



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

Rev. Gregory P. Fryer, Pastor
Email: gp Fryer@gmail.com

(212) 289-8128, church phone
(212) 828-3665, church fax

October 2013

A Word from the Pastor

Reformation Sunday

October 27, 2013

The Culmination of Our 150th Anniversary Celebrations

As I was eager for last month's Heritage Sunday, so am I eager for this month's Reformation Sunday. It promises to be the culmination and highest peak of Immanuel's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Over the years, we have often been blessed with a sermon by a distinguished theologian on Reformation Sunday. For most of my years, that sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. David W. Lotz, Washburn Professor *Emeritus* of Church History at Union Theological Seminary and longtime and beloved Pastoral Associate here at Immanuel.

Sometimes, the sermon has been preached by other friends of our congregation, including Lutheran theologians Robert W. Jenson and David S. Yeago.

This year, the sermon is being prepared by David Yeago, but preached by me. It will be my first time back in Immanuel's pulpit since my open-heart surgery back in August. If David Yeago could be with us, it would be much better for him to preach the sermon. (It would also be more fun because of his charming southern accent.) But he cannot be with us this Reformation Sunday, so he is preparing a sermon for us on Psalm 46, and I will preach it in his stead.



Psalm 46 starts off this way:

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

This is the Psalm that inspired Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." We can look forward to that hymn and to much moving music this Reformation Sunday.

Later in this issue of *The Messenger*, I recall with gratitude the liturgy and banquet for Heritage Sunday. When it was all done, I sent a note to Music Director Gwendolyn Toth thanking her and the Immanuel Choir for the beauty they lent to the day. They were magnificent, in my opinion. Gwen simply wrote back, "Just wait!" Judging by her article about the Bach music planned for Reformation Sunday, I believe her!

Two final good things about that day: First, my wife, Pastor Carol Fryer, is scheduled to be the Presiding Minister for the liturgy. This will save some of my strength, but better than that, will add beauty to the liturgy.

And second, Music Director Thomas Schmidt of Saint Peter's Church, Lexington Avenue and 54th Street, plans to be with us Reformation Sunday afternoon to help us with our Hymn Sing. Thomas will play our organ, which will free Gwen to direct us. He is well known for his work at Saint Peter's and his accompaniments of the hymns are sure to inspire us.

This, then, will be the sequence for this good day: Reformation Sunday liturgy with sermon by David Yeago and music by Bach, followed by a John Stevenson banquet, followed by a Hymn Sing. That will be it: the end of what I consider to be a splendid year celebrating the 150th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Please plan to be part of this majestic festival, banquet, and afternoon Hymn Sing this Reformation Sunday, October 27th.

It will be good to see you in church, as often as possible.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Special Music for Reformation Sunday

As the capstone of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, our Reformation Day service will be enhanced by sublime Lutheran music by Johann Sebastian Bach, one of the great composers of all time.

Our own wonderful choir will be supplemented by a period instrument ensemble of strings, winds, trumpets, and timpani in order to present festive music from Bach's cantatas. In the tradition of Bach's time, cantata #194, *Höchstererwünschtes Freudenfest* ("O Greatly Longed-For Feast of Joy"), will be played before the sermon. The cantata was written originally in 1723 for the dedication of a new church and organ in Störmthath, Germany. It was performed at least 4 different times (in different versions) during Bach's lifetime. There is a joyous opening chorus: "O Most Lovely Feast of Joy", followed by solos for alto (sung by Juli Borst), soprano (sung by Sarah Chalfy), duet for soprano/bass (sung by Tiffany Rosenquist and Gary Dimon); the congregation will be invited to join in the singing of the final chorale.

Other special choral music by Bach that day includes the final chorus, *Christe du*

Lamm Gottes from Cantata #23 during communion, and settings from Cantata 129 (*O Gott du Frommer Gott*) and Cantata 80 (*Ein Feste Burg*) as verses for our opening and closing hymns that day.

