



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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December 2011

A Word from the Pastor

Advent



Waiting with Mary

Bronze cast at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin in San Francisco.

By Margaret Adams Parker. <http://www.margaretadamsparker.com/main/home.aspx>



I don't know what I was thinking back then! I asked poor Carol to preach on Christmas Eve, that good evening long ago now, back when we were young clergy in our first parish. We were co-pastors of the Stewartstown Lutheran Parish in southern York County, PA. We loved working together, and maybe when we retire, we will return to being co-pastors of a little country church somewhere.

So, we were co-pastors back then, sharing preaching equally. And it was *her* turn to preach! So, we put it on the calendar: "Pastor Carol to preach this Christmas Eve."

But the thing is, we were expecting our first child. Soon! Sam was due December 28. He didn't actually come till New Year's Eve, but we had no way to know that. All things considered, we were cutting it pretty close.

Things seemed easy back then. Carol simply takes things in stride. She loved being pregnant. She figured she could handle preaching on Christmas Eve, and she did! It went fine.

A mother waiting for her first child: perhaps there is no greater image for Advent's expectancy. The heart leaps ahead to the little one. The intervening days and months have their fair share of discomforts and heaviness, but often a mother is able to bear such things amidst the hope that lies within her. She seeks to see her baby. She longs for our world to have this new life.

So it was with Mary during those days leading up to Christmas: She longs for our world to have this new Life!

And so it always is with the Church: we celebrate with Mary the birth of her Son, and we long to see him ourselves. Advent says that Day is coming. May it come soon!

In Christ,

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 11, 2011 during 11:00 a.m. Liturgy

You won't want to miss the Christmas Pageant this year! Back by popular demand, we will be blessed by the talents of the Immanuel Children's Choir, led by Tiffany Rosenquist de la Torre and Jim Miller. The children have been working hard over the past weeks to prepare the singing (and bell ringing) of our most beloved Christmas Carols. Angels, cherubs, shepherds, lambs, and some very wise men will gather around the Holy Family to usher us into the Christmas spirit. We look forward to seeing you at the 11:00 a.m. Liturgy on December 11th, and encourage you to invite friends and family to support the children.

Some New Members



Johanna Leigh Francis. We received Johanna via Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, October 2nd of this year. Johanna was born and raised in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada. She earned her BA, MA (economics), and PhD (economics) at McGill University, Montreal. She is Assistant Professor of Economics, Fordham University. Johanna is married to Michael Robert Hicks, who is a visiting assistant professor in the Philosophy department at the City College of New York. Johanna and Michael are the parents of little Madeleine Sennie Leigh Francis Hicks, who was received by Baptism here at Immanuel on Sunday, October 23, 2011.

James Michael Miller. We received Jim via Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, November 6 of this year. He was born, baptized, and raised in North Tonawanda, Niagara County, near Buffalo, NY. Jim is married to Holly Mentzer who is a music therapist at Sloane-Kettering Hospital. Jim is well-known and beloved here at Immanuel because he sings in our choir and plays his wonderful music instruments, including a German Baroque Trumpet and Cornetto. He composed the stirring trumpet flourish called “Schulze” in honor of our former pastor Raymond Schulze. Formerly Jim was Principal Trumpet for the San Francisco Opera Orchestra for nine seasons. Currently he is a professional musician, early music specialist, and brass instructor at Horace Mann School. Also, he is Building Administrator and Sexton at Our Saviour Atonement Lutheran Church on Manhattan’s upper west side.



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 11th, as the Sisters will pick them up from the church office on Monday morning, December 12th.

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 17th.

Christmas Caroling at Lenox Hill Hospital

Friday, December 16, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

On Friday, December 16th, let's meet in the lobby of Lenox Hill Hospital (100 East 77th Street) at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas caroling and fellowship gathering. After caroling there, we are invited to the church parsonage (108

East 82nd Street, Apt. 7C) for some refreshments, fellowship, and sitting around the fireplace. Alas, we are not supposed to bring children into the hospital, but otherwise, everyone is welcome!

