



# Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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October 2023

*A Word from Pastor Gregory Paul Fryer*

## Reformation Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

**D**ear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Reformation Sunday is my annual chance to talk about Martin Luther. Did you know that Luther did not much brag about himself? In fact, he objected to the idea that Christians should call themselves “Lutherans.” It is a famous quote:

I ask that my name be left silent and people not call themselves Lutheran, but rather Christians. Who is Luther? The doctrine is not mine. I have been crucified for no one. St. Paul in 1 Cor. 3:4-5 would not suffer that the Christians should call themselves of Paul or of Peter, but Christian. How should I, a poor stinking bag of worms, become so that the children of Christ are named with my unholy name? It should not be dear friends. Let us extinguish all factious names and be called Christians whose doctrine we have. (“Admonition Against Insurrection,” 1522)

Looking ahead to my Reformation Sunday sermon this year, I incline toward the theme that Martin Luther was neither a proud man, nor a humble man, but a *consecrated* man. My good old Noah Webster Dictionary of 1828 gives this definition of “consecrated”: “devoted or dedicated to the service and worship of God.” That describes Martin Luther. When he was

baptized as a baby, his parents consecrated him to serve and worship our Triune God. And by the conduct of his life Martin Luther consecrated himself to serve and worship our God. He was not perfect in his consecration, and yet he did devote himself to God better than I have so far — probably better than many of us have.

At this point, I am inclined to discuss three examples of Luther's consecration: (1) His life of prayer. (2) His convictions about progress in our spiritual lives. And (3) His will — his last will and testament. This last point — Luther's will — illustrates the consecrated life in even mundane matters like household finances and plans at the end of life.

We love Reformation Sunday here at Immanuel. I hope you can join us each and every Sunday, including Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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## **Consecration Sunday, Also October 29<sup>th</sup>**

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

It is time for our annual autumn stewardship campaign. I count it a high privilege to work at this campaign year by year. Soon, then, I mean to send out a stewardship campaign letter, along with our usual “Estimate of Giving” form for 2024. Time marches on. Our Trustees are starting to work on the 2024 budget proposal. Our “Estimates of Giving” will help them figure out a good budget proposal.

“Consecration Sunday” is the culmination of our Autumn Stewardship Campaign. That is when we turn in our Estimates of Giving forms. We drop them off in a pail — the pail we used back when we were collecting offerings for our slate room fund. I am fond of that pail, both because of our successful slate roof project and because of annual stewardship campaigns. So, if we have not already mailed in our Estimate of Giving by then, let's try to be in church on October 29 and drop our Estimates in that pail.

I am proud of and grateful for the tithes and offerings of the people of Immanuel have given over the years. Stewardship is part of our Sanctification. That is, our tithes and offerings are part of a holy life. That is my conviction. Let us, then, pray and think about this.

gpf

# Autumn Voters' Assembly

12:45 p.m. October 15, 2023, in the church nave

Our regular autumn Voters' Assembly is the third Sunday of October, which is October 15 this year. Let's head down to Coffee Hour and back upstairs to the nave at 12:45 p.m. for the Voters' Assembly.

If you would like to become an official member of the Voters' Assembly, please mention your desire to Pastors Carol or Gregory Fryer or Pastor Lara Bhasin, 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.

## Immanuel Book Club: *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

Once a month. Next class: 8 p.m. Wednesday, October 18

In the Martin Luther Room and via Zoom

Pastor Lara leads us in discussing C. S. Lewis's spiritual masterpiece on the tricks of the devil. In *The Screwtape Letters*, Lewis imagines what advice a senior devil would give a junior devil about how to do his job. This short book is funny, theologically insightful, and psychologically profound, and it's guaranteed to spark great conversation. Please join Pastor Lara for the class discussion on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room, or sign in via Zoom.

We have three paperback copies to give out. We can order more or you can order a copy. Here is an example on Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/Screwtape-Letters-C-S-Lewis/dp/1444424092/ref=d\\_m\\_crc\\_dp\\_lf\\_d\\_t1\\_sccl\\_3\\_5/133-7901511-4798041?pd\\_rd\\_w=4hXPr&content-id=amzn1.sym.5d471845-5073-424b-b27b-c0676f48a016&pf\\_rd\\_p=5d471845-5073-424b-b27b-c0676f48a016&pf\\_rd\\_r=G64C5XNR1BPKV9M47S6S&pd\\_rd\\_wg=5v6to&pd\\_rd\\_r=37b7012a-491d-40ca-a921-03bf53e9903f&pd\\_rd\\_i=1444424092&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Screwtape-Letters-C-S-Lewis/dp/1444424092/ref=d_m_crc_dp_lf_d_t1_sccl_3_5/133-7901511-4798041?pd_rd_w=4hXPr&content-id=amzn1.sym.5d471845-5073-424b-b27b-c0676f48a016&pf_rd_p=5d471845-5073-424b-b27b-c0676f48a016&pf_rd_r=G64C5XNR1BPKV9M47S6S&pd_rd_wg=5v6to&pd_rd_r=37b7012a-491d-40ca-a921-03bf53e9903f&pd_rd_i=1444424092&psc=1)

Here is the Zoom information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81940413904?pwd=PyJZ56im1YnRyRCVq3ur1OEDwCCR9Z.1>

Meeting ID: 819 4041 3904

Passcode: 535156

Dial by your location using the same Meeting ID and Passcode: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/ksIWK1VBj>

## Midweek Evening Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evenings

God willing, a simple, spoken liturgy of Holy Communion is available every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., and we hope that you will often avail yourself of this quiet time of worship in the middle of the week.

