



# 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

September 2012

*A Word from the Pastor*

## Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 16, 2012

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

I find myself a little reluctant to say farewell to this past summer, it has been so nice. Our summertime Sunday liturgies are a bit humble because we do not have the full choir to help us along. Our full choir is glorious, and we are bound to miss it in the summertime and to be thrilled at its return on Homecoming Sunday. Still, the summertime liturgies are graced with a kind of relaxed tone and intimacy. Especially I have enjoyed Gwen at the piano and our Cantors singing up front where we can see them. A recent Sunday's Communion hymn, *Let Us Break Bread Together*, with Cantor Julie Borst's strong mezzo-soprano voice up front and Chris Schulze's strong baritone in the back, seemed simply heavenly to me.

But for all that, we still have reason to be happy on Homecoming Sunday. It's as if that's when all the fun begins

again. That's when the Choir returns and the Sunday School too. That's when the Children's Choir starts again, and the larger congregation reassembles from summer travels. I am eager for it all and hope you are too.

### The Book of Job

There is one new thing I am proud to lift up: later in this copy of *The Messenger* you will see that Judge John Wilson is preparing to lead a course this autumn on the book of Job. I have asked him to teach his course in the undercroft during the regular Sunday School hour. That way, there will be a good class for the parents to attend while their children are in Sunday School, as well as anyone interested. I consider John's course to be a great spiritual contribution to our church. And I also think that it is the kind of thing that others of you might want to do too. John has a longtime interest in

that magnificent book, Job, and he is willing to share with others what he has learned. You might have a similar longtime interest. Also, there is lots of good Christian Education curriculum to help you along if you would be willing to teach a course. So, please think about that.

### **A Third Children's Class**

We have reached that great stage where we would like to add a third Sunday School class for children. We have the children, we have the curriculum, now we need a teacher. A matter of a few years makes a big difference when it comes to children. We would like to add this third class for our older children - fifth graders - to give them a chance to study the faith of the church in their own age group. If you would

like to help us with this, please send a note to Parish Secretary Karen Rombey ([krombey@juno.com](mailto:krombey@juno.com)). No teaching experience required. Thanks for considering this!

Sunday School was a big part of my youth. In fact, when I reached high school, I requested to join the adult Sunday School class, it seemed so much fun to me. I value those memories both for what I learned about the Bible and for the fellowship we enjoyed.

So, Homecoming Sunday is at hand, September 16. It will be awfully good to see you all again.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

## **Immanuel Choir**

Choir will begin a new season of fabulous sacred music on Sunday, September 16. Rehearsal is at 9 am in the choir loft, and the choir sings two anthems at every 11:00 am service. Membership is open to all with a knowledge of music reading. Please join us!

## **Immanuel Children's Programs Sunday School and Children's Choir**

Sunday School resumes at 10:00 a.m. on Homecoming Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Our Children's Choir also resumes rehearsals that day at 12:30 p.m.

## The Book of Job – The Question of Human Suffering – New Class to start on September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Starting September 23<sup>rd</sup>, John Wilson will lead a class entitled: “The Book of Job – the Question of Human Suffering.” The class will meet in the undercroft at 10:00 a.m. In this class, we will take a comprehensive, close examination of probably one of the oldest books in the Bible – the story of Job, a servant of God, whose faith is sorely tested.

We shall examine the historical context of the book, its structure, and most important, its lessons regarding God’s relationship to human suffering. We shall also discuss whether the book answers these questions: Why does God allow injustice and suffering? Why do the unjust go unpunished? And can we question God’s justice, plead our case before God, and seek an answer to our questions from God Himself?

### Psalm Class

6:30 p.m. Monday evenings, starting September 24

We’ve been zooming along, haven’t we? It took us a few years, but we have worked our way through Psalm 136 of the 150 Psalms. Now we are set to finish. Let’s reconvene on Monday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. and study Psalms 137 and 138.

A nice thing about this class is that you are free to attend when you can, but to miss when you must without being thrown off track. We simply move on to the next Psalm. Welcome, everyone!

Pastor Fryer

### Congratulations on the Start of Seminary Studies

Two strong voices in our congregation have commenced seminary study at General Theological Seminary: Jim Miller begins his studies for the Masters of Divinity Degree, which is the usual degree for ordination to the holy ministry, and Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt begins his Masters of Sacred Theology studies, specializing in the area of Spiritual Direction.

Both Jim and Kelly-Ray sing in our Choir when they can. Jim also plays trumpet and cornetto and co-directs our Children’s Choir, along with Tiffany

Rosenquist de la Torre. Kelly-Ray not only sings in Immanuel’s Choir but in many fine choirs in metro New York. Also, he is a trusted supply pastor for us here at Immanuel.

General Theological Seminary, located in Chelsea here in town, is the oldest seminary of the Episcopal Church. Carol and I have special affection for this seminary because Carol trod the path a decade ago that Kelly-Ray is now starting. She earned her STM in Spiritual Direction in 2001 from General Seminary. We admire the

rich liturgical life of that seminary and the learning and piety of many of the faculty there.

Strong congratulations, Jim and Kelly-Ray!

Pastor Fryer

## Men's Room Renovation

Many thanks to Sexton Christopher Schulze for leading this past summer's renovation of our men's restroom. It is lovely now!

