

Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

Eighty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan

www.immanuelnyc.org

Our 150th Anniversary. 1863-2013, and onwards!

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June/July 2013

A Word from the Pastor

Echo of an Exhortation

Pastor Arthur R. Kleps

The Fifth Pastor of Immanuel 88th Street, 1929-1948



Pastors David Lotz, Raymond Schulze, and Arthur Kleps (sitting)
Immanuel's 115th Anniversary, 1978

In Immanuel Lutheran Church's 150 years, the 88th Street church has had nine senior pastors. I am the ninth. The 83rd Street Immanuel Church had eight pastors in its short history, stretching from 1867 to 1912 when the two Immanuel's were reunited here at 88th Street.

You might be interested to see the list of Immanuel's nine senior pastors. Ann Siemer put together this list:

1863-1865	Rev. C.J. Renz
1866-1897	Rev. Louis Halfmann
1898-1919	Rev. William Schoenfeld
1919-1928	Rev. George F. Schmidt
1929-1948	Rev. Arthur R. Kleps
1949-1958	Rev. George Wehmeyer
1959-1968	Rev. Robert E. Wiltenburg
1970-1990	Rev. Raymond C. Schulze
1991-	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Pastor Halfmann gets the award from the longest service: 31 years.

Alongside these senior pastors, it is right also to list Rev. Dr. David Lotz, who served as Pastoral Associate of Immanuel from 1974-2001. For twenty-seven years he was a rock, a shepherd, and a high adornment for our congregation.

During this 150th anniversary year, I have been having fun looking at Immanuel's archives. Let me share with you something I found: an exhortation from Pastor Arthur Kleps. This is from the *Immanuel Messenger*, October 1934:

Resolve with the help of God to make the coming season a profitable one for your soul. Come to church regularly. Don't neglect Holy Communion. Pray. Avail yourself of every opportunity to build up your spiritual life. The day is surely coming when you will regret your irregular church attendance, your indifference to the Bible, your contempt of the help offered you through the societies of the church, your refusal to take an active part in the building of God's kingdom here on earth. Begin now. "Let us work while it is day ere the night cometh when no man can work."

Notice that Pastor Kleps was pastor during trying times in our land. He began his ministry toward the end of the Roaring Twenties, but most of his ministry here was spent during the Great Depression and World War II. The above exhortation was written in the midst of the Depression, with no relief in sight at that point. You will see that Pastor Kleps wastes no time on small talk. He wants to save souls. Though I never met him and know him only through things longtime members have said about him, still I admire him greatly and I am glad to add my Amen to his exhortation.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Voters' Assembly

Sunday, June 23rd

Our Voters' Assembly will be held this coming Sunday, June 23, following the Liturgy: At this meeting we will hear the Treasurer's Report, and reports from the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, the Endowment Fund Committee and the Pastor. 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.*

An Update on Our Roof Project

Pastor Fryer

Our Roof Committee joins you in being eager for the Voters' Assembly noted just above. The sequence of events leading to our new roof is starting to move steadily ahead, and we hope to have some cost details for you at this Voters' Assembly, June 23.

The work of the Roof Committee has been long and careful. Toward the end of the process of choosing our Project Manger, I sometimes felt that I was in over my head when it came to the many details of interview, negotiation, insurance, and refinements of the contract. I am awfully grateful for the legal, architectural, and structure expertise of members of our committee: Evelyn Junge, Richard Charlton, Darryl Scherba, Christopher Schulze, Christine Hoffman until recently, and myself. We have surveyed the roof and the steeple. We have received encouraging reports from the structural engineer, and we hope that all the front-end work done by the Roof Committee will help make the project go smoothly.

I think you will be pleased with the Project Manger to whom we have entrusted our roof project: John G. Waite Associates (<http://www.jgwaarchitects.com/>.) Mr. Waite himself has joined some of our meetings, and he will serve as a great force and resource for the project. But also we are delighted with architect Nancy Rankin, who is a principle in the firm and serves as the lead local architect for our project, along with her assistant Lyndon Julien-Sehl. Both Nancy and Lyndon have been climbing all over our church, with Lyndon even joining Sexton Christopher Schulze in climbing on narrow walkways *above* our Transfiguration painting, above our chancel. That's way up there!

