

Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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February 2015

A Word from the Pastor

Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday, February 15, 2015



Immanuel's Transfiguration painting



Here at Immanuel, we tend to have a soft spot in our heart for Transfiguration Sunday because it is an anniversary Sunday for our church. The beginning liturgy for our church was back in Civil War days, on Transfiguration Sunday 1863. At 10 a.m. that day, a group of our Immanuel ancestors gathered for worship in the courthouse, led by The Rev. C. Julius Renz, and afterwards met and voted to establish our Lutheran congregation. So this Transfiguration Sunday is our 152nd anniversary. Our church's Transfiguration painting above our altarpiece is a tribute to that founding liturgy.

This year our Transfiguration painting is more visible, thanks to the improved lighting in our church. If you have not yet seen our redecorated church, I think you are going to be very pleased when you do. Count this Lent and Holy Week as a good time to make a trip to our beautiful church. Even better, it is always a good time to take a trip to our Beautiful Saviour, for he desires to meet us here in church.

God be with you always.

In Christ,

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Your old palm branches

Tuesday, February 17th, is Shrove Tuesday, and Immanuel will hold its annual Pancake and Sausage Supper for fun and fellowship. We like to direct receipts from this annual supper to our Sunday School, especially Vacation Bible School.

Swing with David Buddin on the piano, Gaku Takanashi on bass, Kevin Shea on the drums, Al Quirong on tenor sax and vocalist Vi Quirong. The music will start at 6:00 p.m. and go until 7:00 p.m. The doors of the church hall will be open from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please use the 1296 Lexington Avenue entrance (the red door

next to CVS Pharmacy). The price for the meal is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, or whatever you can afford. If you can't make it to the supper, contributions are certainly welcome. Please make your check out to Immanuel with a notation on the memo line that it is for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Also, Pastor Fryer requests that you bring your old palm branches to the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and give them to him or to Karen Rombey. Pastor Fryer burns the old palm branches later that evening to form the ashes for the following day's Ash Wednesday liturgies.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18th, 2015 – Liturgies at 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



We will have two Ash Wednesday liturgies—one at 12:15 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. Each of these liturgies has its own blessing. The noontime service is a spoken liturgy and is nice because of the presence of neighborhood people who slip away during their lunch hours for our brief liturgy.

The evening liturgy is the main traditional parish liturgy with Choir. The Choir will sing Tomas Luis de Victoria's "*Missa Quarti Toni*", a polyphic choral setting of our service music (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictua, and Agnus Dei).

Midweek Lent 2015

"The Seven Last Words of Christ"

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, in our beautiful church

This year I mean to preach on the "Seven Last Words of Christ" using soon-to-be published sermons by the Lutheran theologian Gilbert Meilaender, longtime professor of Christian Ethics at Valparaiso University. Not all theologians are preachers. Doing theology and preaching are different skills, even different levels of discourse. But in Gilbert Meilaender, we have an esteemed theologian who is also a graceful, moving preacher. That theology can be the handmaiden of proclamation is beautifully illustrated in Meilaender's fourteen sermons on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross. I mean to preach 'em straight, as is! I cannot imagine how I

could improve on them, not by a word. I hereby acknowledge them as his sermons, and then I plan to preach them straight for this Lent's midweek liturgies and next year's.

This winter we have been worshipping in the Martin Luther Room for our midweek liturgies. But for midweek Lent, we move back into our beautiful church nave. The presence of Music Director Gwendolyn Toth makes these liturgies nice.

It is a good old-fashioned Lenten discipline to try to be even more earnest in attending church during this holy season. Please count these 6:30 p.m. Wednesday liturgies among your Lent opportunities.

Music at Immanuel

The Immanuel Choir will begin a program of music from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday that will celebrate the Renaissance music of Tomas Luis de Victoria. The celebration begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, with Victoria's *Missa Quarti Toni*, as mentioned above, a polyphic choral setting of our service music (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictua and Agnus Dei) sung by the Choir throughout our Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Throughout Lent and Holy Week, the Choir will include many works by Victoria for our anthems, with our Good Friday liturgy featuring Victoria's *Passion according to St. John*, followed by a Musical Meditation featuring Victoria's famous *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. Our musical celebration will culminate on Easter Sunday with Victoria's magnificent setting of the Easter Sequence Hymn, *Victimae Paschali Laudes*.

Don't miss any of our beautiful liturgies during Lent and Holy Week!

Upcoming ARTEK Concerts here at Immanuel Harpsichords of Germany

Friday, March 13th, at 8 p.m.

and

Saturday, March 14th, at 8 p.m.

