



# Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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November 2011

*A Word from the Pastor*

## All Saints Sunday

November 6, 2011

All Saints Sunday is soon upon us. Then the paraments will be white, the pew candles lit, and the intercessions will call out with gratitude the names of members and friends of our congregation who died this past year and now rest in Christ. Here is a passage from my sermon for that day:

*Imagine that we could talk to a saint as he or she drew near to death. Imagine we were at the bedside of the emaciated body, with the breath becoming shallow and the blood pressure dropping. If the dying saint had enough strength left to speak, how do you think that one would answer if we asked him, asked her, whether he has any regrets? "Do you regret that you walked this path? After all, you have suffered many blows along the way. You have chosen the good and you have forsaken the bad, as if you were not the chief cause of your own concern. You have had to pay a cost for following Jesus. You have had to bear a cross for your discipleship. You have spent your threescore and ten years. They are all gone. Do you regret it now?"*

*I daresay that that dying saint would regret nothing, except perhaps, that he or she did not follow Jesus with even more earnestness. And that would be the saintly answer on this side of heaven. While still in this hard world, lying on the deathbed, the saint is able to know some comfort.*

*Ah, but see that one just a few minutes later! See that one embraced in the arms of Father Abraham. See that one greeted with a cheer by the angels and archangels, seraphim and cherubim. See that one hugged and clapped on the back by the apostles of old and by saints who walked the same good path beforehand. See that one held close in the arms of a*

*saintly mother or father who carried his own cross, fought her own good fight in her own generation and now rests in Christ, her heart beating with joy to greet her son or daughter again. Above all, see that saint comforted by Jesus himself, whose divine hands wipe away every tear from the eyes.*

It is a moving Sunday always, All Saints Sunday. I'll be glad when I see you in church. Bring someone if you can.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

## Daylight Saving Time: Nov. 5

Don't forget to put your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 5<sup>th</sup>. An extra hour of sleep before All Saints Sunday!

## The Desires of the Human Heart

A few notes from Pastor Fryer on Professor Yeago's Coffee Hour Talk

To my mind, one of the most lovely and profound traditional prayers of the liturgy is the Prayer of the Day for the Fifth Sunday of Easter. It is a prayer that speaks of "desire." It is bold to ask for some new desires:

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and *desire what you promise*, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In his recent Coffee Hour talk, Dr. David Yeago shared with us a kind of thought experiment he sometimes shares with his seminarians down at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He invited us to imagine that suddenly our Lord Jesus stood before us in the doorway and invited us to pass through that door right into heaven! Dr. Yeago pointed out to us that the doctrine of justification by faith assures us that Jesus invites us all, saints and sinners alike. We are beloved to Jesus. We are acceptable to him, not because of our own merits, but because of the immensity of his love. So, march on through that door into heaven. Still, Yeago said, we have to ask ourselves a fundamental question: What leads us to think that if we walk through the door into heaven, we are going *to like it* there?

After all, heaven is a place of righteousness and virtue and purity and continual adoration of the Triune God. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pronounces blessing on those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness.” But do we hunger and thirst for high things like righteousness, or simply for ordinary things, for steak and French fries and coffee and so on?

Getting the desires of the human heart under control is a traditional part of Christian spirituality. Gaining some new and Christlike desires and abandoning some unworthy desires are part of our sanctification. Prayer, meditation on Jesus as we find him in Word and Sacrament, and mindfulness about what desires we are actually permitting to push us around: such things are traditional Christian disciplines for growing in purity of desire.

Thanks to webmaster Sean Curnyn, we can hear Dr. Yeago’s discussion of the Desires of the Human Heart on our church website:

[http://immanuelnyc.org/audio/reformation\\_2011.html](http://immanuelnyc.org/audio/reformation_2011.html)

It is a glorious thing to consider: our God has made us in such a manner that we have some control over the desires of our hearts. We do not need to be whipped around by every wind of desire, but can gain and forsake desires so that we become better prepared for heaven. Then we can say Amen! to the concluding prayer of the Christmas carol *Away in a Manger*:

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and *fit us for heaven*, to live with you there.

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## Christ the King Sunday

November 20, 2011

This is the last Sunday of the church year. We are reminded that this world, human history, and our lives come to an end. We are also reminded that the end of our lives, of the world, and of history is the God who is their beginning and that those who are “in Christ” can look forward to the end of things as the time of the gracious kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Thanksgiving Eve

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

We celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving with a liturgy at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is a spoken liturgy with hymns and cantor, along with Music Director Gwendolyn Toth.