We have a slate roof on our church and we hope to replace it with slate. But, naturally, the overall cost of the project depends on the choice of roof materials. We should be finding out about these things at this Voters' Assembly, June 23. So please attend if you can.

Greetings from former members

From Rev. M. Charles Groth

May 07, 2013 - Parma, Ohio

Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

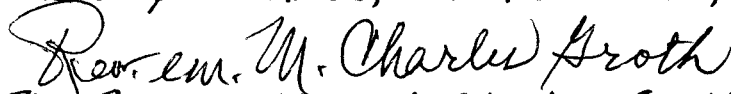
The Lord has blessed me through almost fifty-two years of Holy Ministry. It was my privilege to serve as Vicar under late Pastor Robert Wittenburg 1959-1960. To this day I rejoice in still receiving your monthly newsletter.

I continue to serve as I am able here in Holy Trinity Church, Parma, assisting each Sunday our Pastor J. Milligan.

What a joy it is for me to present to you the enclosed check to Immanuel Roof Fund in the amount of \$ 200.00, in loving Memory of my dear wife, Barbara Zilke Groth, who went to be with the Lord on March 28, 2012, after almost fifty-one years of Holy Marriage.

Immanuel Church continues to remain in my prayers. May God bless Pastor Fryar and the congregation in its ministry till Christ returns.

Sincerely in Christ, our Risen Lord,


The Rev. emeritus M. Charles Groth.

From Ilona R. Ries

Congratulations to Immanuel for sharing the Gospel for 150 years and continuing to do so. God's Blessings, Peace and Love be with you.

From former Assistant Pastor Rev. John F. Panning

He writes with some sad news

We have received a letter from Australia advising us of the death of Dorothy Hamann. Her family requested that we advise Immanuel congregation of her passing. Dorothy was a faithful teacher and choir member in the 1950's and 60's. Some long-time members will likely remember her. She lived in Australia these last twenty plus years. Her father was the president of a Lutheran seminary there; and her brother served as professor and president of the same school. Her uncle, Alex Hamann, was a faithful member of Immanuel. I do not know when he died.

I served at Immanuel as an Assistant Pastor (with George Wehmeyer) from 1953 through 1955. In those days the Third

Avenue Elevated was still surrounded by railroad-style flats as affordable housing for German immigrants. 86th Street was still known as Sauerkrautstrasse. There were three morning worship services, the middle service in the German language with 100 to 200 German-speaking worshippers. I have not been to Yorkville for some years but am aware that the ethnic population has changed tremendously. I remember the Brunngraeber family and the Quirongs. And, of course, Ann Siemer. The Lord Jesus continue to bless your work and keep you safely in His care.

John F. Panning, Emeritus
Holland, Michigan

Block Party – Saturday, September 28

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

By popular demand, we will have another Block Party, on Saturday, September 28th, 2013, rain or shine. 88th Street will once again be closed to traffic all day from Park Avenue to Lexington Avenue. All the proceeds will go towards the Roof Fund. Again we will have our own tables where we will sell items.

Thus we will need volunteers to work that day on our spots: the flea market table, book/art table, kids market, and the Immanuel Cafe where we will sell food and baked goods. There will also be live music. Even though the official time of the Block

Party is from 11- 5, the street will be closed off at 7a.m. so the vendors can set up, and pedestrians start looking for things to buy, volunteers will be needed the whole day to set up, work, and break down. We should start no later than 9 a.m. and we start breaking down at 5 p.m. If you wish to be involved, please mark your calendars and plan your time.

We will need donations of home and personal accessories, books, toys and children's' clothing and children's clothes hangers (NO ADULTS CLOTHING PLEASE), and baked goods.

Please let Kathy Jolowicz know if you are interested in being a part of the Block Party Committee, or wish to donate to our tables at kaj133@aol.com, 212/249-0125, (during

July use email address), or Karen Rombey in the church office (212-289-8128), and Maria Van Der Merwe- for baked goods.

“Calling All Artists” Art Exhibit during Block Party, September 28

You may remember that our own John Wilson held an art show in our undercroft the night of March 23rd. John has been inspired to work in wire, construction debris, and other “found” materials to create angels, biblical figures, and other works, both religious and secular.

