



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church
122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

East 88th Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan
www.immanuelnyc.org
www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC/

Rev. Gregory P. Fryer, Pastor..... gpfryer@gmail.com
Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer, Pastoral Associate ceafryer@gmail.com
Rev. Lara Bhasin, Assistant Pastor lara.bhasin@tsm.edu

(212) 289-8128, church phone

December 2023

A Word from Pastor Gregory Paul Fryer

Advent And the Hallelujah Chorus

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church,
The dear, old *Manual on the Liturgy* for our *Lutheran Book of Worship* says that Advent is a penitential season. And sure enough, judging by the appointed Bible Lessons, repentance and renewal of life are right for Advent. At least, that is especially so for the early Bible readings. For example, our Gospel Lesson for the First Sunday of Advent includes these solemn words from Jesus:

²⁴But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken...³⁵Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Watch. (Mark 13:24-37, RSV)

And yet, as the season goes along, the readings shift in a more joyful direction, so that by the time we reach Advent 4, we read of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel tells young Mary that she shall bear a son:

³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end. (Luke 1:32-33, RSV)

Let me pause for a moment to encourage you to attend this Advent 4 service if at all possible. It falls on Christmas Eve this year. It is the Sunday morning liturgy for December 24. So, I hope you will attend both in the morning and then hasten back to Immanuel for our Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m. that same Sunday. That early evening Christmas Eve liturgy is our specialty. It is our contribution to our city, making it possible for families with small children and out-of-town worshipers to join us and still get home at a reasonable hour.

Anyway, Advent is a penitential season and we dutifully mark that here at Immanuel by singing a simple Kyrie, omitting the Hymn of Praise, and singing a litany for our Intercessions.

And yet the shifting tone of Advent presented your clergy with a practical question this year: Shall we sing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* during our Advent Service of Lessons and Carols? That is set for Saturday, December 16. It is a joint project of the Baldwin Festival Chorus and our congregation, with the Chorus providing the music and our congregation providing the readers for the nine traditional Bible readings. An option we considered for that service is that we would include the *Hallelujah Chorus* and invite the congregation to sing along. But is the *Hallelujah Chorus* appropriate for Advent? Pastor Carol, Pastor Lara, and I have enthusiastically answered, Yes! I don't know for sure what the writers of the *Manual on the Liturgy* would say about this, but by the time December 16 comes along, Advent is starting to feel pretty joyful to me, so let us sing!

Indeed, let us join the city's joy as we approach Christmas and the Holy Incarnation of our God.

In Christ,


Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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

A Note from Pastor Lara Bhasin

From time to time, during Coffee Hour in the Martin Luther Room

Next class: Sunday, December 17, 2023

We have begun our 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.

Special Voters' Assembly: Sunday December 10

This is the meeting at which we consider the budget proposal for 2024.

Seafarers

Christmas at Sea Satchels are due by Sunday December 3rd.

Toy Collection

The Sisters of the Fraternité Notre Dame will again be hosting a Christmas party for needy children. They are asking for donations of new toys. If you can give a toy, please wrap it and mark it as to the age of the child and

whether it is for a boy or girl. (Please no guns or violent toys.) You may leave your gifts in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or bring them to the church office during the week. Let's aim for Sunday December 10 as the last Sunday for bringing gifts.

Hanging of the Greens

Earlier this year: 8 a.m. – noon, Saturday, December 16, 2023

We need to start upstairs, in the nave, earlier this year so that we can be done in time for the Baldwin Festival Chorus rehearsal at noon. Not in the undercroft: the decorating of the undercroft can go ahead at the normal times. Our Lessons and Carols service at 5 p.m. promises to be lovely and heartwarming, but it means decorating our church nave earlier than usual this year. Come when you can.

We have no set work crew for this important and gratifying work session we call "Hanging of the Greens." We wait with eagerness for you to appear, if you can. "Many hands make light work." Plus, it is fun to clean and decorate the church, to listen to the Christmas music as we work, to enjoy the sights and smells of the Christmas trees, and to see things come together for the great festival. Welcome, everyone.