## Fraternité Notre Dame Toy Collection

Once again this year the Sisters of the Fraternité Notre Dame will be hosting a Christmas party for needy children. This year the party will be on Friday, December 16. 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.) The Sisters will also accept toiletries or

clothing as they distribute gifts to the hospitalized and homeless as well. No need to wrap these. You may leave your gifts in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or bring them to the church office during the week. The last day for bringing gifts is Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, as the Sisters will pick them up from the church office on Monday morning, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 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. 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 17<sup>th</sup>.

## 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Street Fair – Thank you everyone!

Immanuel's tables from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Street Fair held on September 24<sup>th</sup> brought in \$560 towards our Roof Fund. A special thank you to all who worked so hard that day! By the way, our Sunday School children sold a total of 193 raffle tickets at three separate events: our Spring Bazaar last June, the recent Street Fair and at our Oktoberfest.

## Midtown Concerts

Midtown Concerts has returned to Immanuel Lutheran Church for the 2011-2012 season. The November schedule follows and concerts will continue each Wednesday through the end of May. As always, the concerts are completely free and last approximately 35 minutes. Please tell your friends! Information on Midtown Concerts online is available at [www.midtownconcerts.org](http://www.midtownconcerts.org).

NOVEMBER 2  
Ensemble Leonarda  
Baroque Music from France and Italy

NOVEMBER 9  
Salisbury Quartet  
Chamber Music from 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italy

NOVEMBER 16  
Carlene Stober, viola da gamba and cello  
Solo Music by Abel and Bach

NOVEMBER 23  
Dodd Quartet  
Haydn – String Quartets

NOVEMBER 30  
Grenser Trio  
Beethoven – Trio in E-flat major, Op. 38

## Upcoming ARTEK Concerts

ARTEK will present three Thursday evening chamber music concerts at Immanuel Lutheran Church this season. The three concerts will all feature Director Gwendolyn Toth's newly restored antique fortepiano from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The schedule is:

- ✦ Thursday, November 3, 2011, at 8 p.m.  
Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano) & Dongsok Shin (fortepiano) play Mozart and Clementi sonatas for four-hands.
- ✦ Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 8 p.m.  
Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano), Anssi Karttunen (cello, Finland), Peter Becker (bass-baritone), and Michael Brown (tenor) play Beethoven and Schubert sonatas and lieder.
- ✦ Thursday, April 19, 2012, at 8 p.m.  
Gwendolyn Toth (fortepiano), Enrico Gatti (violin, Italy) and Laura Heimes (soprano) play Mozart and Haydn sonatas and songs.

Although tickets for these concerts normally cost \$25, ARTEK has set aside 100 free tickets for each concert for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. These tickets are available right now from Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office for pickup by members, or directly from Music Director Gwendolyn Toth after services on Sundays.

## Former member Ashley Hall

Former member Ashley Hall wrote recently telling us the great news that he has been approved for ordination to the Holy Ministry. He will serve as part-time associate pastor at Kountze Memorial Lutheran, Omaha, Nebraska, in addition to his position as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor of Reformation and Protestant Theology at Creighton University. He is set to be ordained Saturday, November 19 at his home congregation, Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas, and to be installed at Kountze Memorial the following Sunday, November 27. He sent Pastor Fryer this message:

*It's been a long road to get here, hasn't it? I remember fondly you and I grabbing lunch at a diner when I first arrived trying to plot out the best procedure. I am most grateful for the support and nurturing through faithful Word and Sacrament and service that I received while at Immanuel. The congregation has a special place in my heart. I got to this point in no small part to you and the congregation. I am deeply grateful.*

Ashley's address is 3652 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68131.

## Plattduetsche Retirement Home Open House

Saturday, November 5, 2011

The Plattduetsche Retirement Home in Franklin Square, L.I., will be holding an Open House on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Plattduetsche is located at 1150 Hempstead Turnpike. Anyone who is looking for a retirement home for themselves or a relative or friend may attend and get to know more about their services. Visit their website at [www.plattduetschehome.com](http://www.plattduetschehome.com) or call the home at 516/352-4252. This is where our own Ann Siemer now happily resides.