

Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128
1863-2013, and onwards!

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March 2013

A Word from the Pastor

The Third Celebration of Our 150th Year:

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17

Guest Preacher: Dr. David S. Yeago



One of America's Foremost Lutheran Theologians

What glorious years they were for Carol and me back in seminary days. To this very day we are pleased to think what we wish all seminarians could think: that we were in seminary during the “golden age” of our seminary—the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in our case. Rev. Dr. Robert W. Jenson was our Professor of Systematic Theology. Rev. Dr. Gerhard Krodel was Dean of the Faculty and a world-renowned New Testament scholar. Rev. Dr. Eric Gritsch was Professor of Reformation History and writing important books on Martin Luther.

And then there was David Yeago. David was not a member of the faculty. He was simply a seminarian like me. We entered seminary together. But he was not “simply a seminarian.” He was more like a distinguished theologian in his own right. What James Boswell said of Samuel Johnson is what can also be said of David Yeago: that intelligence is as evident in him as height would be in another man. But David is like our great teacher Robert Jenson: there is much more to him than intelligence. Even more important, there is vast learning. And most important, there is deep faith and love of Jesus Christ.

David’s abiding scholarly interest is in the Bible. David is part of the modern “Yale School” of theology. His doctor father was Dr. George Lindbeck. Dr. Lindbeck, along with esteemed Yale Professors Hans Frei and Brevard Childs (both now of blessed memory), along with a generation of influential graduate students like David Yeago are fighting for the life of the Bible in the church. They are urging a recovery of classical ways of reading the Bible, akin to the way Chrysostom, Augustine, Aquinas, and Luther read the Bible. They are sophisticated in modern historical/critical Bible scholarship, but always bend the results of such scholarship to a churchly reading of the Bible. This means that

their interpretations of the Bible remain mindful of the final, canonical form of the scriptural text, the creeds of the Church, and the overall flow of the Bible. What I once said of Dr. Lindbeck could also be said of Dr. Yeago: for all his credentials and accomplishments, he yearns for something that every Sunday School teacher desires: that we should be readers and lovers of the Bible.

David Yeago has preached here before. Most recently he preached on Reformation Sunday October 30, 2011. During Coffee Hour back then he offered a presentation on “The Desires of the Human Heart.” Recently I sent him a note inviting him to give another Coffee Hour presentation this time, March 17. His note back included this line:

I'll be glad to do a coffee hour presentation - the last time was one of the best experiences I've ever had in a congregation.

David is eager to be with us again, and I am certainly eager to see him again. Immanuel is an important congregation for many reasons. Among them is one I bet all congregations join us in saying for themselves: We cherish the Word of God here. We always have. It is part of the nature of this congregation. So, it seems right and lovely to me that we help celebrate our 150th anniversary by having distinguished preachers and theologians like David Yeago.

Anniversary Committee Chair Barbara Edwards is organizing a special Coffee Hour that day, so look for her as the time draws near. Please be with us that good day if at all possible.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Daylight Saving Time

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 9th. Alas, we lose an hour of sleep that Sunday morning, so let's prepare ourselves to dash off to church then.

Immanuel Children's Choir to sing on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

We'll be enjoying the delightful young voices of our Children's Choir under the direction of Tiffany Rosenquist de la Torre and Jim Miller during the liturgies on Palm Sunday (March 24th) and again on Easter Sunday morning (March 31st).

Music during Holy Week

The Immanuel Choir as always will present great sacred music from the Renaissance to the 21st century during our celebrations for Holy Week, including Bruckner's *Christus Factus Est* on Palm Sunday, Fauré's *Tantum Ergo* (with harp and soloist Paul Sigrist, tenor), Byrd's *Miserere* on Good Friday and *Haec Dies* on Easter Sunday; and the singing of the Passion on Good Friday with Gary Dimon, baritone, as the narrator.

As part of our Anniversary Celebration, there will also be a special concert on Good Friday, March 29, at 8:30 p.m.

Members of ARTEK join The Immanuel Lutheran Choir in a concert for Good

Friday, also taking place here at Immanuel, featuring Haydn's spectacular *Seven Last Words*. The work exists in many versions written, arranged, or approved by Haydn: orchestra, string quartet, choir and orchestra, and piano; a later 19th-century version also exists for four-hands piano. The concert will present the work in many of these different forms. Soloists will be Sarah Chalfy and Tiffany Rosenquist, sopranos; Juli Borst, mezzo-soprano; Michael Brown, tenor; Gary Dimon, baritone; Eric Edlund, bass; Dongsok Shin and Gwendolyn Toth, fortepiano; and instrumental ensemble from ARTEK. Free.

Midtown Concerts at Immanuel

Thursday, March 28, at 1:15 p.m.

