



# Immanuel Messenger

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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*A Word from Pastor Gregory Paul Fryer*

## *A Second Congregation? With Overlap!*

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
We have started a substantial change in the Wednesday Evening Liturgy. Perhaps we can even build a substantial new congregation around this simple midweek service.

To review a bit, your pastors so enjoyed preaching on The Sermon on the Mount that we have resolved to continue preaching on Matthew for our Wednesday evening services. And so we mean to join the preaching practice of the early Church fathers — a practice called *Lectio continua*.

In the early Church, preachers worked their way through whole books of the Bible, verse by verse. That is what Pastor Carol, Pastor Lara, and I mean to do henceforth for our Wednesday evening liturgies. In our August *Sunday* liturgies, we finished the Sermon on the Mount. That was Matthew Chapters 5-7. Now, on *Wednesdays*, we are continuing with Matthew 8, and on and on, enjoying a verse-by-verse look at this holy gospel. And when we are done someday, we mean to preach our way through another book of the Bible.

The three-year lectionary is splendid. I believe it to be a gift to Christ’s Church on earth, aiming, as it does, that the full sweep of Holy Scripture should come before us in the course of three years. Yet, the lectionary inevitably leaves out important passages. It just cannot fit the whole richness

of the Bible into a sequence of three years. Now we mean to supplement the lectionary Sunday services with *Lectio continua* midweek liturgies.

We have set ourselves some ideals for these midweek sermons. We want them to be short, clear, and helpful expositions of the Bible. Indeed, I would be glad if these midweek services were to take on some of the characteristics of home communion services. Those services with homebound members tend to be more relaxed, with more give and take. So, when reading the Bible passage aloud, for example, I might pause to comment on a verse to help illumine what is going on. There is always more in a Bible passage that I can deal with in one sermon. And so I am inclined to simply offer some observations on the text as I go along, before I get to the sermon. I might be doing this for our Wednesday Evening liturgies.

Another example of the give-and-take I hope for on Wednesday evening is that your pastors mean to linger at the end of the service for questions people might have — questions prompted by the sermon or by some other part of the Bible passage or simply questions on the hearts of people trying to draw closer to Jesus in his holy church. You do not need to stay for these questions. You are welcome to “Go in peace. Serve the Lord.” But if you would like to stay for the question period, you are certainly welcome.

We hope for overlap in the people attending the Wednesday Evening Liturgy and the Sunday Liturgy. Perhaps people will attend on Wednesday evening who cannot attend on Sunday morning because they have their own church to attend on Sunday. That is fine. But maybe, from time to time, you can do both: you can attend both Wednesday evening *and* Sunday morning. That is an old pattern here in America: going to church both on Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Please know that we will be glad to see you whenever you can join us for worship here at Immanuel.

In Christ,  
  
Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

# Sunday School

10 a.m. Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>

Children's Sunday School begins again after summer recess starting at 10 a.m. Sunday September 17 in the church undercroft.

## A Barbecue!

Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>

The Board of Deacons will be hosting an American Style BBQ (Hot Dogs and Hamburgers) on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> after the service in the courtyard (weather permitting).

Please see Karen Bazik, Barbara Chomko, Kathy Jolowicz, or Maria Van Der Merwe if you would like to bring a side dish (salads, chips, etc), dessert and /or beverages.

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

A Note from Pastor Lara Bhasin

Start Date: Sunday, September 24 during Coffee Hour  
in the Martin Luther Room

*[But first a note from Pastor Gregory Fryer: A classic challenge for congregations concerns young people after they are confirmed. The spiritual growth of her Confirmands is very much on Lara's heart. So, the beginning point of her thoughts about this class is that it is a class meant for her students who are now confirmed. But I am delighted with her inclination to expand the class to take in all generations. I think that this intergenerational class will be a blessing for everyone who takes part. Please attend as often as you can. Now, back to Lara:]*

Please join me for a year-long tour through the Bible. 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.

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

Start Date: Wednesday, September 27 at 8 p.m.  
in the Martin Luther Room and via Zoom

*[Again, a beginning note from Pastor Gregory Fryer: This class on The Screwtape Letters is a follow-up to Lara's popular course on Bonhoeffer's The Cost of Discipleship. Please join these great classes as often as you can. Now, back to Lara:]*

And now for something completely different! Letters from... the devil?! Come find out why this book has become a Christian classic, albeit one that the author himself hated writing! 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 food, fellowship, and discussion on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room, or sign in via Zoom.

## 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.

## Thursday Evening Bible Study

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

Thursday, September 14

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

We are studying the Acts of the Apostles. Please join us for this moving story of the Holy Spirit at work establishing the early church. We are set to pick up with Acts 15.

We meet in the Martin Luther Room, but also via Zoom. I send out the Zoom information in my Sunday morning emails. Let me know if you would like to be added to a special mail list for this class.

## The Sunday School Lenten Food Drive

Thank you, Immanuel members, for your generosity. The Sunday School Lenten Food drive was a huge success. We donated 355 pounds of food to The Common Pantry. The Common Pantry was very grateful for our large donation.



## In Our Prayers

IN OUR PRAYERS IN RECENT TIMES: Luz Ortiz, Jennifer Loughrey, Jonathan Lochrichio (nephew of Luz Ortiz), 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 my brother-in-law), Patricia Sanders, David Kiehl

RECENTLY DIED .....Lucy Soliceto (friend of Karen Bazik)  
Bereaved .....her sisters, Elaine, Vencine, Nina,  
her brother Rocco and her mother

(End)