The sermons for these midweek services follow *Lectio continua* — that is, we preach our way straight on through a book of Bible. For this year, that book is Matthew.

Immanuel webmaster Sean Curnyn has created a link on our church's website for the Wednesday Evening sermons. You can find recent sermons on Matthew at this location: <https://www.immanuelnyc.org/midweek-sermons-matthew>

## Thursday Evening Bible Study

6:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room and via Zoom

Let's meet in the Martin Luther Room or via Zoom for our study of the Acts of the Apostles. Here is the sign-in information:

Time: 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83159910572?pwd=WTNnV2R0U0RFTEsvUTHCQVIOMULiQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 5991 0572

Passcode: 827550

Or, you can join us via phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 831 5991 0572

Passcode: 827550

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/827550>

## Coffee Hours

If you can host Coffee Hour or contribute a dish to Coffee Hour, that would be great! It would be most welcome. Please let Kathy Jolowicz know: [Kaj133@aol.com](mailto:Kaj133@aol.com). Letting Kathy know will help with our planning. Also, the Board of Deacons would greatly appreciate donations of soda, iced tea or juice. We have coffee and tea, but some people (and the kids!) like to have cold beverages.

## The Bible: The Big Picture – A Class for All Ages

A Note from Pastor Lara Bhasin

Sundays during Coffee Hour (except when we have other church meetings)  
In the Martin Luther Room, beginning October 22

Please join me for a year-long tour through the Bible, starting Sunday, October 22. This is a class designed to give us a big picture view of the Scriptures, its main themes, key ideas, and most important stories. Each class will feature one book or set of writings from the Bible, with many visuals, maps, timelines and other aides to help us get a sense of the whole. We will also learn about how the Bible was translated and the canon of Scripture was formed. Each class will feature a PowerPoint presentation with lots of pictures of Biblical art, artifacts, and other charts and diagrams.

This class is designed for all ages, from middle school to adult. I hope it will be a chance for every participant to share what they know, learn something new, and forge new friendships across generations. Each class will be a complete unit on a new topic, so please join whenever you can.

## Life-to-Life Discipleship

Looking Ahead

A Note from Pastor Lara Bhasin

Pastor Carol and Pastor Lara would like to invite you to join the *Life-to-Life Discipleship* experience. *Life-to-Life* is an NALC initiative designed to help Christians be more intentional in living out the Great Commission by focusing on oneness with God and with one another. We would meet as a

small group for fourteen weeks for an hour at a time and work our way through the manual.

Both of us have been through the experience ourselves and found it rewarding. It gives participants a chance to strengthen faith and learn how our baptismal vocation applies to every aspect of life. I (Lara) enjoyed it because it is concrete and practical and helped me develop some lasting spiritual friendships.

If you are interested in participating, please let one of us know. Once we have a list of potential participants, we can work together to choose a start date and the best time and place to meet.

## Our Immanuel Christmas Bazaar

Set up: 2-8 p.m. Friday, December 1  
Bazaar, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, December 2

All donations can be brought to church during the coffee hours, or to the Church office during the week, between 10 AM and 3PM. Call the church office to be sure someone will be there. 212/289-8128. We are sorry that, due to minimal space and manpower, we cannot accept adult clothing, but kids' clothes are happily accepted.

We will be offering a meal this year, so baked goods and dishes can be organized with Maria Vandemerwe [mvdw2w@gmail.com](mailto:mvdw2w@gmail.com).

Please mark your calendar. We need volunteers Friday and Saturday. Set up day will be Friday December 1, from 2 PM to 8PM. If you are free let Kathy Jolowicz know [kaj133@aol.com](mailto:kaj133@aol.com)

## In Our Prayers

IN OUR PRAYERS IN RECENT TIMES: Marilyn Schreiber (Richard's mother), Jean and Stephen Fischer, Luz Ortiz, Jennifer Loughrey, Marcia Rudat (Jeff's mother), Richard Shuta (Jeff Rudat's uncle), Naomi Kinley (Jeff Rudat's friend), Karl Fritsch (Louise Laverde's brother-in-law), Alan Brook (Matt O'Donnell's father), Cayle Powell and Raymond Hernandez (Florida family members of Eric and Ester Neubacher), Tracy Leung (Priscilla's cousin), Robert Huckfeldt (David Kiehl's brother-in-law), Patricia Sanders, David Kiehl

RECENTLY DIED .....Egon A. Klingel (March 9, 1930 – September 17, 2023)  
BEREAVED .....Egon was a friend of our congregation

(End)