Also during Holy Week ARTEK performs on *Midtown Concerts* here at Immanuel Lutheran Church - a special concert for Holy Week. Guest soloist Eric Brenner will

perform the beautiful *Stabat Mater* by Vivaldi and *Salve Regina* by Handel, accompanied by string ensemble and continuo from ARTEK. Free.

Holy Week at Immanuel

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24, 11 A.M.

Procession with Palms

Sunday Liturgy, with congregational reading of the Passion

Music by Bruckner, Wolf and Billings

Sermon by Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

HOLY WEDNESDAY,

MARCH 27

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28

1:15p.m. Midtown Concerts:

Music by Vivaldi and Handel

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, with Footwashing

Music by Duruflé, Fauré and Franck

Sermon by Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

7 pm Good Friday Liturgy with traditional chant Passion

Sermon by Rev. Thomas Green

Music by Byrd, Wolf and Victoria

8:30 pm Candlelight Concert

Seven Last Words by Haydn

Immanuel Choir and ARTEK

HOLY SATURDAY

MARCH 30

7 pm Easter Vigil with Brass

Music by Senfl, Gruber and Palestrina

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31

11 am Sunday Eucharist

Sermon by Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Music by Senfl, Byrd and Noyon

Christianity in Art

The poet William Blake called Prayer the study of Art, and Praise the Practice of Art. He believed that a Christian life was a life of artistic productivity.

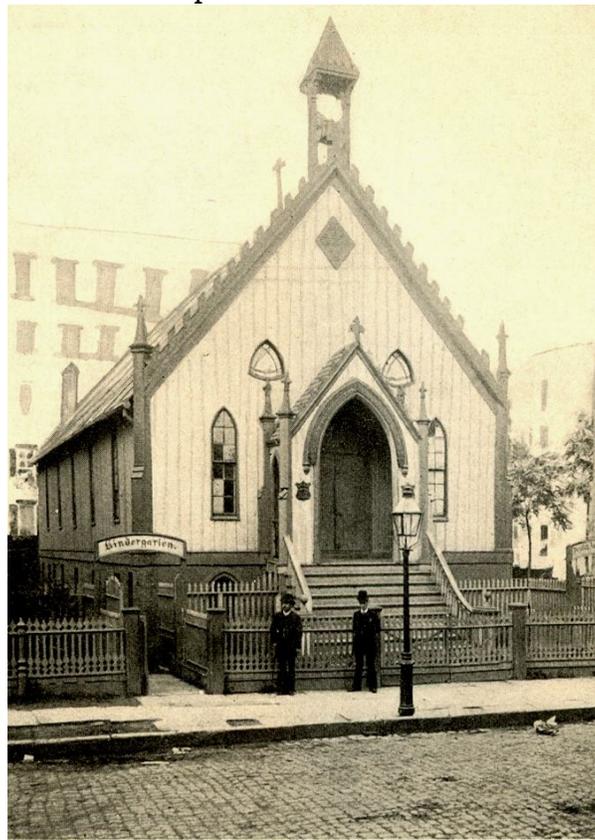
Our own John Wilson, who continues to be inspired by his teaching of the Book of Job, has prepared a showing of the art he has been inspired to create, partially as a result of his in-depth analysis of Job. Using construction debris such as wood, wire, asphalt shingle, and other found objects, John has sculpted crucifixions, angels, and other figures both sacred and secular.

Now, on the night of Saturday, March 23, 2013, John will display over a dozen of his works in the undercroft of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., there will be a wine and cheese reception, and the works will be for sale (a portion of the proceeds of the sale will be donated to the church).

For those unable to attend Saturday night, John has agreed to leave his work on display on Palm Sunday, through the end of Coffee Hour.

From Our Archives

- February 11, 1863 Immanuel Lutheran Church was organized. Pastor C.J. Renz was the founder and first pastor of our church. The congregation rented worship space in a Presbyterian Church on East 87th Street “between 3rd and 4th Aves.”
- December 6, 1865 “A sad day in Immanuel’s history. Dissension in the ranks of the voters of the congregation resulted in 52 of the members, together with the Pastor (Rev. C.J. Renz), leaving the meeting on this evening, and organizing another congregation. From this date until January 1912, there were two Immanuel congregations in Yorkville.” (From the 1923 anniversary booklet.) Pastor Renz and the departing congregation established Immanuel on 83rd Street. The remaining congregation called Rev. Louis Halfmann to be Pastor. First they settled on 87th Street and then they built our building on East 88th Street.)
- April 23, 1867 Immanuel bought four lots on East 87th Street, between Third and Lexington Avenues, for \$7,000.
- August 20, 1867 Immanuel [what would come to be called “Immanuel 88th Street”] bought a church building from the Dutch Reformed Congregation of Yorkville for \$3,000, and at a cost of \$700 moved it to the site on East 87th Street it had purchased:



