

Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street ❖ New York, NY 10128

Eighty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan

www.immanuelnyc.org

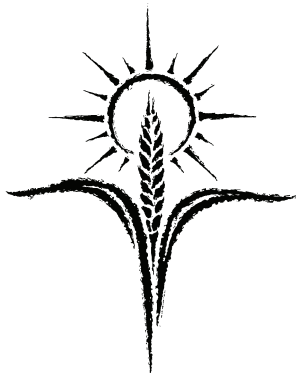
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April/May 2012

A Word from the Pastor

Now the Green Blade Rises



Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24, RSV)

Happy Easter Season, everyone!

We have just come through a moving Lent and Holy Week. Now we are in that high season when “the green blade rises.” This is the hymn title of one of our Easter hymns: LBW 148. It refers to a key Bible lesson from this past Lent – the John reading about the grain of wheat falling, from the Fifth Sunday in Lent.

I remember thinking as I prepared the sermon for that Sunday that “there is just entirely too much falling going on these days!” My brother-in-law E.L. Brown fell off the roof of his son’s workshop. Glad to say, he is fine. Our longtime member and leader Georgia Lind fell into a well on her historic property on Staten Island. The earnest prayers of our congregation for Georgia continue. She draws ever closer to regaining consciousness and to rehab, but remains in need of our prayers. Then I heard of another fall: an old friend of our member Jim Miller fell from the loft of his barn. It was probably a three-story fall. Praise God, he too seems to be fine.

Besides these literal falls, there are also people dear to us who have fallen into unemployment or illness or sadness. And then, there are those recent deep causes of grief: the Lord has laid to rest our longtime members Max Petschek and Borisse Paulin.

Against all of these fallings, there is the great Good Friday fall of our Lord Jesus into death and the grave. He knew it was coming. He could have evaded it by running away or summoning twelve legions of angels to defend him. But he did not evade the Cross. He was content to fall into death because, as he says about the grain of wheat, “if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

This Easter Season now upon us celebrates the rising up again of Jesus. With his rising, there is promise of our rising too. Falls from barns, falls into cisterns, falls into injury, surgery, even death are overcome in the Easter resurrection of our Lord. All kinds of rising become happy possibilities now, including moral and spiritual renewal, because Jesus is risen and seeks his good harvest. Happy Easter Season!

In Christ,

Gregory Fryer

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Thank you for Lent and Holy Week

Those who prepare for worship here at Immanuel have an ambition: that the congregation should be able to worship with quiet and undistracted minds, not even thinking about the background labors that set the stage for each liturgy. But there are lots of such quiet, background labors. I am very mindful of them and grateful for them. As we approach Holy Week, Parish Secretary Karen Rombey, for example, works late into the evenings and on weekends too preparing the lovely worship folders we enjoy. Likewise, our Altar Guild carefully sets up and cleans away the sacramental vessels. Joan Walter washes and irons our purificators, so that each one looks like a work of art. Sexton Chris Schulze vacuums and dusts and replaces light bulbs, opens and closes the church for each liturgy, while welcoming everyone in sight and lending his strong baritone to singing the liturgies. Gwen and our Choir

are marvels of preparation, talent, and lavish service during Holy Week. Our Children’s Choir brought smiles and hope to many hearts during the Easter Sunday liturgy. Volunteers helped with collating, folding, and stapling worship folders and polishing the silver. People baked for the Easter Vigil supper and stepped in for Georgia Lind in organizing that supper.

And then, what good would it have been to have made all such preparations if the people had not come to worship? That worship is the fundamental “liturgy.” It is the bottom-line “work of the people,” and we are all so very grateful for each of you who worshiped during Lent and Holy Week. Your presence, your prayers, your offerings, your fellowship, and your singing made this year’s Lent and Holy Week wonderful. Thank you all!

Pastor Fryer

Midweek Lent Sermons

Our midweek Lent services were quite well attended this year, which pleases me very much. Maybe next year even more people will attend.

I have been encouraged to gather together my midweek Lent sermons on “Stunning Sins and Vast Forgivenesses” and make them available to the whole congregation. They are available online on the homepage of our church’s website (www.immanuelnyc.org). The sermon collection is called “Echoes from the Pulpit,” and there is a link for this under “Get the Latest” in the left column.

Also, we are printing up hard copies, which we mean to have available for you in the narthex.

Pastor Fryer

Some Notes from a Recent Architectural Study

Recently our church commissioned John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC, to do a pre-construction study of our church. This is part of our preparations for a new roof.

The historical part of the report contains some fun information about our church:

The church received some international attention when it was gifted the three bells *Glaube, Hoffnung* and *Liebe* by Empress Auguste Victoria of Germany in 1886. Almost 20 years later, on November 6, 1904, an ornately carved reredos from the Black Forest of Germany was dedicated and placed behind the altar. More significant exterior changes were made in the 1940s, as is evident from historical photos and also indicated in documents dating from the 1980s. In particular, the original banded slate roof was replaced with the current homogeneous grey roof circa 1947, when building department permits indicate exterior work requiring scaffolding. It is likely that the steeple was stripped of its decorative dormers and detailing at this same time. Further work to the belfry and support frame for the bells was undertaken in 1958, and it has been documented that a new cross was installed in 1968.