Our Children's Choir, led by Tiffany Rosenquist and James Miller, will sing the lovely chorale by Bach, *Liebster Jesu* ("Dearest Jesus") during our offertory. The instrumental ensemble will also play movements from the *Organ Concerto in D minor* and from the *Suite #3 in D major (Air on a G string)* and *Suite #4 in D major (La Rejouissance)* for prelude, postlude, and at communion. The instruments will also join in our Lutheran Chorale service music for Reformation Sunday.

A complete cantata in place of our usual Hymn of the Day will add some extra time to our service. In Bach's day, apparently the congregation often arrived late during the cantata! But we know that our modern and joyful congregation will want to arrive by 10:45 a.m. in order not to miss any of our wonderful Anniversary celebration of worship and music.

Thank You for Heritage Sunday

Some Notes from Pastor Gregory Fryer

I can hardly bring myself to move on to Reformation Sunday and the following Sundays without lingering some with Heritage Sunday, this past September 29th. As one of our members put it, singing the 1941 liturgy from *The Lutheran Hymnal* was like an "old shoe that was easy to slip back into."

This is true. Still, much credit goes to Immanuel's Choir and to Presiding Minister Kelly-Ray Meritt for the grace and strength with which we were able to sing that old, noble liturgy.

Let me lift up a few details of that liturgy. First, didn't Ed Indelicati, Al Quirong, Chris Schulze, Dan Franzese, and Bobby Franzese look spiffy in the grey morning coats they wore as greeters and ushers that day?

Second, let us appreciate the hymn *Lord God, Your Church on Earth*. This is an Immanuel hymn. It reflects the grace given by God to some of our members over the years. The text was composed by Pastor David Lotz, which means that the text was

rich in Biblical reference, Trinitarian in structure, and uplifting throughout. The tune was composed by former Music Director Charles Schramm. Even if you do not know that dear man, you might well recognize his name since many of the Psalm tunes we cherish here at Immanuel were composed by him. And the name of the tune – WEHMEYER – salutes Charles Schramm’s first organ teacher and friend, William Wehmeyer, Music Director at Charles’ boyhood church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Long Island City, and eventually Music Director here at Immanuel. So, that hymn is rather a family hymn for us here at Immanuel, but worthy of being sung in congregations throughout the land, in my opinion.

And the third thing I would like to lift up from the Heritage Sunday liturgy is the sermon. Former Associate Pastor Leonard Klein’s splendid sermon is available online at our church website:

http://www.immanuelnyc.org/sermons/20130929_Heritage%20Sunday_sermon.pdf. It

was a beautiful sermon for its combination of faithfulness to the appointed Bible readings for the day and its appreciation of Immanuel’s particular history and heritage.

Now let me turn to the banquet in the undercroft afterwards. First, many thanks to Chef John Stevenson, to Sexton Chris Schulze, to Anniversary Committee Chair Barbara Edwards, and to the many volunteers who set up and waited on tables and cleaned up afterwards.

Second, let me point to the two stars of the banquet: Susan Crosbie and Ann Siemer. Let me begin with Susan. Earlier this year Susan wrote to us with the wonderful news about the historic light fixtures she was giving our church. I asked Susan for permission to print her letter here, it so much pleased me:

Dear Pastor Fryer,

Greetings from Pennsylvania!

I am excited to be getting news of Immanuel’s upcoming 150th Anniversary as Immanuel once was the home church of my mother, Ann Elizabeth Maurer Crosbie. Mom was baptized, confirmed and married at Immanuel all many years ago. In her youth she was good friends with your beloved Ann Siemer.

In honor of Immanuel’s 150 years and my Mom’s 90th birthday, I would like to make a special yet different type of donation to the church. Back in 1969 when the blasting damage was done, some of the stained-glass windows were also damaged. Immanuel held an “off year” Anniversary celebration supper and fund-raiser. My family came in from New Jersey for the event. My father, George Crosbie, bought a 5-dollar box of broken stained glass along with homemade cookies and a cake. My father too had a heart for Immanuel. Over several months Dad went from one stained-glass studio to another trying to find someone who could make “something” out of the glass. Always the story was that the glass was too old, too dirty and too small. Dad spent a lot of time scraping grey gunk from the edges of the larger pieces. And he persisted until he found a glass studio that would take on the project.

