

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

January 2015

A Word from the Pastor

Epiphany Sunday



Sunday, January 4, 2015

How desolate and confused everything appears for the birth of a king! If a young pup had been born, at least there would be some shouting. A king is supposed to have been born here, and yet everything is so quiet. Should not the people sing and dance, light lights and lamps, and decorate their streets with green branches and roses? (Martin Luther, The Gospel For The Festival Of The Epiphany, Matthew 2[:1-12]. LW 52:195)

And so, the Wise Men of the Epiphany story could have wondered, “Have we been duped?” They have traveled all the way to Jerusalem. It is the capitol city. Yet no one seems to have heard about the newborn king of the Jews. No one celebrates.

Luther gives much credit to the Wise Men for pressing on. When they leave Jerusalem, the star appears to them again, and with joy they follow that star all the way to victory! Soon they reach Mary and Joseph and the holy Child.

In my sermon for this Epiphany Sunday I mean to ask about a star in our own lives. Would the Lord lead us in some new direction, into some new world? Is there a star in our life beckoning us onward?

Epiphany Sunday is a major festival of the church year, and we celebrate it joyfully here at Immanuel. Our entrance procession includes the three kings, wearing Dr. Gwendolyn Toth's fabulous costumes and leading us in "We Three Kings of Orient Are." This is the one liturgy of the year when we use incense. We burn some of the frankincense brought by the three kings. In our church, with its vast height and recently improved ventilation system, the incense does not linger long, so I hope you will not worry overmuch about it being hard to breathe. In fact, I hope we use incense more often as time goes by.

The following Sunday is also an important festival: The Baptism of Our Lord, January 11.

I hope you will journey to our church this month to see our redecorated church nave, but even more, to join us in divine worship. God bless you all.

