



# Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88<sup>th</sup> Street ❖ New York, NY 10128

Eighty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan

[www.immanuelnyc.org](http://www.immanuelnyc.org)

The Rev. Gregory P. Fryer, Pastor

Email: [gpfryer@gmail.com](mailto:gpfryer@gmail.com)

(212) 289-8128, church phone

(212) 828-3665, church fax

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February 2012

*A Word from the Pastor*

## Lent

*... and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6, KJV)*

A few Sundays ago, it seemed to me that I suddenly heard the voices of angels. They were overhead, there to my right. It was the start of the Sunday morning liturgy, and I was kneeling at the Communion rail, joining in the confession: “we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.” Then I became aware of those sweet, strong voices up there to the right. It was as if they were carrying the congregation and me along in the confession.

It was the children of our congregation. Sunday School teachers Barbara Chomko and Karen Bazik are bringing the children up to the balcony, introducing them to more and more of the full Sunday liturgy. Last Sunday’s praying of the Lord’s Prayer brought tears to the eyes of grown men -- it was so moving to hear our children leading the congregation in prayer.

We are used to the children joining us for the distribution of the Holy Communion. Indeed, it is a regular highpoint of the day for me when the children come forward for the Blessed Sacrament. They come eagerly, enthusiastically, as if they hunger to take their part in the people of God communing with our risen Christ. Even the children who are not yet baptized thrust forward their hands for the Blessed Sacrament, knowing that for now I give them the triune blessing, but leave their little hands empty. They seem satisfied with that, till they become baptized, but they stretch out their hands anyway for the Body and the Blood of our Lord.

So, we are all used to the children coming up from the undercroft for the distribution of Holy Communion. But now things are becoming even better: they are joining us in other parts of the liturgy too.

I think the children have the better part of it too, from an acoustical point of view, by sitting in the balcony. In fact, I have added a note about it to our regular worship folder notes: "A hint about acoustics: you will be able to hear the choir and organ better if you sit toward the front half of the church. The overhanging choir balcony obscures some of the beauty of the music for those sitting under it."

Our Lord Jesus cherishes the children. That is clear from the Bible. And these days, the children of our congregation are providing us a visual image of the heart of Lenten and, indeed, Christian discipline: It is that we should come to church, as often as we can make it, and we should enter into fellowship with our living Lord Jesus with earnestness.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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## Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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 liturgical and inspirational beginning of our church took place 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 congregation. So this coming Transfiguration Sunday will be our 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On the front wall of our church, we have our Transfiguration painting, in tribute to that founding liturgy.

## Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, is Shrove Tuesday, and Immanuel will hold its annual Pancake and Sausage Supper for fun and fellowship. We like to direct receipts from this annual supper to our Sunday School, especially Vacation Bible School.

Swing with David Buddin on the piano, Gaku Takanashi on bass, Ray Roberts on the drums, Al Quirong on tenor sax and vocalist Vi Quirong. The music will start at 6:00 p.m. and go until 7:00 p.m.

The doors of the church hall will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please use the Lexington Avenue entrance. The price for the meal is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, or whatever you can afford. Hold the date! 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.

## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 – Liturgies at 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



We will have two liturgies again this year – one at 12:15 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. Each of these liturgies has its own blessing. The noontime service is a spoken liturgy and is nice because of the presence of neighborhood people who slip away during their lunch hours for our brief liturgy. The evening liturgy is the main traditional parish liturgy with Choir.

## Lingering for the Postlude

Music Director Gwendolyn Toth makes no such recommendation. She seems perfectly content to prepare her magnificent postludes and to play them while the congregation mills around and chats following the liturgy. But I've noticed that some people linger in their pews, attend to the postlude, and even applaud at the end. I think that is nice. And so I offer it up to us all as an option. The fellowship of the people of the church is very important, and I do not want to discourage that. Indeed, Martin Luther pointed to the fellowship of the brothers and sisters in the Lord as one of God's "means of grace" by which he helps keep faith alive here on earth, comforting and directing his people. So, I do not want to discourage the fellowship, but simply lift up the option of lingering in the pew for the postlude whenever it is okay for us.

Pastor Fryer

# Voters' Assembly

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

The Voters' Assembly will meet on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, after the Liturgy. At this annual meeting we hear reflections and reports on the year just gone by, including year-end reports from the Pastor and Treasurer, as well as reports from the Trustees, Deacons, Council and Endowment Committee. This is the meeting at which we elect our leaders for the coming year. If you would like to become an official member of the Voters' Assembly, please mention your desire to Pastor Fryer, who will present your name to the Assembly. Our Constitution gives this rule: *The Voters' Assembly shall consist only of such members who have reached the age of eighteen, who are diligent in worship, regularly partake of the Lord's Supper and live a life in conformity with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## Year-end figures on Church Attendance

Two years ago, 2010, was our biggest year in twenty years. 2011 ended up close to that, but somewhat behind. Both averages for Sunday morning are 110, but in 2010 we were a fraction more than 110, while in 2011, we fell a fraction behind:

	2010	2011
Average Sunday morning attendance	110.25	109.84*
Average Wednesday evening attendance excluding Ash Wednesday and Thanksgiving Eve	11.74	10.94

\*Excluding Hurricane Irene Sunday, August 28, 2011.

