m., we will need volunteers to organize the Sunday tables, and tie up any loose ends.

For further information and, with your volunteer availability, please call Karen Rombey in the church office at 212/289-8128 or Kathy Jolowicz at 212/249-0125 or email: [kaj133@aol.com](mailto:kaj133@aol.com).

# Lutheranism 101

Sunday, September 6

## Some Notes from Pastor Fryer

Attendance might be low this particular Sunday. I hope not, but it might be because it is Labor Day weekend. But our schedule for these *Lutheranism 101* classes is 10 a.m. in the church undercroft on the *first* Sundays of the month, so there we go: September 6 is the first Sunday. Please bring your *Book of Concord* to class and we will continue our study of the *Augsburg Confession*. If you do not yet have a copy of the *Book of Concord*, we plan to have them available for you.

As I said in my brief letter about the NALC, my classes on *A Doctrine of the Bible* and *Lutheranism 101* are not particularly about the ELCA or the NALC. They are meant to be of general spiritual help. But it seems to me that this particular class, on September 6, is relevant to our October 18 vote. So far, in my letters about the NALC I have lifted up the Bible and the Unity of the Church as grounds for

joining the NALC. But I believe that the soul of Lutheranism is also at stake in the disputes between the ELCA and the NALC. I hope to touch on that in this particular lecture.

Perhaps more importantly, we will page our way through *the Augsburg Confession* and remind ourselves of our fundamental Lutheran convictions. Let me give you a fun example. A while ago, I was ordering pizza at a local Dominos and some teenagers asked me whether I was a Catholic priest. I answered that no, I was a Lutheran priest. They said, “What’s that?” I answered, “Well, I’m pretty much like a Catholic priest, except that I get to be married.” I showed them my wedding ring. And they said “Cool!” Well, Article 23 of the *Augsburg Confession* is about that: “Concerning the Marriage of Priests.” We get to look at many of our basic Lutheran beliefs in this course. Welcome, everyone!

# Committee on The ELCA and the NALC

## Some Notes from Committee Chair Richard Schreiber

The committee that was formed to gather information on the church’s move to the NALC that Pastor Fryer is advocating has nearly completed its document which discusses many of the relevant issues that led to the move consideration.

This document, which will be provided to the congregation shortly, will be in the form of a Q&A (questions and answers)

and will respond to many of the questions compiled by the church leaders throughout this process that will help the Immanuel Lutheran Church (“ILC”) congregational members to understand the key distinctions between the two synods, the ELCA which ILC is a current member, and the NALC, which Pastor Fryer is urging us to join.

We would also like to give you an update on the progress of the overall process.

Here are some of the upcoming milestones in the process and important dates to jot down:

Pastor Fryer will be presenting to the congregation in a special coffee hour on September 13th on why he urges us to move from the ELCA to the NALC.

The committee has arranged for a preacher from the NALC, Bishop Paull Spring to preside at ILC on 9/27/2015 and also answer questions during coffee hour. He will be assisted by Ryan Schwarz, the NALC's treasurer who will field business related questions.

Then on 10/11/2015: Pastor Robert Wollenburg from the ELCA presides and also will answer questions during coffee hour from the congregation. He may be assisted by other ELCA staff members.

Finally, on 10/18/2015: there will be a special Voters' Assembly to vote on the motion to move to the NALC. Please mark your calendars.

The committee will be releasing our document this week via a special email and or mailing, so please be on the lookout. We invite you to read this document and refer to its many internet links for more information.

We also invite members to send in any reasonable questions they might have regarding the differences between the two synods and what impact on the church there might be with a move to the NALC. Please email the committee chairman, Richard Schreiber at [richard.schreiber@gmail.com](mailto:richard.schreiber@gmail.com).

This has been a long journey, dating back now over one year. It is one that we must consider with compassion and grace as well as being the utmost informed.

If there's anything anyone has as a suggestion to the committee please feel free to email the committee chairman, Richard Schreiber at [richard.schreiber@gmail.com](mailto:richard.schreiber@gmail.com)

In Christ  
Richard Schreiber

## Deliberations about the NALC

Making My Case, Sunday, September 13

Some Notes from Pastor Fryer

By now, you have probably received my brief letter, dated August 1, 2015, telling you of my recommendation that Immanuel join the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). At our last Voters' Assembly, June 7, we agreed to vote on my recommendation at a Special Voters' Assembly to be held after the liturgy on Sunday, October 18, 2015.

This September newsletter, now in your hands, is important because it shares some

of the events leading up to that important vote on October 18.

In my office as Pastor of this congregation, I am urging us to join the NALC. I do not make this recommendation lightly, nor have I rushed into it. I must give an account to the true Good Shepherd someday of my ministry in his name. I am trying to be faithful to you and to Him in this recommendation that we join the NALC.