St. Nicholas Party

Saturday evening, December 16 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Our annual St. Nicholas Party is a beloved event for us here at Immanuel. We'll have live music with the popular Gerry Holland on piano. The music will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a Christmas carol sing-a-long, and supper with hams and pot-luck side dishes and desserts. (See Karen or Barbara to sign up for a dish you can bring.) We will also need some work crews, including setup, kitchen, and cleanup afterwards.

Sunday School Mitten Tree

The Sunday School will have a mitten tree once again this year. Please give the mittens you bring to one of our Sunday School teachers or leave them in the mitten tree box. The mittens will be given to the Fraternité Notre Dame who will distribute them to needy children. The mitten tree

will be put up during the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 16th.

Lessons and Carols

5 p.m. Saturday December 16, 2023



The Baldwin Festival Chorus

R. Douglas Sheldon, *conductor*

Steven W. Ryan & Jon Tyillian, *accompanists*

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church

5:00 PM

DIRKSEN | *Welcome All Wonders!*

BACH | *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

MANZ | *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

C.H. JOHNSON | *Lo, How a Rose/ The Rose*

CARTER | *Mary Had a Baby*

LAURIDSEN | *O Magnum Mysterium*

RACHMANINOFF | *Ave Maria*

RUTTER | *What Sweeter Music*

CH. GOUNOD | *Ring Out, Wild Bells*

FRASER | *This Christmastide*

HANDEL | *Hallelujah Chorus*

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122 East 88th Street

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Free concert for the community

The
Baldwin
Festival Chorus
of New York

Immanuel Book Club:

The Screwtape Letters

by C.S. Lewis

Once a month. Next class: 8 p.m. Wednesday, December 6, 2023
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 at 8 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room, or sign in via Zoom.

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/j/81940413904?pwd=PyJZ56im1YnRyRCVq3ur1OEDwCCR9Z.1>

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:

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, using the same Meeting ID and Passcode: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83159910572?pwd=WTNnV2R0U0RFTEsvUTHCQVIOMUliQT09>

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. 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.

Our Immanuel Christmas Bazaar

Set up: 2-8 p.m. Friday, December 1

Bazaar, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, December 2

The Bazaar is soon upon us, Saturday, December 2 with setup the day before.

We will be offering a meal this year, so baked goods and dishes can be organized with Maria Vandemerwe mvd2w@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

Looking Ahead

- ✦ 11 a.m. Sunday morning, December 24: Advent 4, Pastor Lara Bhasin preaching
- ✦ 6:30 p.m. Sunday evening, December 24: Christmas Eve, Pastor Gregory Fryer preaching
- ✦ 11 a.m. Monday morning, December 25: Christmas Morning, Pastor Carol Fryer preaching
- ✦ 11 a.m. Sunday morning, December 31, First Sunday of Christmas, Pastor Gregory Fryer preaching
- ✦ 11 a.m. Monday morning, January 1, 2024, The Name of Jesus, Pastor Lara Bhasin preaching.
- ✦ Sunday, January 7: The Epiphany of Our Lord, Pastor Carol Fryer preaching

In Our Prayers

IN OUR PRAYERS IN RECENT TIMES: Stephen Fischer, Davida Goldman, Sister Angela (friend of Pastor Carol, David Kiehl, and Maria Barbera), LyAsia Beltre and her mother, Carol Dittbrenner, Pastor Gregory Fryer, Ann Wareham, Carlos Opio, Sally Graudons, Jean Fischer, Luz Ortiz, Jonathan Lochrichio (nephew of 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 Theologian Carl Braaten (age 94)
Bereaved..... Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer, friends

RECENTLY DIED Marilyn Schreiber (Richard's mother)
Bereaved..... Richard, Maggie, and Katarina Schreiber

(End)