



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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January 2012

A Word from the Pastor

Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord



Sunday, January 8, 2012



For this major church festival, we mean to repeat a fun element from our Christmas Pageant: the procession of the three wise men. They come marching forward, one at a time, each singing a verse of “We Three Kings of

Orient Are,” dressed in the spectacular costumes provided by Music Director Gwendolyn Toth. This procession takes place early in the liturgy, so try to arrive in time for the prelude music and for this opening procession.

The Epiphany of Our Lord is a major festival of the church year. In fact, in some places it is the chief Christmas celebration. When Carol and I were graduating from seminary, we had friends who began their ministry in Cairo, Egypt. There is an ancient Christian church in Egypt called the Coptic Church. Our friends reported on their first Christmas there. They spoke of how surprised they were that nothing much happened on Christmas Eve or Christmas Morning. Instead, the Christmas carols and lights and joy and presents waited for Epiphany Day, January 6. And there is a kind of logic to this: Christmas Day celebrates good news for Israel. It celebrates the birth of Israel’s Messiah. But Epiphany Day is important for the *whole world*, for on that day, we learn that Israel’s Messiah is also meant for everyone. That’s the important thing about the wise men: they journey to Jesus from afar. They represent for us that the whole world is welcome to come to Jesus.

So, Epiphany deserves a major celebration, and we mean to do so. It will be good to see you in church then and always.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Thank you for Advent and Christmas

This Christmas Eve was our largest liturgy: 308 people. Last year’s Christmas Eve was large too: 244. In fact, last year’s was our largest Christmas Eve in many a year. But this year was great! This year’s Christmas morning liturgy was also blessed with a strong and joyful congregation.

It takes the labors of many people to enjoy such a good Advent and Christmas as we have year by year. Thank you to everyone!

Fraternité Notre Dame Toy Collection and Sunday School Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas mitten tree and to the toy collection for the Fraternité Notre Dame. The toys were given to the Fraternité Notre Dame for their Christmas party for needy children held in the middle of December and the mittens will soon be distributed to needy children.

Rev. Marsh Luther Drege

Executive Director, Seafarers and International House
Our Guest Preacher, the Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 22, 2012

Our Board of Deacons has always been proud to send benevolence support to this seafarers' ministry. Their website has a great line from Samuel Johnson expressing why seafarers are in need of our prayers and support: "Seafaring is like being in jail, with the chance of being drowned..." <http://www.sihnyc.org/index.php>

Executive Director Marsh Drege will be with us on the Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 22, to preach for that liturgy and to greet us and speak about Seafarers and International House during Coffee Hour.

A New Member

Helga Mecca Kuverua, received Sunday, December 18, 2011

Helga was born, and raised in Namibia in Southern Africa. She works as a hairdresser. She has three children, including her youngest, 17-year-old Dorian, who often is able to worship with us.

Midtown Concerts

The January schedule for Midtown Concerts follows. 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.

JANUARY 4

Guido's Ear
Italian baroque sonatas for two violins
and harpsichord

JANUARY 11

Mozartean Players
Haydn Trios – Hob.XV/22 in E-flat
Major and Hob.XV/25 in G Major

JANUARY 18

Christine Gummere, cello
Suite #6 in D-Major for solo cello by
J. S. Bach

JANUARY 25

Lyra Consort
Christopher Simpson's – *The Seasons* -
Summer and Autumn

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. Gwen also tells us that the guest cellist for this concert, Anssi Karttunen, is a very special friend and colleague of hers:

I met Anssi in 1980 when I was studying in Holland. Since then he has gone on to a major international career, playing as a soloist with symphony orchestras all over the world. His cousin Tuija Hakkila (a pianist) was my roommate when I first came back to New York after studying in Europe. We all have children the same age and keep in touch regularly. I stayed with Anssi and his wife last summer when I was in Paris where they make their home these days.

When Anssi plays here in New York at Lincoln Center or Carnegie Hall, we often get together. Since he also plays period instruments, we have many times discussed the possibility of playing together again. Finally, we have an opportunity on this series. He is a brilliant performer and definitely not to be missed!

- ✦ 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.