The studio artist stated that the glass itself would dictate what could be made. Months later Dad brought home two different hanging light fixtures. They are beautiful and have hung in every home my parents owned.

Dad passed away 30 years ago and Mom is now in an Alzheimer’s Home. When her home went on the market, I had the fixtures taken down. They are too precious to leave behind.

I now offer them to Immanuel and hope they can again be a part of a fund-raiser in this Anniversary year. I know someone with a heart for Immanuel will appreciate them for the history and beauty of the glass. There is no one to pass them onto in my family.

The artist said his vision was modern because of the usable pieces we had. He used a lot of red because it was a high quality red containing a lot of gold. I hope you share my vision for these fixtures.

Susan Crosbie

Susan included photos of these light fixtures. If you can view this newsletter on our website, you will see their beautiful colors:



Hanging light fixture



Overhead view of flushmount ceiling fixture

Carol and I took a pleasant drive to Pennsylvania to retrieve these light fixtures, which permitted us to meet Susan, her mother Ann, her sister Jane, and family friend Marcia Rudat (Jeff's mother). We did not want to trust shipping the fixtures. It was much more fun to get them and to meet the family.

So, Heritage Sunday was the debut of these historic fixtures. Chris Schulze walked around the tables of the banquet showing

them off. Our congregational leaders will figure out a fundraising method for them, but it pleased me to at least show them to the many members, both current and former, who attended Immanuel on Heritage Sunday.

The other star of the show was Ann Siemer. Neither Susan Crosbie nor Ann was able to be present for Heritage Sunday, but their presence was certainly felt and enjoyed anyway. Ann is now ninety-eight years old. She lives at the Plattduetsche Home on Long

Island. Ann spoke to us by way of a videotape. I had simply set the camera before her, asked her to introduce herself, and then to reminisce about Immanuel. What wonderful words! One of our people referred to Ann's speech as "the sermon of a life time." Among other things, Ann spoke movingly about the children's Sunday School song "Jesus Loves Me This I Know." And

that was the hymn we closed on. We all stood in the banquet and like children sang the old precious truth: Jesus loves me.

Thank you to everyone who attended Heritage Sunday and to all who worked to make it such a good day.

Pastor Fryer

"Second Sunday" Evening Worship

Second Sundays and some Holy Days here at the church.

Next one on October 13th, beginning at 5 p.m.

Led by Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt

Preceded by Group Spiritual Practice at 4 p.m. on Second Sundays

Psalms for Sunday Evening

I mentioned in the notes to Evening Prayer that we were following the four-week Roman Cycle. That calls for a bit of explanation. But first it should be emphasized that the Psalms (and the Canticles or Odes from the Old and New Testaments composed in the form of Psalms) are the heart and core of the daily prayer of the Church. As Christians pray these sacred songs, we come to hear Christ Jesus himself praying through our words, which are indeed his Word. The great themes of the Psalms – the just person who yearns for the Torah, the Shepherd-King, the Savior of the oppressed or persecuted, the Fortress-Rock, the Temple, the Wilderness and the Land of Promise, the pilgrim ascending Mt. Zion, the deliverance of the sick or guilt-burdened – all these find their fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I hope you will join us for Sunday Vespers this Sunday, October 13th, at 5 p.m., as we practice being faithful psalmists, singing our thanksgiving for the Word that saves and sustains us.

You are welcome, too, to join the meditation group at 4 p.m., just before

Sunday Vespers. Using the ancient technique of *Lectio divina* we practice various ways of reading a single text, mindful of the Holy Spirit's ongoing work of inspiration as we receive the Word. We are also mindful of the other group participants, our appreciation of God's Word amplified through the hearts and minds of the others who meditate with us.