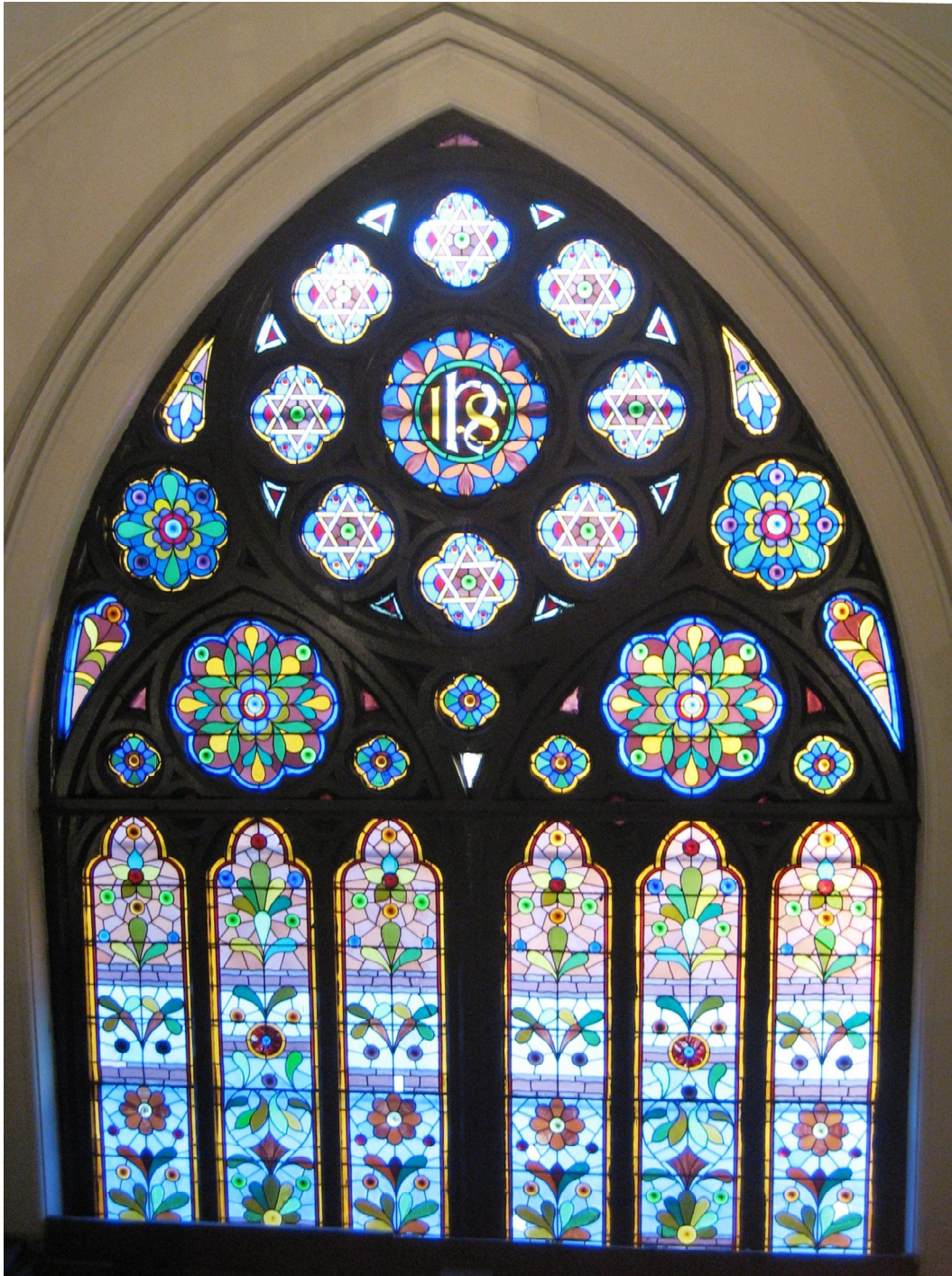
Hold the dates! On Friday, March 13th, Gwendolyn Toth will be playing her new 1739 Gräbner harpsichord by John Phillips. Then on Saturday, March 14th, Gwendolyn

Toth, Dongsok Shin, Stephen Rapp, and Bradley Brookshire, will play harpsichords with strings.

From the Archives

Some photos

For fun here are a couple photos of Immanuel's rose window. The angles and the intervening organ pipes are such that it is hard to see this window. But our member Russell Collins from the Danka Lift took a photo of it back in 2007:



IhS

At the center top of our rose window are the letters IHS—the first three letters in the Greek name of Jesus (*iota-eta-sigma*). Here is a close-up, thanks to Russell Collins:



(One more)

And finally, here is a close-up of a detail in our Christ statue in our rear altar. It shows the nail scar in the hand of Jesus:



(End)