



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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February 2024

A Word from Pastor Gregory Paul Fryer

Transfiguration Sunday

11 a.m. Sunday, February 11, 2024



Transfiguration, Raphael, 1520, detail, Vatican Museum

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Here at Immanuel, we tend to have a soft spot in our heart for this particular Sunday, Transfiguration Sunday, because it is an anniversary Sunday for our church. The beginning liturgy for our church was back in Civil War days, on Transfiguration Sunday 1863. At 10 a.m. that day, a group of our Immanuel ancestors gathered for worship in the courthouse, led by The Rev. C. Julius Renz, and afterwards met and voted to establish our Lutheran congregation. So this Transfiguration Sunday will be our 161st anniversary. Our church's Transfiguration painting above our altarpiece is a tribute to that founding liturgy.

So, that is one reason why I hope you can join us that day, Transfiguration Sunday, February 11: It is an anniversary Sunday for our church.

But there is another reason too: This is the Sunday when we install our church leaders. I find this to be inspiring — to see all those great congregation leaders lined up in front of the Communion rail so that we can pray for their ministry for this year of our Lord 2024.

It takes many hands to keep our beautiful church going, and they are nearly all volunteers. Our leaders and our Altar Guild and all the people who help with the liturgies and coffee hours... they all serve freely and joyfully, as if to Christ himself. In praying for our congregational leaders this Transfiguration Sunday, we also bear in mind all who support and serve at Immanuel Lutheran Church. God bless you all!

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Shrove Tuesday Sausage & Pancake Supper

5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 13

Please join us for 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 \$10 for adults and \$5 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 plan to burn the old palm branches later that evening to form the ashes for the following day's Ash Wednesday liturgies.

Ash Wednesday

12:15 noon and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 14



Would you believe it? Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are the same day this year. I think there is a sermon in that. Please try to attend one of our services that day. The evening service is especially moving because of the long Pastoral Exhortation and Litany of Penitence along with the Imposition of Ashes.

gpf

A Mission Moment

[Opening note by Pastor Gregory Fryer] I count us blessed here at Immanuel Lutheran Church to have a missionary expert with us: I mean Pastor Carol Fryer, who serves on the staff of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) specializing in missions. I have asked her to write a few words about one of her favorite African missions: the Kuwala Christian Girls School in Malawi. Carol writes this:



Malawi is a predominantly Christian country in the south-central part of Africa, bordered by Tanzania to the northeast, Mozambique to the south and Zambia to the west. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. 70% of its population live on less than \$1.25/day and 48% are children under the age of 14.

When it comes to education, often only boys are sent to school, but girls are frequently married and having babies by the time they are 14 years old. The mission of the Kuwala Christian Girls School is to combat poverty in Malawi by giving girls an opportunity to receive a quality education so that they can make a difference.

Kuwala Christian Girls School, a recognized ministry of the NALC, is a team of Canadians partnering with Malawians to provide tuition-free

education to girls from poverty-stricken families, equipping them to graduate, go to college, and return to their families and communities, helping to lift them out of poverty.

One of the things I really like about this ministry is its work with Malawians and its efforts to become self-sustaining. For example, they grow all their own food, which they share with surrounding villages, and they have installed solar panels to provide a consistent source of energy which provides internet access without the interruptions of rolling blackouts, so common in this part of the world.

Here is a recent newsletter from the Kuwala Christian Girls School. I especially enjoyed the last piece about Christmas:

<https://www.kuwala.org/a-field-trip-to-explore-the-history-and-art-of-malawi/>

Immanuel's Sunday School Lenten Food Drive

The children are collecting food during the season of Lent. They have been encouraged to put a food item in a bag every day of Lent. With the children leading the way, we hope that members and friends of Immanuel will follow their example and also collect food items during this Lenten season. The bags of food will be collected at Easter and delivered to the NY Common Pantry located in our neighborhood.

Here is a list of the most needed items:

- Canned or dry beans (15 oz. or 1 lb.)
- Canned fruit and vegetables (low-salt, fruit in its own juice)
- Canned tuna, salmon or chicken (packed in water)
- Grains (brown or white rice, pasta, barley, quinoa)
- Peanut Butter (Natural with only peanuts and oils in the ingredients list)
- Shelf-stable milk (low-fat milk, almond, oat or nut milk)
- Sugar-free hot and cold cereals (oats, corn flakes, farina or grits)

If you have any extra Fresh Direct bags that you are not using, please donate them (they are great for delivering the collected food items to NY Common Pantry).

Life-to-Life Discipleship

Next session: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, February 14

A Note from Pastor Lara Bhasin and Pastor Carol Fryer

Pastor Carol and Pastor Lara would like to invite you to join the *Life-to-Life Discipleship* experience. *Life-to-Life* is a NALC initiative designed to help Christians be more intentional in living out the Great Commission by focusing on following Jesus who calls us to be his disciples.

Our first session was Wednesday, January 31. It was an information session. The first of our fifteen hour-long sessions will follow the Ash Wednesday evening liturgy. We mean to work our way through the *Life-to-Life Discipleship* manual. We meet every other week.

The pattern for our sessions will include reading scripture, reflecting on it, and prayer, encouraging in each of us a daily practice of the same.

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. We enjoyed it because it is concrete and practical and helped us develop some lasting spiritual friendships.

You are welcome to come in person or join us on Zoom. If you are interested in participating, please email us: ceafryer@gmail.com and lara.bhasin@tsm.edu and let us know if you need the Zoom link.

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: The First Sunday of Lent, February 18

The topic: The Devil!

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.

Online Giving to Immanuel

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

Nowadays we have the option of giving online. Here is our QR code.



I find that if I simply point the camera on my iPhone to this code, a link comes up leading directly to our Immanuel online giving form. It is pretty easy.

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

Once a month. Next class: 8 p.m. Wednesday, February 7, 2024
In the Martin Luther Room and via Zoom

Please join Pastor Lara for the class discussion at 8 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room, or sign in via Zoom. There is no need to read ahead. We will read it together in class.

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/ksIWK1VBj>

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.

In Our Prayers

IN OUR PRAYERS IN RECENT TIMES: Davida Goldman, Clifford Rose, Susan McIntosh (Richard McIntosh's sister), Timna Rosenheimer (friend of David Kiehl), Melodee Kelly (friend of Thomas Wicks), Celia Cabrera, Minfang Cheng (friend of Louisa Laverde), Stephen and Jean Fischer, 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 Gaudons, 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

(End)