Well, the show was a great success, not to mention a great deal of fun for John and those in attendance. In fact, John intends on displaying more of his work during our block party, scheduled for Saturday, September 28th.

John is not the only artist in our congregation. So he is hoping the other artists of Immanuel will join him in displaying their work during the Block Party.

If you wish to display and sell your work during the block party, contact Karen Rombey in the church office as soon as possible.

Let us mention too, that if you would follow John Wilson’s good example, 50% of the proceeds of the sale of your work will go to Immanuel to help support our Roof Fund or our Sunday School.

Looking Ahead: Heritage Sunday

September 29, 2013

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

With former Assistant Pastor Leonard Klein, preaching

If you live elsewhere in this great land of ours, but could plan a vacation to our city, please consider joining us for our big homecoming Sunday for this, our 150th anniversary year. We hope to reproduce elements from olden times, including the Elizabethan language of the 1941 *The Lutheran Hymnal*, an eminent former pastor preaching – Fr. Leonard Klein – and perhaps even the gray morning coats for the ushers like in the old days. Also, we are planning to enjoy another of the popular banquets prepared by our member John Stevenson. So, please plan to join us that day if you can.

Monday Morning Devotions At the Start of the Work Week

10 minutes, 8 a.m. most Monday Mornings



Little does the city know it, but here at Immanuel we gather on Monday mornings for prayer for the labors of our city. So, we are like the monasteries and convents, where little-known monastics pray for the world beyond their walls.

We started these work week liturgies this past May. Perhaps you would like to see my notes on our first service:

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer
Immanuel Lutheran Church, New York, NY
5/20/2013, Monday of the First Week of Pentecost
Jesus, the Carpenter's Son

[Welcome, everyone, to the first of our Monday Morning Devotions. We are gathering for about ten minutes at the start of the work week, and our main job now is to pray for the labors of our city this week.

Some of you are members of this congregation. I am grateful to you for attending. Some of you are not members here: If you have your own pastors, then think of me simply as your second or third pastor. And if you do not have a pastor, then now you do, if you want. The worship folder for this service has my email address on it, so write to me sometime.

In most cases, I plan to take one of the assigned Bible passages for the week, and comment on it from the point of view of vocation — bending it in the direction of our jobs. But for this first session, I want simply to point to Jesus as someone who knows what a life of labor is like.]

HOLY SCRIPTUREMatthew 13:54-56, KJV

And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, inasmuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? ⁵⁵Is not this *the carpenter's son*? is not his mother called Mary? and his

brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? (Matthew 13:54-56, KJV)

SERMON

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jesus was a worker in this world. He conducted his ministry with focus, unsparing of himself. In fact, the Bible says that at one point, his friends tried to intervene and whisk Jesus away, because they feared that he was overdoing it and wearing himself out:

²⁰And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. ²¹And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. (Mark 3:20-21, KJV)

At another point, Jesus explains his passion for his work by saying that time was awastin' and that he meant to work while he had the chance:

⁴I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. (John 9:4, KJV)

So, our Lord Jesus was a worker in this world. He worked hard at his holy ministry.

But I take some satisfaction in thinking that Jesus was a worker who knew ordinary kind of work too. He knew good, old-fashioned labor, earning his living by the sweat of his brow. The Bible says that Jesus began his ministry at age 30. But what was he doing before that? Why, he was “the carpenter’s son.” That is, he probably worked in the village carpentry shop—the shop of Joseph, Mary’s husband and the Protector of the Holy Family.

That meant that Jesus knew about wood and about tools — about planes and saws and clamps. His hands were probably rough and nicked and calloused. He knew about the satisfaction of falling into bed at the end of a good day of work in this world.

And the gospel is that reality is in the hands of this man! He knows what work is like. He knows what *your* work is like. Try to work in his spirit this week. Strive for excellence in your work. Love your neighbor in this good, old-fashioned way: by doing this week’s work with integrity. In the name of our great Laborer, even Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom belongs the glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Be with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land obedient to your will; and to all of us, give pride in what we do and a just return for our labor; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord

☛ Thanks be to God.