On the other hand, our midweek festival services were sometimes larger in 2011 than the year before:

	2010	2011
Ash Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.	14	33
Ash Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.	68	76
Maundy Thursday	88	80
Good Friday	128	114
Good Friday, 8 p.m. Candlelight concert	133	123
Easter Vigil	92	91
Thanksgiving Eve	31	33
Christmas Eve	244	308

## Congratulations to Our Member James Miller!

James Miller sings in our choir, plays his spectacular trumpet and cornetto, and is co-director of our Children's Choir, along with Tiffany Rosenquist de la Torre. He is also a faithful member of our Monday Evening Bible Class. Now, Jim feels called to the holy ministry of Word and Sacrament. Pastor Fryer and Immanuel's Church Council support and have enthusiastically endorsed his candidacy. If all goes well, Jim will begin his seminary studies next fall, 2012, at General Theological Seminary here in town. Congratulations, Jim!

## Update on Our Church Roof Fund Three-year Campaign Goal: \$350,000

Our Roof Fund campaign began April 25, 2010, and so we are approaching the end of our second year -- still a few months to go. Counting the \$50,000 initial gift that launched our campaign, our current receipts are \$263,302 (as of 12/31/2011). That is about 75% of our goal, which is good considering that we are not yet two-thirds of our way through the campaign. God willing, we will begin construction this summer, 2012.

## Artek Presents Rosenmüller Festival

at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 552 West End Avenue (87<sup>th</sup> Street)

ARTEK (Gwendolyn Toth, Director) presents ROSENMÜLLER FESTIVAL at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church - 552 West End Ave. (87th Street). Come hear the music by German composer Johann Rosenmüller that continued the glorious Venetian tradition of Gabrieli, Monteverdi, and Cavalli:

- ❖ Friday, February 10 at 8 pm: Solo Cantatas and Instrumental Music - featuring Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo-soprano; Ryland Angel, countertenor, with pre-concert lecture at 7 pm by Sara Ruhle Kyle.
- ❖ Saturday, February 11 at 8 pm: Vespers Music in the Grand Venetian Style - with guest artists from Piffaro, The Renaissance Band - twenty-four singers, strings, cornetti, sacbuts, winds, and continuo, with pre-concert lecture at 7 pm by Susan Hellauer.

# Chant Camp with Susan Hellauer here at Immanuel

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Special Chant Camp with Susan Hellauer here at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 am - 1:30 p.m.

## Tickets for Concert and Chant Camp

Tickets: \$40 for each concert, \$20 rear seating (\$10 off for students & seniors). Or purchase tickets for both nights for \$75 regular, \$35 rear (\$20 off for students & seniors). Chant Camp: \$35.

TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS: Call GEMS at (212) 866-0468 or online at [www.gemsny.org](http://www.gemsny.org) (click on Events).

## Midtown Concerts

The February 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](http://www.midtownconcerts.org).

### FEBRUARY 1

Concitato

17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian baroque music with Joan Plana, violin, Ezra Seltzer, cello and Jeffrey Grossman, harpsichord

### FEBRUARY 8

Aya Hamada, harpsichord

Music in the Italian style by Bach, Scarlatti and Frescobaldi

### FEBRUARY 15

Richard Tunnicliffe, cello

Music by Domenico Gabrielli and J. S. Bach for solo cello

### FEBRUARY 22

Ash Wednesday – No concert

### FEBRUARY 29

Uncommon Temperament

“When Love Goes Wrong” – French baroque music for voice and instruments

## ARTEK Chamber Music Concert in April

ARTEK will present one more Thursday evening chamber music concert at Immanuel Lutheran Church this season. The next concert will also feature Director Gwendolyn Toth's newly restored antique fortepiano from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

- ❖ 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 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.

## Travel with Concordia College to Germany!

May 15 – 25, 2012

Eleven days in the Lands of Luther. Only \$2,699 from New York. Contact Rev. Gregory Dwyer at 914-337-9300, ext. 2198 or E-mail him at: [Gregory.dwyer@concordia-ny.edu](mailto:Gregory.dwyer@concordia-ny.edu) for more information.

## Travel with Village Lutheran Church to China!

June 28 – July 7, 2012

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell, Pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Bronxville (with assistance from VLC member Daniel Chao), will be leading a group journey to Shanghai and Beijing from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>. Sights to visit include Lujiazui Center, Huangpu River, old town Zhouzhuang, Shanghai Expo, the Great Wall, Tianamen Square, the summer palace and Lama temple. Price will be \$2,900 (plus travel insurance and tips). There will be an early-bird registration of \$2,700 (if registered by March 1, 2012). All are welcome to join. A \$250 deposit must be included with the registration. The deposit is refundable minus a \$50 processing fee. The trip includes: Round-trip airfare from New York to Shanghai with transfer from Shanghai to Beijing; motor coaches for tours and all tour tickets for entrance, 4 nights in Shanghai and 4 nights in Beijing in a four-star hotel and 14 meals and 8 buffet breakfasts including a roast duck dinner and an instant-boiled mutton dinner in Beijing. English guide service is included. For more information, call 914-337-0207 (1022) or E-mail Pastor Hartwell at [PastorH@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:PastorH@VLC-NY.ORG)