In Christ,

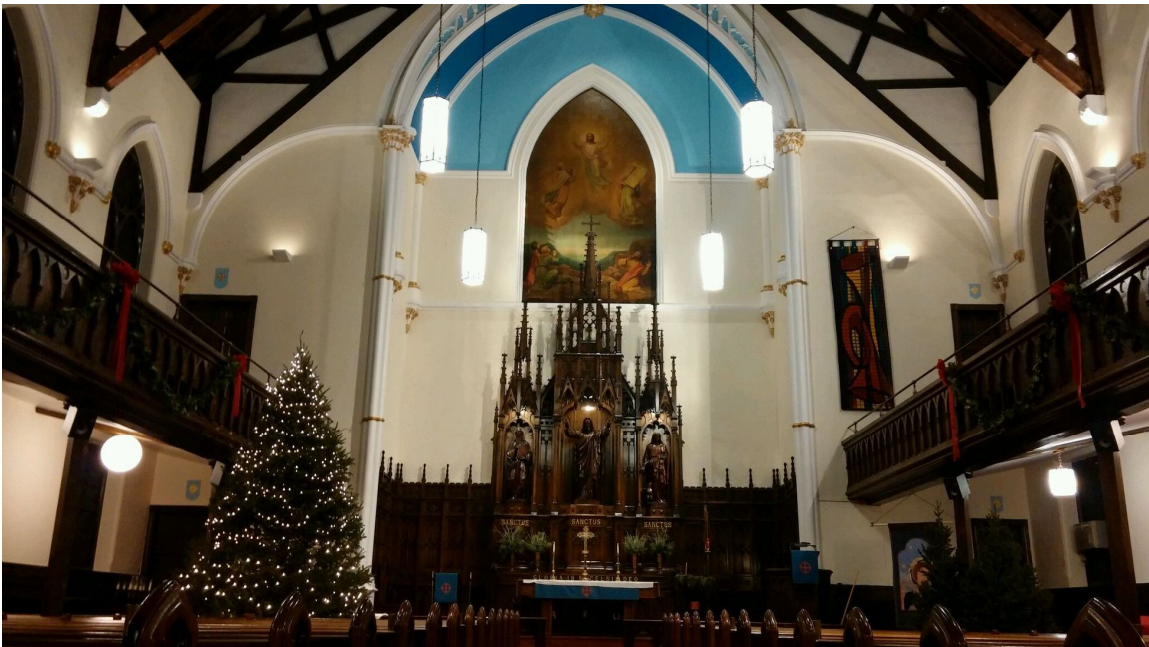
Gregory Fryer

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Back in the Nave

Some notes from Pastor Fryer

Christmas Eve brought the debut of our new nave lights. What a happy time that was! We had been worshiping in our undercroft for the summer and autumn, but now we are back upstairs. This photograph below is one step short of the finished look of Christmas Eve. Do you see the globe under the balcony to the left of our Christmas tree? Those temporary Japanese lanterns are now replaced by the rebuilt Gothic-style pendant lights hanging from the balconies throughout our church.



This next photo shows the red of the Christmas poinsettias and something of the new paint colors, with linen white as the chief color, along with pure white trim, and gold ornamentation. Also, perhaps you can see how our reredos shines, thanks to the careful labors of Sexton Chris Schulze's work crew who dusted and polished the wood throughout our church. (And we have a lot of wood!)

This redecoration of our church reveals beauty that was always there, but which I had not noticed before.

Many thanks to Sexton Chris Schulze for organizing and overseeing this church redecoration, and to all of you for supporting our church and making good things like this possible.



Thank you for Advent and Christmas

It takes the labors of many people to enjoy such a good Advent and Christmas as we have year by year. Thank you to everyone!

Name of Jesus

11 a.m., Thursday, January 1, 2015

This is a good way to start the New Year: remembering the name of Jesus we bear as we head out into this new year of our Lord 2015

Fraternité Notre Dame Toy Collection and Sunday School Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas mitten tree and to the toy collection for the Fraternité Notre Dame. The toys were given to the

Fraternité Notre Dame for their Christmas party for needy children held on December 18th and the mittens will soon be distributed to needy children.

Artek presents: “Music for a Prince: The Esterhazy Orchestra”



ARTEK presents

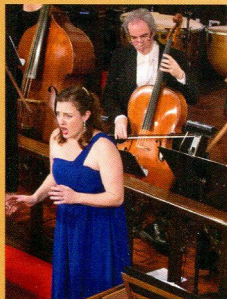
Music for a Prince: The Esterházy Orchestra

Music by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
Symphony “Le Matin” - Concerto for violin & cembalo
Aria from the opera Armida - Symphony “La Passione”

Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 8 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church - 122 East 88th Street, New York City

Free lecture at 7 pm with Dr. Barbara Hanning



The ARTEK Orchestra
performing on period instruments
Gwendolyn Toth, conductor & harpsichord
Cynthia Freivogel, concertmaster & violin soloist
Sarah Chalfy, soprano

TICKETS: \$50, \$40, \$25. All seats reserved.
Call GEMS at (212) 866-0468
or order online at www.gemsny.org



ARTEK will be performing an all-Haydn concert here at Immanuel Saturday, January 3rd, at 8 pm: “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. Don’t miss this gala performance! 50 pairs of free tickets for Immanuel Lutheran members are available from Parish Secretary Karen Rombey (regular price is \$50, \$40 and \$30). Not many tickets are left though, so if you would like to come, please call Karen by 12:00 noon on Friday, January 2nd (212-289-8128).

Please Join Us: Setting the Vision

January 11th and/or 25th, 2015

Please join us following Coffee Hour on January 11th and/or 25th when we will be engaged in a process to look at where we have been as a church and, more importantly, where we want to be in the future. Church leaders have spent several hours talking about our vision for the future and felt that it was important to engage the entire congregation in the planning. We’d like to envision our future, no restrictions, only dreams of what might be. On

January 11th we’ll be focusing on the needs, desires, and vision for the best way we can serve the older members of our congregation. On January 25th, we’ll be focusing on our children and families. We will be scheduling another time to focus on the needs of our younger and single members. You are welcome to one or all of these sessions! Come let your voice be heard - we’re planning to have some fun as we look to our next ten years and beyond.