## Sky Vacation Bible School

"Everything is possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

August 20 – 24, 2012



Our recent Vacation Bible School



Matthias Bhasin, our youngest VBS student, with Pastor Fryer



Carrying the old rugged cross we use on Good Friday

Our VBS returned on wings to Immanuel Lutheran Church this year. We took off on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, and continued to soar through Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. It was a fun week of stories, games, crafts, music and snacks. At Sky VBS, kids discovered that by trusting God, everything is possible.

Many thanks to all those who took part in Sky VBS. We had 26 children, along with great teachers and helpers: VBS Director and teacher Karen Bazik; teacher Lara Simone-Bhasin; music teacher Sarah Chalfy; crafts teacher and photographer Jean Fischer; Crew Leaders Kirsten Kibler, Emma

O'Carroll and Kieran O'Carroll; Snack Hostess Fatima Stevenson; Behind-the-scene helper Barbara Chomko, Daily All-Around Helpers Charles Rao, Karen Rombey, and Amanda Schulze; and Part-time Helpers Lori Nitschke-Hansen, Victor Steinberg and Hans Stöhrer. Thank you, too, to Chris Schulze and Luis Cartagena for setting up the room for us and keeping it sparkling every day. A special thank you to Rev. Carol Fryer, who spoke to the children about her recent climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The children of our VBS collected \$56.86 for the Malaria Campaign.

## Block Party

Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hold the date! On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, Immanuel will have a Block Party, rain or shine. 88th Street will be closed to traffic all day from Park Avenue to Lexington Avenue. All the proceeds will go towards the Roof Fund and will be run by a professional company who will handle all the legal aspects of the setup. There will be street vendors who will rent ten-foot square spots, bringing us income, as well as our own spots.

Thus we will need volunteers to

work that day on our spots: the flea market table, book table, children's toys and clothes' table, as well as the Immanuel Cafe where we will sell food and baked goods. There will also be a raffle table so we will need someone to sell raffle tickets.

Please let Kathy Jolowicz know if you are interested in helping out by e-mailing her at [kaj133@aol.com](mailto:kaj133@aol.com) or calling 212/249-0125, or call Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office at 212/289-8128.

## The Art of the Early Keyboard Series

This year, ARTEK will present three Art of the Early Keyboard concerts featuring Immanuel Music Director Gwendolyn Toth and members of the ARTEK early music ensemble.

Scheidemann to Bach:

The Baroque Organ

Thursday, September 27, at 8 pm  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3 West  
65th Street

The first concert of the series will take place on September 27 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3 West 65th Street. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has a new temporary organ installed that is a beautiful historical copy of a baroque organ similar to the organs in Germany

- perfect for playing the music of German Lutheran composers such as Bach and his contemporaries. Secretary Karen Rombey has 50 free tickets for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. It's a great chance to hear perhaps the best Bach organ today in New York City, particularly as we begin to think about the future of organs at Immanuel Church. Gwendolyn Toth will play music by Scheidemann, Reincken, Pachelbel, Böhm, and Bach, as heard on her new CD "The Arp Schnitger Organ in Noordbroek". Copies of the CD will be available at the concert.

Please pick up your complimentary tickets from Karen soon!

## Sunday, October 7

Rev. Russell E. Saltzman, preaching

Pastor Carol Fryer: Her Mt. Kilimanjaro Adventure

I am eager for this particular Sunday. We have a guest preacher then, Rev. Russell E. Saltzman, who was longtime editor for *Forum Letter*, which is a popular Lutheran newsletter for clergy and theologians made famous by our own Richard John Neuhaus long ago. Russell is a friend and colleague from our days serving together on the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau (ALPB).

Then, during Coffee Hour, my wife, Carol, tells us about her climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro this past summer. She made a movie of her climb. It's a homemade thing, but I think it is great. You hear her breathing as she hikes

upward, you see her walking poles reaching out ahead of her, and she merrily chats all the way up. She loved every minute of the ascent, though the descent was hard on her knees and toes.

Carol climbed the great mountain as a fundraiser for the Malaria Campaign in Africa. If you would like to contribute to that campaign, make a check payable to "Metropolitan New York Synod" with "Kili Climb" in the memo. Here is the address:

Metropolitan New York Synod  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1620  
New York, NY 10115

Pastor Gregory Fryer

# Roof Update

Some Notes from Pastor Fryer

It has been an uplifting rhythm for more than two years now: each week I record the roof fund contributions. Quietly and gracefully our three-year roof fund campaign has been progressing. Week-by-week, Financial Secretary Barbara Lewis sets aside the roof fund contributions so that I can join her in keeping track of them. Soon I mean to mail out an update on our roof fund pledges.

It appears that construction for our new roof will begin about the time our fund campaign is set to end, next spring. Our Roof Committee has wrestled with the big question of when to actually begin the construction. Along the way, we successfully dealt with a major curveball: we had to hire an architectural firm and a structural engineer to confirm that our church tower and steeple are sound. They are, praise God, but the time it took to confirm that set back our original start

plan for this summer. If we begin this fall, we would face interrupting the work for the winter, when it is not safe to do such work. Rather than have scaffolding up all winter, we are aiming to begin the construction in early March next spring, and then accomplish the whole project in one glorious burst of work that summer of our church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We have been assured that an early March construction start will not hinder our Lent and Holy Week liturgies.

There will be more details on the roof project at our autumn Voters' Assembly, November 18. Meanwhile, please know that our Roof Committee is pleased with the way things are shaping up. We are honored by your roof fund contributions and very grateful for them.

Pastor Fryer