



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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January – February 2022

A Word from Pastor Gregory Fryer

Leaping over a Wall

Yea, by thee I can crush a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.
(2 Samuel 22:30, RSV)

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church,
That is how I am feeling these days! I could run through a troop, I could leap over a wall. That’s because of God. And that’s because of you.

We came upon these happy words about leaping over a wall in our Monday Evening Bible Class on King David a couple years ago. The words come from David’s psalm of triumph in 2 Samuel 22. By that point in the story, we are nearing the end of David’s life. He has weathered wars; he has even weathered a rebellion led by his son Absalom. Soon the Bible will move on to 1 Kings, with its opening words as the death of David approaches:

Now King David was old and advanced in years; and although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. (1 Kings 1:1, RSV)

These things happen. I am seventy years old now. Sometimes I feel that I just cannot get warm. So it was with mighty King David. But just a few

chapters earlier, David is rejoicing in the God who gives him strength: "...by my God I can leap over a wall." Still an old man, but still rejoicing.

Isaiah speaks of "renewing our strength":

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31, KJV)

I feel that I have lived to see the day when my strength as your pastor is being renewed. That's because of you. It's because of the new faces we have these days in our congregation. It's because of our new members these days. It's because of the great response to our stewardship campaign and our "estimate of giving" forms. It's because of our lay leadership. But above all, I believe that it is because the Lord has not forgotten us here at Lexington Avenue and 88th Street.

All pastors must feel that their congregations are important to the Lord. So it is with Pastor Carol and me. We feel that Immanuel Lutheran Church is important to Jesus. We feel it is important to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We have been waiting upon the Lord and nowadays it feels that we are receiving signs of his favor — concrete signs that we can understand. I am telling you that you new members, and you folks who give your tithes and offerings, and you folks who worship faithfully, and you folks who serve as our leaders... all of you folks are strengthening our church and lifting the hearts of your pastors and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

This January/February newsletter gives me a chance to share with you some of the information I will be sharing at the January 23, Voters' Assembly. Covid and its variants are weighing heavy on our land and on the churches. But the Lord provides. Our little congregation is doing well, in my opinion.

For example, before the pandemic, back in 2019, our average Sunday morning attendance was 102.06. I spoke of that in our last newsletter. This past year, 2021 — a pandemic year — our average Sunday morning attendance was 55.34. So that is a decline. But two factors are encouraging and change the picture. First, recent attendance in church is picking up. The overage average was weighed down by low attendance for most of the

year. But recent attendance is picking up and gives us hope going forward. And then there is the second factor that changes the picture in an encouraging way: our live stream numbers. We have people joining us for worship via live stream. We have a good number of people joining worship that way. In fact, the combination of those who worship in church and those who worship via live stream is actually greater than before the pandemic.

Likewise, our Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning liturgies were better attended than the year before:

	2019	2020	2021	2021 YouTube Views	Total for 2021
Christmas Eve	164	36	73	161	234
Christmas Morning	71	29	40	77	117

But even more interesting to me than these numbers was the spirit of our recent Lutheranism 101 class. Both prospective members and longtime members came to these classes. We were too many for the Martin Luther Room and had to move to the undercroft Large Sunday School Room. It was as if folks were hungry for spiritual matters. We have received three new members from the class already and more are on the way for February 13, near Valentine’s Day.

We have a fairly austere church budget proposal for this year, 2022. We will consider that proposal at the January 23 Voters’ Assembly. I think that it is a good budget proposal and I hope you support it. However that might be, divine worship continues and people are coming to church. Those are the main things, and they lift my heart. I hope they lift yours too.

In Christ,
Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

A Warm Note from a Seafarer

Our member Jean Grenning received this nice thank you note from a seafarer — one of a good number of seafarers who received “Christmas-At-Sea” Satchels from our congregation:

On Dec 26, 2021, at 5:15 PM, Volodymyr Gomonenko

Dear Jean Grenning,

My name is Volodymyr Gomonenko , I'm serving as an 3rd Officer on board of container ship CMA CGM ORFEO. I just received and unpack a Christmas bag with a card inside, contains a warm greeting from your side. I would like to thank with all of my heart for the kind words to me. The hat fits perfectly and all other clothes will keep me warm during this cold winter on our East Coast trade. Thank you very much Ma'am, it's really important for us to get that kind of support in these hard times. As we are not allowed to enjoy shore leaves due to pandemic restrictions, even small things feels much bigger. Indeed my holiday is brighter now.

From my side, I can only send you all the good and positive vibes from my heart. Wish you all the best in upcoming New Year and a hope that your Christmas Eve was full of joy and peace.

My warmest regards.:)

Volodymyr Gomonenko
CMA CGM ORFEO

A Report on our Christmas Bazaar, Dec. 4, 2021

By Kathy Jolowicz

Hello wonderful people,

I just want to thank you all for your dedication, professionalism, support, hard work, and most of all your patience with me. Through the hundreds of details needed to make a successful Bazaar we all came together, to make it happen.