Lectio Divina Spiritual Practice

Most Second Sundays here at the church

Beginning 4 p.m. July 14, 2013

Led by Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt

Followed by Vespers at 5 p.m.

Introduction by Pastor Fryer

It was the splendid idea of Barbara Edwards, Chair of our 150th Anniversary Committee: that we do something big along spiritual lines to celebrate our church's anniversary. Thanks to Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt, we are in store for such a good step.

You know his beautiful singing voice because he sings in the Immanuel Choir when he can. And you know the excellence of his preaching and the grace of his presiding, because he has done both for us here at Immanuel. Simply put, Rev. Meritt is one of the most learned and devout clergy I know. He has been serving an interim

ministry in Ankara, Turkey, where I think he has experienced full measure of both inspiration to be in that ancient land of the church and suffering along with the native people of Turkey during these troubled times. He is scheduled to be back in NYC soon, to preach and preside here at Immanuel on Sunday July 7 and to begin his spiritual practices instruction on July 14. Following the instruction at 4 p.m., we are invited to Evensong at 5 p.m.

Here are notes from Rev. Meritt describing his instruction in spiritual practices:

Second Sundays 2013-2014

4:00 p.m. Group Spiritual Practice: *Lectio Divina*

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

[*Festival Sundays: 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer only (no scheduled Group Spiritual Practice)*]

===== 2013 =====

14th July: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost [*introductory narrated sessions*]

11th August: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8th September: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

13th October: Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

[*3rd November: All Saints Sunday*]

10th November: Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Third Sunday before Advent

8th December: Second Sunday in Advent

===== 2014 =====

[*5th January: Eve of the Epiphany of our Lord*]

12th January: Baptism of our Lord/First Sunday after Epiphany

9th February: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

[*2nd March: Transfiguration of our Lord/closing of the 150th anniversary year*]

9th March: First Sunday in Lent
13th April: Sunday of the Passion of our Lord
[20th April: Resurrection of our Lord]
11th May: Seventh Sunday in Paschaltide
8th June: The Day of Pentecost

Sunday Vespers and Group Spiritual Practice, two new opportunities for spiritual growth and enrichment, will be offered at Immanuel Lutheran Church, beginning in the 150th anniversary year. The Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt, known to the congregation as an occasional chorister and a guest preacher, will facilitate both of these on the second Sunday of each month.

Evening Prayer at the beginning (Saturday) and at the end (Sunday) of the Lord's Day is described as early as the second century as a normal part of Christian worship, but the roots of the service go back to Jewish afternoon prayers (*Mincha*) from the time of the Babylonian Exile (6th century B.C.), which in turn commemorated—after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Temple and its altar in Jerusalem—the offering of incense as the last sacrifice of each day, a practice which goes back to the time of King David (10th century B.C.), even before his son built the Temple. When St. Benedict established the regular pattern of seven prayer “hours” daily (6th century A.D.) which became normative for monastic communities throughout the Western Church, he recognized “first and second Vespers of Sundays” as the most important times of prayer apart from the Sunday celebration of the Holy Eucharist, confirming what was already the long-established practice in cathedrals and many parish churches and pious households. Reformation movements in Germany, England, and other parts of Europe worked to simplify the monastic practice, making daily morning and evening devotions the standard for all Christian households, especially as literacy and printed books became more common. Sunday Vespers, however, was preferred by the

Lutheran church orders as the second service (after the Mass) in the great churches, as a second time when God's Word could be publicly proclaimed.

Sunday Vespers will be offered here at Immanuel on the second Sunday of each month, following the form of the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, with variations to mark the Church's round of seasons and festivals. Alternate music, suitable for unaccompanied singing, will be used. There will also be festive celebrations of Sunday Vespers on All Saints Sunday, and (in 2014) Epiphany Eve, Transfiguration Sunday (the closing of the 150th anniversary year), and Easter. In 2014, the Day of Pentecost occurs on the second Sunday of June, and so will conclude this annual cycle.