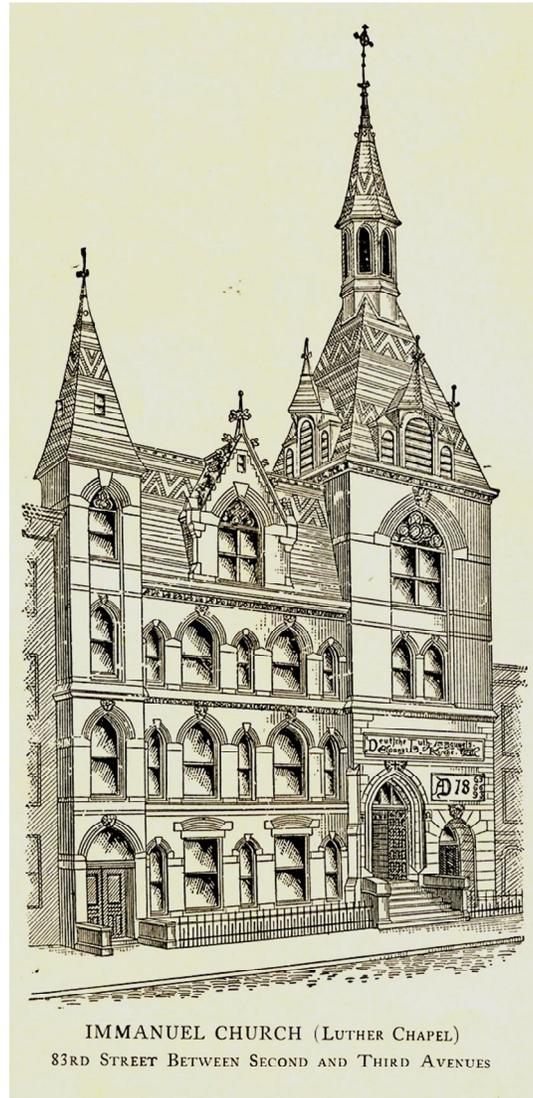
IMMANUEL CHURCH,
87TH STREET BETWEEN THIRD AND LEXINGTON AVENUES

January 27, 1866
Feb-July 1866

Immanuel 83rd Street decides to join the Missouri Synod.
Immanuel 83rd Street purchases two lots on East 83rd Street, between Second and Third Avenues, builds a frame church and a two-story parsonage next door.

September 1892
February 12, 1892
November 5, 1892

Immanuel 83rd Street razes the old church building
Laying of the cornerstone for the new church on East 83rd Street
Dedication of the new church with parsonage on East 83rd Street



(Now St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church, 211 East 83rd Street)

January 1912

Reunion of the two Immanuel Lutheran Churches of Yorkville. The church on 83rd became known as "Luther Chapel." Two years later Luther Chapel was offered for sale and on October 5 of that year, 1914, it was closed. English services and Sunday School now continued in the 88th Street Church.

“Some Ruminations on the Probable Cost of [Our East 88th Street Church] Building”
By Sr. Elinor Brunngräber

In 1876 an attempt was made to raise \$25,000 for a new church. But plans had to be postponed because of debt of nearly \$12,000. Fund drives and sale of a building erased the debt. By end of 1881 Immanuel starts with a clean slate: debt = \$0.

From 11-28-1884 to 5-5-1885, a total of \$41,475 was collected. If this fund drive followed the usual pattern – an additional \$2,000 could have dribbled in over the next 16 months. Thus, when the building was dedicated a total of \$43,475 could have been collected. One could round this off to an optimistic \$44,000. So I would suggest a sum between \$41,475 and \$44,000 was collected up to the point of dedicating the building.

Expenditures included the cost of land of \$26,500. The church cornerstone was laid on October 31, 1885 (Reformation Day). The church was completed and dedicated on Thanksgiving Day 1886. On February 13, 1898, Pastor William Schoenfeld was installed as Pastor. He inherited a building debt of \$38,000 as well as deficits of \$2000-\$3000. I can find no record of major “building” expenditure from 1886 to 1898. The new “Annex” was bought in 1905. It was a time when a large number of people broke away to start the 84th Street parish. There was great pessimism to raise funds when Schoenfeld suggested it in 1898. I suspect the debt reduction was minimal during 1886 and 1898. With a special drive by the new pastor and the increasing economic level of the community the debt was reduced by \$9,000 during 1898 and 1913. This period also included the purchase of an organ, interior church decorated completely, electric lights installed and \$8,000 raised for purchase of house.

So ...	\$44,000 from fund raising
	<u>\$38,000 borrowed</u>
	\$82,000 total funds available
	<u>-\$26,500 land (legal fees free)</u>
	\$55,500 building cost

This at a time when Ford was paying \$8 for a 9 hour day.