One of the benefits of this architectural study is that it is helping our Roof Committee to focus on a glorious part of our church: our church tower and steeple. It turns out that towers and steeples are complicated structures. We have discovered that our tower needs substantial masonry work, and we are making sure that the connection between the stonework tower and our wood-frame steeple is solid.

We hope to be able to give a good update on our roof project at the upcoming Voters’ Assembly, June 24.

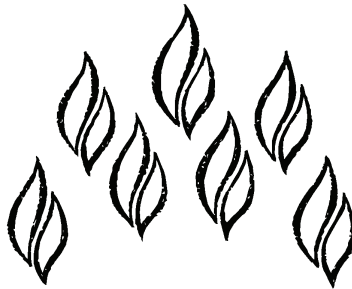
Ascension Eve

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Our Lord's Ascension took place forty days after his Resurrection, which means that Ascension Day is always on a Thursday. This year we plan to celebrate Ascension on its eve, Wednesday evening, May 16. Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt will preach and preside at this festival midweek liturgy. There will be organ and cantor too.

Pentecost Sunday

May 27, 2012



The sevenfold gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety, and awe before the Lord (Isaiah 11:2-3)

Pentecost Sunday celebrates the presence and power of the Holy Spirit on earth. It is a major church festival for us here at Immanuel, with lots of music and a tradition of wearing red that day, to salute the tongues of fire on that first Pentecost Sunday.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to move the Gospel from our heads to our hearts. The Holy Spirit works to convert

the good news about Jesus from being theory or theology to something much more important: conversion. The Holy Spirit works to make saints on earth. As Martin Luther put it, the Holy Spirit makes us holy by first leading us "into his holy community, placing us in the church's lap, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ. (Luther's *Large Catechism*, on "The Creed")

Saturday Meals-on-Heels Program

Immanuel's Saturday Meals-on Heels program, which serves the elderly on the Upper East Side, is in need of cooks. Volunteers cook in their own kitchens and can cook as few as 5, or as many as 25, meals with everything in between. We supply the tins for the food and need the

meals either on Friday night or before 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Another group of volunteers come to the church office on Saturday morning between 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon to pick up the meals and deliver them. This is not a weekly commitment.

If you'd like more information on the program, please call Davida Goldman at 212-627-2288 or E-mail her at:

davida@firstthings.com. You can also speak with her at Coffee Hour on Sundays.

Peter Manke to give Coffee Hour talk about Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Sunday, April 15, 2012

On Sunday, April 15th, William O'Doherty's office will be hosting a Coffee Hour at Immanuel. William's partner, Peter Manke, Financial Associate, will be here to speak to us about Thrivent.

Stephanie Wollenburg to give Coffee Hour talk on Koinonia

Sunday, April 22, 2012

We welcome Stephanie Wollenburg from Koinonia. She will be at Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 22. She will tell us about the new and exciting things that are happening at Koinonia. She will also have information about opportunities to visit

this beautiful place. Please plan on joining us April 22 to welcome our guest. (Website: www.koinoniany.org -- Facebook: www.facebook.com/koinoniany

Thrivent Financial Educational Workshop at Immanuel

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner will be served. Registration required.

William O'Doherty, Financial Consultant for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, will host a workshop here at Immanuel on Tuesday, May 8th, at 6:30 p.m. The workshop is designed for anyone who will be retiring soon, has recently retired, or is well into their retirement. Topics to be discussed are:

retirement assets, tax-efficient investing, long-term care and estate planning.

To register for this workshop and make a reservation for dinner, please call Lorraine McManmon of Thrivent at 1-800-838-1159, or E-mail her at Lorraine.mcmanmon@thrivent.com.

Midtown Concerts

The April and May 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.

APRIL 4

ARTEK with soloists Lauren Alfano and Juli Borst
Alessandro Scarlatti's *Stabat Mater*

APRIL 11

Repast
Music by Erlebach, Buxtehude and J. S. Bach

MAY 2

Nell Snaidas/Daniel Swenberg Duo: Songs from 17th-century Spain by Machado, Hidalgo, Marin, and de Bailly

MAY 9

Orfeo Duo
Music by Mozart and Spohr for violin and foreteplano

APRIL 18

Philmore Ensemble: Romantic lieder and song for soprano and 19th-century guitar

APRIL 25

Duo Marchand
Music of Restoration England by Purcell, Blow, Finger and Matteis

MAY 16

Elizabeth Baber/Christa Patton Duo
"Even night is here..." – Songs in praise of the evening

MAY 23

Sarah Pillow, soprano
Dramatic 17th-century Italian songs

ARTEK Chamber Music Concert in April at Immanuel

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 forteplano from the late 18th century.

Thursday, April 19, 2012, at 8 p.m. Gwendolyn Toth (forteplano), 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.

ARTEK's April 29th Concert

Corpus Christi Church
Monteverdi: Madrigals Book 4

The ensemble of 6 singers performs the complete book 4 of madrigals by the great 17th-century master, Claudio Monteverdi. Also included will be several pieces for harpsichord and lutes with Gwendolyn Toth, Christa Patton, Charles Weaver, Grant Herreid, and Daniel Swenberg.

Sunday, April 29 at 4 p.m.

Corpus Christi Church, 529 West 121st St.

(between Broadway & Amsterdam Avenue)

Tickets: \$40 & \$20 (\$30 & \$10 for students and seniors)

Call 212-866-0468 to order tickets in advance. Tickets also available at the door.