In the preceding article, Richard Schreiber, Chair of the Committee on the ELCA/NALC, has described the process and goals of the committee he chairs, along with a timetable of events leading up to the October 18 vote. One of the earliest of those events is now upon us: I am to lay my case before you during Coffee Hour

following the liturgy, Sunday, September 13. We should have lots of food and coffee for that meeting. We need nourishment as we work our way through my PowerPoint presentation. Even more we need God's grace and your prayers.

Please try to attend that Sunday, both for the liturgy and for my presentation.

## Memorial Service for Ann Wilson

10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 19



It is hard to fathom that our member Ann Wilson has died. She and husband, John, were dancing in our church undercroft just this past Pentecost Sunday. It is a joy to think of her on yonder shore with Christ and all the saints, but it is a sorrow for us, no doubt about it.

John and young John plan to be with us for this Memorial service. John asks that in lieu of flowers, we make contributions to the Organ Fund. So, if we can, let's make

out a check to "Immanuel Lutheran Church" with footnote "Organ Fund."

This past August 15, there was a great memorial service for Ann at her home church in Taylors Falls, Minnesota. The church was packed. We are planning a good service here at Immanuel too, and we hope you can attend.

Pastor Fryer



# Children's Choir

Our children's choir will begin on Sunday, September 27. We will begin with a meeting in the sanctuary at 12:30 for all parents and children for approximately 15 minutes. Music Director Gwendolyn Toth will introduce our new leaders and give a brief overview of the upcoming season. We will have several "firsts": the children will be separated by age for the first time; and, we will also be starting a new Chime Choir featuring the marvelous tone chimes

we purchased, thanks to Shelley Washington, our VBS music leader!

Parents will be asked to sign a commitment to attend rehearsal regularly and to reinforce songs at home, and discuss appropriate choir behavior with their children. We expect that the children will sing approximately once every four weeks, with a special musical presentation for Christmas.

# Adult Choir

We welcome all new members of the adult choir! It's never too late to join. Just come on Sundays at 9 a.m. to the organ loft. The only requirements are a pleasant singing voice and an ability to read music. We love and sing music from all centuries, but have a particular fondness for Renaissance polyphony! Last year, we had

a lot of musical fun by learning many works by the composer Tomas Luis de Victoria. This year, we are going to sing works by Josquin des Pres for special occasions as well as on one or two Sundays a month. Come discover why Josquin was one of Martin Luther's favorite composers!

# ARTEK

The ARTEK season begins in September this year with a concert of "Music From The City of Bernini." This concert will be held on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church (552 West End Avenue at 87<sup>th</sup> Street). There is a free lecture at 7 p.m. Bernini was a baroque architect and sculptor of great monuments of 17th-century Rome like the Piazza San Pietro and Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi which were a large part of creating Rome as the great city it is today. He was a friend of Queen Christina of Sweden and Athanasius

Kircher, all part of a circle of intellectuals, artists and musicians such as Alessandro Scarlatti, Arcangelo Corelli, and Alessandro Stradella. The concert features two male singers, Eric Brenner and Ryland Angel who sing as countertenors — Eric in a soprano range and Ryland in an alto range, singing sacred cantata masterpieces. They will be accompanied by ARTEK string performers led by our Music Director Gwendolyn Toth. 50 free tickets have been made available for the Immanuel Lutheran community - please see Karen Rombey to receive a ticket.

ARTEK's complete season brochure listing all scheduled concerts is now available in the entrance of the church - please take

home a copy, and note ARTEK's upcoming dates in November, January, February, and May.

# Sunday School and Children's Choir

Start-up Sunday, September 27

Children's Sunday School will start up at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 27th. The children will meet in the large Sunday School Room. Please enter at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 88<sup>th</sup> Street.

Children's Choir will begin with a meeting in the sanctuary at 12:30 for all

parents and children for approximately fifteen minutes. Please see Music Director Dr. Gwendolyn Toth's article on page 8 about this wonderful program for the children of our church.

## Bishop Paul Spring

Founding Bishop of the NALC

To Preach For Us, Sunday, September 27



The NALC website - <http://thenalc.org/> - lifts up four centers for the NALC:

- ✦ Christ Centered
- ✦ Mission Driven
- ✦ Traditionally Grounded
- ✦ Congregationally Focused

Bishop Paull Spring was the author of these central emphases of the NALC. He is scheduled to preach for us at the end of this month, Sunday, September 27, and to be available for conversation afterwards, during Coffee Hour.

God willing, there will be two more NALC representatives with him: NALC Treasurer Ryan Schwarz and NALC Professor of Systematic Theology and Ethics Dr. David Yeago.

In next month's newsletter, we hope to include a photo of Rev. Robert Wollenburg. He will represent the ELCA that month, on Sunday, October 11.

(End)