Luther's *Small Catechism* instructs us that the primary form of prayer is petition, as we practice whenever we repeat the Lord's Prayer or offer intercessory prayers at the Sunday Eucharist. Alongside intercession, there is a long-standing practice of devotional prayer among Christians, seeking guidance or strength to follow Christ's example and contemplating the presence of God in the believer's life. St. Paul urges the congregation in Thessaloniki to “pray without ceasing.” (1 Th 5:17) Our Lord frequently set the example of withdrawing from public ministry for periods of extended prayer out of sight of the crowds, sometimes hidden even from his inner circle of apostles: “Your heavenly Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.” (Matt 6:6) Great saints have experimented with various forms of such contemplative prayer, leaving us a rich repertory of forms they have found useful for spending time in God's presence. Some of these practices are better for individuals,

while some may be adapted to groups seeking to encourage each other in developing their shared prayers and meditations.

Before Vespers, on the second Sunday of each month, a Group Spiritual Practice will begin at 4:00 p.m., ending in a period of silence leading to Sunday Vespers. The first sessions will use, as the initial practice, *Lectio divina* (Latin for “Divine Reading” although it could signify “reading with God’s eyes” or “engaging sacred texts in a way that recognizes their special character”), partly because it is easily adaptable to groups of various sizes, partly because it was a popular form of prayer in the late Middle Ages and so, familiar to most of the Lutheran Reformers, who often continued to use it in their private prayers. In later sessions, if participants concur, other spiritual practices may be presented, such as St. Ignatius’ method of engaging all the senses imaginatively, or the Quaker practice of using intense silence to discern the will of God.

The first official sessions of both Group Spiritual Practice (at 4:00 p.m.) and Sunday

Vespers (at 5:00 p.m.) will begin 11th August, halfway into the 150th anniversary of the organizing of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and continue on the second Sunday of each month into mid-2014. For those who would like to “pre-view” either program—or who have questions to pose before they commit themselves—“narrated,” or explanatory, sessions of both Group Spiritual Practice and of Sunday Vespers will be offered Sunday 14th July. Many participants will wish to participate in both the Group Spiritual Practice and Sunday Vespers, but those who prefer one or the other are free to attend only the part that interests them.

Pastor Meritt has served in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a mission developer in western Québec, a parish pastor in the South Bronx, and a chaplain at the VA Medical Center in the Bronx. He is returning to Immanuel and to the Spiritual Direction Program at General Theological Seminary following six months as Interim Pastor of the Lutheran Congregation of Ankara in Turkey.

Pizza and a Movie

Coffee Hour, July 14

Note from Pastor Fryer

For fun, let’s watch a movie on our big-screen t.v. during Coffee Hour, Sunday, July 14. The movie is a favorite one for Carol and me: *Young@Heart*. It’s about elderly folk up in Northampton, Massachusetts who sing rock and roll.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young@Heart_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young@Heart_(film))

The singers range in age from 70 to 90s, and you can hardly help but develop affection for them as the movie goes along.

Chris Schulze will arrange for pizza. No one else is using the undercroft that afternoon, so we can stay and have a nice time.

Manoela Tiana Andriatsiafara to be ordained in Madagascar

Congratulations to our member Manoela Tiana Andriatsiafara on his recent graduation from seminary and ordination to the holy ministry of Word and Sacrament. Earlier this year we said the prayers of farewell and

Godspeed for Manoela Tiana as he returned to Madagascar to complete his studies. His wife Josiane and daughter Elisa have been with us here at Immanuel, and join us in eagerly awaiting Manoela Tiana's return.

Vacation Bible School "Kingdom Rocks"

August 19 - 23, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

It's nearing the time for our VBS, "Kingdom Rocks: Where Kids Stand Strong for God." Join our knights in training as they make exciting discoveries and strengthen their faith. We'll be transforming the undercroft into a giant castle as we study the stories of the kings and queens of the Bible. Through songs, games, crafts, Bible Buddies and videos, we'll learn about God's love and how it helps kids stay strong. Our VBS will be held during the week of August 19 - 23

from 10 a.m. to 12:30 pm. All children ages 3 - 10 are welcome. To register please call Karen Rombey in the church office (212) 289-8128.

We really need adult volunteers. If anyone is able to come and help, we would appreciate it. We will also be finishing our decorating on Sunday, August 18, and setting up, so anyone coming to Coffee Hour that day would be welcome to help.