Seven of us counted money and came into agreement of the \$3,050.89. And which has the possibility to grow our total via QR coding and other additions.

Here is what we counted the night of the bazaar:

Kids Market	\$466.16
Finer Things	\$550.00
Jewelry	\$340.00
Books	\$438.55

Flea Market	\$1,031.59
Kitchen	\$147.00
Donation Box	\$ 77.55
Total	\$3,050.89

Special thanks to Elly Spanenberg who came all the way down from up state on Thursday morning already, to work continuously on her jewelry tables, for the next 2 days.

A special thanks too, goes to Jean Fischer, who donated the cost of the banner, and the cost of Tommy’s time on Friday and Saturday.

Another special thanks to my friend and volunteer Bill Voelkle, who was greeted, early on Friday by a giant mountain of boxes filled with books. He worked his expertise from his position at the Morgan Library, and even donated some books. . He worked all day till evening single handedly categorizing the books, culminating in better prices on sold special books.

Based on his expertise in recognizing book values, he suggested that a much bigger profit could be made by special pricing books, rather than bulk pricing.

Based on my decades of doing flea markets, I agree, as I found that marking things too cheaply, automatically deems them as junk. Thus when I raised the price on an item, it sold.

Thus, I feel we should heed his advice in planning our Spring Book Fair, to which he promised to bring more books.

Thank you all so much again,
Kathy

Voters’ Assembly

Sunday, January 23, 2022

12:45 p.m. Coffee Hour, in the Undercroft

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

This is our regular winter Voters’ Assembly. We hear year-end reports at this meeting and elect our leaders for this year, 2022. Also, this year, we will consider the revised church budget proposal for 2022. That revised budget has been reviewed by our whole leadership group and overwhelmingly support by them, by a vote of 14 to 2. The two votes against the budget are important because they express concern at the size

of the deficit in this proposed budget. I would say that all of our leaders worry about that deficit, but most support and recommend the budget to you nonetheless. Pastor Carol and I hope you can attend the meeting.

Let's meet in the undercroft for the Assembly, during Coffee Hour so that we can get some coffee and food for our meeting. We have good space there, so spread out as best you can.

This meeting can be a mixture of people in the undercroft and people at home joining via Zoom. We aim to start the meeting at 12:45 p.m., but you should be able to sign-in to Zoom starting at 12:30 p.m. Here is the contact information:

Topic: Voters Assembly

Time: Jan 23, 2022 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381742370?pwd=Th5ekJEWBJZL3JlIdFdTTEVxYzN1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 823 8174 2370

Passcode: 771146

Dial by your location: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 823 8174 2370

Passcode: 771146

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381742370>

If you would like to become an official member of the Voters' Assembly, please mention your desire to Pastors Carol or Gregory Fryer, who will present your name to the Assembly. Our Constitution gives this rule:

The Voters' Assembly shall consist only of such members who have reached the age of eighteen, who are diligent in worship, regularly partake of the Lord's Supper and live a life in conformity with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Live Stream Volunteers

We could use some more volunteers to run live stream for our worship services. We have a good crew of three workers, but we could use some more. It would be great help for our congregation, and you might find it interesting — also good for your resume. If you are interested, please contact Deirdre Grant — Deirdre.Grant@gmail.com. Thank you!

Pastor Gregory Fryer

Shrove Tuesday Sausage & Pancake Supper

5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 1

Looking ahead, we plan our annual Pancake and Sausage Supper for fun and fellowship. 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, you can bring your old palm branches to the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and give them to the Pastors. Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer burn the old palm branches later that evening to form the ashes for the following day's Ash Wednesday liturgies.

Changes for Online Giving

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

As I understand it, we use Vanco for online contributions to our church. Vanco has is replacing their GivePlus Mobile app with a new and improved app. Here is the information we received. Thank you!

1. Download the Vanco Mobile app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).
2. Find your church (Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church) and log in using your GivePlus Mobile username and password. Or set up your user account in minutes.

In Our Prayers

- + FAIRLY NEW TO PRAYER LIST: Davida Goldman, Rev. David McGettigan, Ken Richardson (husband of former choir member Lisa Richardson), Tony Cull, (friend of Donald Kerr), Cynthia Uzzo, Charles Schramm (retired Music Director of this congregation).

- + RECENTLY DIED..... Patricia Penta-Caridi
Bereaved..... Karen Bazik
Aunt Anne, cousins Sandi, Pam, Christine, John

- + RECENTLY DIED..... Virginia Wigram
Bereaved..... Eric Wigram, son

- + NEWBORN..... Anissa Pfauth, born 1/6/2022
Rejoicing.....Parents Justin and Anu and brother, Nolan

- + NEWBORN..... Marina Isabelle Agnes Schlager, born 12/6/2021
Rejoicing.....Parents Rother and Alex and Grandmother, Lore

- + NEWBORN..... Calliope Lucia Wright, born 12/16/2021
Rejoicing..... Parents Shoi and Verby and Grandmother, Lore

(End)