Germany Trip

(next page)

Trip to Germany

[Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer: My wife, Pastor Carol Fryer, is leading this trip to the Luther lands of Germany and to Prague. Perhaps it is a silly reason, or a romantic one, but I do not intend to go on this trip. I hope you might go, and I am confident that it will be a great trip for you. As for me, I have wanted throughout my career to see the Luther sites, but when I do, I want to do it with Carol. Just the two of us. I mean, I would want to drag people to the meadow, for example, where Luther cried out, "St. Anne, help me! I will become a monk." And most folks on a tour would not want to stand around in a meadow. So, maybe Carol and I can go when I retire. Meanwhile, the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation is approaching, 2017. Also, the Wartburg, where Carol is Director of Pastoral Care, is celebrating its 150th anniversary, including this tour of the Luther sites. Carol went on this tour last year to prepare herself to lead you this year. So, I think this will be a fun opportunity for folks.]



&



Presents:



A 10-Day Reformation Tour to Germany & Prague

In the Footsteps of Martin Luther
May 3 - 12, 2015

**In Celebration of
the 150th Anniversary of Wartburg
Mount Vernon, New York
Rev. Carol E.A. Fryer**

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Faith Journeys at 1-877-732-4845 Option 1

For a full brochure visit www.myfaithjourneys.com/login and enter Group #15032

Preparing for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: In the Footsteps of Martin Luther

10 days / 8 nights

Day 1: Sunday, May 3: Departure from the USA

Our journey begins with an overnight flight to Berlin, Germany.

Day 2: Monday, May 4: Berlin

(D)

Welcome to Berlin! City center, River Spree cruise, dinner and overnight in Berlin.

Day 3: Tuesday, May 5: Berlin

(B,D)

Unter den Linden Strasse, Russian War Memorial, Brandenburg Gate, German Historical Museum, Kurfurstendamm Strasse Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Afternoon free.

Day 4: Wednesday, May 6: Wittenberg

(B,D)

All Saints' Church, City Church, Luther's house, Torgau, Hartenfels castle, St. Mary's Church, and the Katharina Luther House. Return to Wittenberg for dinner and overnight.

Day 5: Thursday, May 7: Leipzig

(B,D)

Leipzig walking tour, St. Nicholas Church, St. Thomas' Church, and leisure time. Return to Wittenberg for dinner and another overnight.

Day 6: Friday, May 8: Arnstadt & Erfurt

(B,D)

Bach Church of Arnstadt, walking tour of Erfurt, Augustinian Monastery, St. Mary's Cathedral, Kramer Bridge, and local Schnapps tasting. Dinner and overnight in Erfurt.

Day 7: Saturday, May 9: Eisenach & Wartburg Castle

(B,D)

Wartburg Castle, Bachhaus, Lutherhaus, Marktplatz and Georgenkirche. Dinner and another overnight in Erfurt.

Day 8: Sunday, May 10: Dresden

(B,D)

Zwinger Museum, Semper Opera House, the Italian miniature village, Church of Our Lady (Frauenkirche), and afternoon free. Prague for dinner and overnight.

Day 9: Monday, May 11: Prague & Jan Hus

(B,D)

The Royal Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Mala Strana (Little Quarter), Church of St. Nicholas, the Jan Hus Monument and the Bethlehem Chapel. Afternoon at leisure before a festive farewell dinner at a typical Czech restaurant and another night in Prague.

Day 10: Tuesday, May 12: Depart for Home

(B)

We leave our hotel and head for the Prague airport to return to the US.

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Tour price with self-arranged airfare (Land-Only): \$2,741

Tour price including airfare from New York, NY: \$3,995

(U.S. government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges up to \$600 included – pricing is based on a minimum 30 participants)