Back to the question of which Psalms we use on a particular Sunday evening.

The 1970's were a time of vigorous liturgical renewal, as all sacramentally-oriented Christians were eager to re-examine their forms of public prayer. Roman Catholics were searching for a dignified English vernacular to replace worship in Latin; Lutherans and Episcopalians were trying out contemporary forms of spoken English, to supplement the language of Thomas Cranmer's prayers and the Authorized ("King James") Bible of 1607. The language changes developed in the context of liturgical scholarship uncovering the common roots of Christian worship before the controversies of the Reformation

and of pastoral concern to respond faithfully to the social and political turmoil of the era.

This decade produced three great monuments of the renewal movement. In 1975 G.I.A. published *Worship II*, an expanded updating of its first effort to translate Roman Catholic Latin rites into English and provide a high quality selection of hymns for the people to sing at Mass. The Episcopalians produced a completely contemporary rite in 1976, ratified three years later as the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*, with liturgical music and hymns following close behind as *The Hymnal 1982*. The major four North American Lutheran church bodies, forming the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship, published the *Lutheran Book of Worship* in 1978.

For the first time in North America the work of liturgical revision was done with broad-based testing and review among the congregations, and also with a strong commitment to ecumenical cooperation. As these books were implemented, Lutheran worshipers visiting an Anglican or Roman Catholic Sunday Mass at the end of the twentieth century would find the liturgy to be nearly identical with what they experienced in their home congregations. All three churches experienced more frequent celebrations of the Eucharist – and more frequent reception of Communion by the faithful – but there was a simultaneous disappearance of public celebrations of Morning and Evening Prayer.

Following the Rule of St. Benedict of the sixth century, monastic communities prayed all 150 Psalms every week, divided among the seven or eight prayer offices each day. Cathedral and parish communities, unable to meet so frequently would choose favorite or seasonal psalms for Morning and Evening Prayer especially on the Lord's Day and other holy days. The Anglican Reformation combined the two, presuming Morning and Evening Prayer daily with the Psalms divided

over the thirty days of each month, roughly averaging two and a half Psalms and two Canticles for each service. In the revisions of the 1970's, Episcopalians rearranged the Psalms over seven weeks and added to the number of Canticles for use following the lessons, with greater attention to which Psalms reflected the themes of each day's prayers. Roman Catholics prescribed a "Morning Psalm," an Old Testament Canticle, and a "Psalm of Praise" at Morning Prayer, and two "Evening Psalms" and a New Testament Canticle at Evening Prayer. Or rather, they planned to do so, but delayed working out the details until the mid-1980's.

The editors of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* had committed to using the Roman schedule for Psalms and Canticles (see the rubrics on pages 133 and 146), but could not wait for the final scheme. A table of "Psalms for Daily Prayer" (page 178) was hurriedly assembled – with no direction regarding the use of Canticles – to meet the publication deadline. The tables of lessons for Morning and Evening Prayer from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer* was added as a "Daily Lectionary" (pages 179-192).

For our current practice of Sunday Evening Prayer I have chosen the Roman four-week cycle of Psalms and Canticles that the LBW editors intended to use, had it been available earlier, occasionally choosing the alternates it suggests. Our first three celebrations this year have been four weeks apart from each other, thus repeating the texts appointed for the "Third Sunday." Since this year there were five Sundays in September, our October celebration of Vespers will advance to the Fourth Sunday of the four-week cycle, using Psalm 112, the first part of Psalm 147, and the Baptismal Canticle from Titus 3:4-7.

The question of when the four-week cycle starts I leave for another time.

Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt

Voters' Assembly

Sunday, October 20, 2013

The Voters' Assembly will meet on Sunday, October 20th, 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. 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.*

Block Party – Thank you everyone!