Christmas Poinsettia and Music Fund

The church is decorated at Christmas with a lighted tree and poinsettias. Members and friends may wish to place one or more poinsettia plants in the church to honor the memory of departed loved ones or simply as a gift to the glory of God in the incarnate Christ. A

gift of \$15.00 for each plant as well as gifts toward the Christmas Music Fund will be received by Ester Neubacher after church on Sunday, December 4th, Sunday, December 11th and Sunday, December 18th.

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday afternoon, December 17th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for that important and gratifying work session we call "Hanging of the Greens." Advent is the time in the church year for preparing our hearts for the joy of Christ's first coming among us at Christmas. We will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, December 17th, to be followed by our popular St. Nicholas Party.

St. Nicholas Party

5 - 9 p.m. Saturday, December 17, 2011, after the Hanging of the Greens

Our annual St. Nicholas Party is becoming a very popular event for us here at Immanuel. Swing with David Buddin at this year's party featuring David on piano, Al Quirong on tenor sax, Gaku Takanashi on bass, Ray Roberts on drums and vocalist Vi Quirong. The band will play from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. followed by a visit from Santa, a Christmas carol sing-along, and supper with hams and pot-luck side dishes and desserts. We are going to need some work crews, including setup, kitchen, and cleanup afterwards. Hold the date!

Church and Steeple Roof Update

Our campaign goal to replace our church and steeple roof is \$350,000. We started our three-year campaign about a year-and-a half ago. "Commitment Sunday" was April 25, 2010. Since then we have received pledges sufficient for our goal, which is wonderful. As of October 31 of this year, we are about 70% of our way, with receipts of \$246,650.

An update on the roof project: Our Roof Committee is arranging for a roof probe and general conditions report, which we hope will be done before Christmas. The goal of the probe and report is to help with the accuracy of bid documents and to minimize change orders, which are costly and cause delays.

Thank you, everyone, for supporting our church roof campaign.

Midtown Concerts

Midtown Concerts has returned to Immanuel Lutheran Church for the 2011-2012 season. The December 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.

DECEMBER 7

Black Marble
Virtuoso music for two violins by
Telemann, Shield and Leclair

DECEMBER 14

Charites
German baroque vocal music by
Schütz, Scheidt and Schein

DECEMBER 21

Pomerium
Christmas Music from the Old World,
with Renaissance motets and medieval
chants

DECEMBER 28

Modern Musick Foreteplano Trio
Beethoven – Trio in C minor, Op.1 no.3

Upcoming ARTEK Concerts

ARTEK will present two more Thursday evening chamber music concerts at Immanuel Lutheran Church this season. The next two concerts will also feature Director Gwendolyn Toth's newly restored antique fortepiano from the late 18th century. The schedule is:

- ✦ 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.

White Paraments

A Note from Pastor Fryer

We have ordered and received a new set of white paraments. Sexton Chris Schulze and I were thrilled to briefly put them in place, to confirm that everything is crafted just right. They are beautiful, as is right for the high festivals of Christmas and Easter. Their debut is scheduled for Christmas Eve, with their dedication on Christmas Morning.

These white paraments are being dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Alan Hoffman, of blessed memory. Christine and Abby are planning to be with us then for the dedication.

The Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve

6:30 p.m., Saturday, December 24, 2011

With Pre-Service Music at 6:00 p.m.

The Immanuel Choir will be singing music by Busnois, Praetorius, Cererols, Britten, Bach and others for the Christmas Eve Prelude starting at 6 pm, and music by William Byrd and the famous "O Holy Night" during the service itself at 6:30. We'll have lots of instruments and of course our little handbell set will be put into service as always! Christmas Eve music is always a lot of fun, as well as musically satisfying. Even if you can't commit to choir year-round, consider joining us for choir on Christmas Eve. All voice parts are welcome! You must read music at a minimal level, and commit to the following dates:

Sunday, Dec 18 at 9 am & the service following

Thursday Dec. 22 for rehearsal from 7-9 pm

Saturday, Dec. 24 starting at 4 pm, through the service.

All rehearsals meet in the organ loft. Come and join us! If you have questions, e-mail director Gwendolyn Toth at artekgwent@aol.com.

Christmas Morning

11 a.m., Sunday, December 25, 2011

Name of Jesus

11 a.m., Sunday, January 1, 2012