



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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January 2023

A Word from Pastor Gregory Fryer

The Sermon on the Mount

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Year A in our three-year lectionary does a good job at leading us through Matthew 5 — the first of three chapters in our Lord’s golden sermon. So, your preachers — Pastor Carol, Vicar Lara, and me — are eager for this Epiphany Season and its focus on the Sermon.

After that we want to do something unheard of in my ministry: We want to set aside the summertime lectionary Gospel Lessons in order to continue preaching on the Sermon. There is honorable precedent for this: patristic preachers preached this way. They would preach their way through whole books of the Bible. Lutherans tend to follow a lectionary, with its appointed Bible readings Sunday by Sunday. But I note that Martin Luther himself sometimes preached in the patristic manner. Volumes 23, 24, and 25 in *Luther’s Works* are called “Sermons on St. John.” In 1537, Luther’s pastor, Bugenhagen, headed off to Denmark to help introduce the Reformation there, leaving Luther in charge of the preaching and ministry in Wittenberg. Luther, then, preached in a continual manner upon St. John’s Gospel for his Saturday sermons.

Our plan is to preach on Matthew 5 during the Epiphany Season now upon us. Then we will return to the lectionary for Lent, Holy Week, and the Easter Season. But then, in the summertime, we mean to preach our way through Matthew 6 and 7.

Pastor Carol, Vicar Lara, and I join many of you in loving our Lord's Sermon the Mount. We are eager for this steady immersion in the Sermon, and we pray that it will prove good for our souls, each and every one of us.

In His Name,

Pastor Gregory Fryer

Your Favorite Bible Stories

Midweek Lent 2023

A note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

This year we would like to repeat a popular Midweek Lent Series from the past: We invite you to tell us your favorite Bible stories, and we mean to preach on them, being especially mindful of Jesus and his way of the Cross. Both Old Testament and New Testament stories are welcome. Please send me an email with your favorite Bible stories (gpfryer@gmail.com) or leave a message on our church answer machine: 212-289-8128. It would help me to organize the Midweek Lent Series if you would do this soon rather than later.

Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*

Next class: 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 11

Chapters 6-10

Vicar Lara Bhasin's class on Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Our next class will be Wednesday, January 11. We are to read Chapters 6-10. We meet in-person in the Martin Luther Room and via Zoom. These are uplifting and instructive classes. You are welcome to join the class whenever you can. Here is the Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84350002637?pwd=aTBxcUl0MTZKZXQ3Vk9iZGZEQ05Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 5000 2637

Passcode: 271718

Or you may phone in using the above Meeting ID and Passcode. Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8656558656>

gpf

Annual Winter Voters' Assembly

Sunday, February 12, 2023

12:45 p.m. Coffee Hour, upstairs in the Nave

Church Council has approved shifting our appointed winter Voters' Assembly from January 15 to a favorite time for us for this meeting: Super Bowl Sunday. So that will be Sunday, February 12. The extra weeks give us more time to prepare the end-of-the-year reports we share at this meeting.

Also, this is the meeting at which we elect our leaders for the year, 2023.

After worship, let's head down to the undercroft for Coffee Hour, but then the Voters can head back up to the nave for the Voters' Assembly, starting at 12:45 p.m.

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.

Lutheranism 101

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

We are about half-way through this time's go-round for Lutheranism 101. We have studied the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. Now we turn to the sacraments in Luther's *Small Catechism*: Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Private Confession. Everyone is welcome to these classes. They might be especially interesting to people who are

new to the Lutheran Church or are interesting in membership here at Immanuel. Come to any session that works for you. We meet on Sundays, during Coffee Hour, up in the Martin Luther Room. Welcome!

Some Notes from Our Deacons

- ✦ Thank you to all the people that volunteered and donated to the Church Bazaar.
- ✦ Thank you to everyone for donating to Toy Drive and the Mitten Tree.
- ✦ Also thanks, everyone, for helping with the Hanging of the Greens and the St. Nicholas Pot Luck.
- ✦ The Three Kings Party will be held in the Undercroft after the Epiphany Sunday service, January 8.
- ✦ Please mark your calendars for the Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper on February 21st.
- ✦ Thank you to all the people who have been cooking for Coffee Hour. People have really made the Christmas season special.

In Our Prayers

- ✦ FAIRLY RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS: Asta Kibler (Karen Bazik's mother-in-law), Christine Maldonado (Ester Neubacher's niece-in-law), Matthew O'Donnell (son-in-law of our member Jim O'Donnell, of blessed memory)
- ✦ RECENTLY DIED..... Ernest Lund (5/14/1949 - 11/24/2022)
Bereaved Florence Lund (wife) and their four children
Marlene Lund (sister)
- ✦ RECENTLY DIED..... Charles Schramm, Jr. (3/9/1938 – 11/17/2022)
Bereaved Alison Schramm (daughter), William Schramm (son)
Charles was former Music Director of this congregation
- ✦ RECENTLY DIED..... Zoila Martinez (11/24/1953-11/8/2022)
Bereaved Diana Montes de Oca, daughter

(End)