Our second annual Block Party was a success thanks to all those who worked so hard. Although we do not have the figures in yet, we can calculate a good return. The French Cookin' Blues Band was at its prime and was the highlight of the day. Marion Molno and Sally Graudons were finally able to set up the jewelry table, after being homeless for an hour due to parked cars. John Wilson, Clifford Rose, Ana Stapaj, Jazo and Kumi Ichikawa manned the tables of books/videos/cds and art which they moved swiftly into shopping bags. The Flea Market Table was just about cleaned out by the end of the day by Louise Hansen de Laverde, Louisa Laverde, Josiane Rajoelson and Rev. Manoela Tiana Andriatsiafara.

The busiest spot, the Kids' Market, was manned by Karen Bazik, Priscilla O'Carroll, Barbara Chomko, Hans Stöhrer, and the little Immanuel "Elves" (Kirsten Kibler, Emma and Kieran O'Carroll, Elisa Rajoelson, Katarina Schreiber and Caroline and Max Stöhrer) who worked hard

demonstrating toys and selling raffle tickets. Of course, they were additionally inspired by Heide Goeb, our face painter, who coaxed them to sell tickets in return for free face-painting.

Maria Van Der Merwe almost sold out of the loaves of cakes, baked singlehandedly by herself, at the Immanuel Bake Shop, manned together with her sidekick, Ruth Wendland. And without our set-up and break-down crew, (Chris Schulze, Luis Cartagena and John Taylor, Jr.) the teamwork and organization would not have existed.

I spent most of the time re-coordinating spots caused of the havoc and chaos the unexpected parked cars caused and the setting up of the Immanuel history panels, which finally got prominently placed for the public to view. Then there was Karen Rombey, working with the office related preparation, and Pastor Fryer who did a much better job this year in arranging for sunshine!

Kathy Jolowicz

Upcoming ARTEK Concert

Our Music Director, Gwendolyn Toth, will be leading a special concert on the Upper West Side on Saturday, October 26th, at 8 p.m. If you have enjoyed the ARTEK concerts at Immanuel in the past, please consider attending this concert also! If you purchase your ticket through Karen Rombey, the ticket income will be a benefit for Immanuel Church's roof project. Information on the concert is below.

ARTEK Fall Concert

Gerusalemme Liberata: 16th and 17th century Italian madrigals by Monteverdi, Wert, Marini and others

Saturday, October 26, 2013

8:00 pm (Lecture at 7:00)

St. Michael's Church

225 West 99th Street

Tickets: \$30 (\$15 seniors), \$40 (\$30 seniors), \$50

ARTEK's upcoming October concert, *Gerusalemme Liberata*, will take place on October 26 at 8 pm at St. Michael's Church in Manhattan. *Gerusalemme Liberata*, or "*Jerusalem Delivered*," is an epic poem published in 1581 by the Renaissance Italian poet Torquato Tasso. The poem is based on the historical conflict between Christians and Muslims during the Crusades. The drama and pathos of the numerous stories - principally of love and honor amidst the strain of battle - has inspired equally arresting music.

ARTEK will present madrigal settings by Giaches de Wert and Claudio Monteverdi, two of the great masters, together with monody by Girolamo Rovetta, Biagio Marini, and additional madrigals by Marini, Mazzocchi, and others. Featuring ARTEK's wonderful singers (Laura Heimes, soprano; Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo-soprano; Ryland Angel, countertenor; Philip Anderson, tenor; Michael Brown, tenor; Peter Becker, bass-baritone) and

ARTEK's unique 6-member continuo band. The evening will begin with another fabulous lecture (included in the ticket price) by Dr. Barbara Hanning, noted expert on Italian baroque music and author of "*Of Poetry and Music*."

For tickets, contact Karen Rombey at the church office (212)289-8128. Immanuel Lutheran will be selling tickets to our congregation which normally sell for \$40 (\$30 seniors) to members of Immanuel Church. The cost will be \$25 (\$15 for seniors). Since the tickets are donated by ARTEK, all monies go to Immanuel Lutheran. Bring several guests and help raise money for the Immanuel roof project!



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