



# Immanuel Messenger

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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*A Word from the Pastor*

## Holy Week

<sup>2</sup>Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (Hebrews 12:2-3, KJV)

It is always the proper starting point for us: Consider Jesus who “endured such contradiction of sinners against himself.” He endured that contradiction and hostility, yet continued steadfast in his love and his work to save such a contrary world.

In this year’s Midweek Lent Series, we are exploring Saint Paul’s conviction that the Holy Spirit produces fruit in us (Galatians 5:22-25). The first fruit of the Spirit is love. Most recently we are looking at the fourth fruit: patience. If you have ever wanted to see patience at work in this world, consider Matthew 26. Let me lift up two passages from that chapter. The first speaks of the power that Jesus *could* exercise if he chose to:

<sup>51</sup>And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest’s, and smote off his ear. <sup>52</sup>Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. <sup>53</sup>Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:51-53, KJV)

Be appalled, world, at that prospect! If Jesus had unleashed one angel against our world, that would have been enough to ruin us, to say nothing of twelve legions of them.

(Continued, over)

Now skip ahead a few verses to this scene of interrogation. It starts off with the high priest asking the elders and council a question:

<sup>66</sup>What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. <sup>67</sup>Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, <sup>68</sup>Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee? (Matthew 26:66-68, KJV)

Here we see divine patience at high pitch. The angels surely flinched at such a sight, to see their Lord spat upon and buffeted. Yet Jesus bore it patiently. Your eternal welfare was at stake. So he bore with the abuse patiently.

During Holy Week we meditate on these things, giving ourselves over to the story of our Lord's betrayal, abandonment, crucifixion, death, and then resurrection! Holy Week is soon here. It will be very good to be with you as often as you can here at Immanuel.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

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## 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 (April 13<sup>th</sup>) and again on Easter

Sunday morning (April 20<sup>th</sup>). Then on Sunday, May 4, the children will sing "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" when the gospel reading for the day tells of Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

## Easter Lilies and Music Fund

Gifts for Easter lilies and special music can be given as memorials to a loved one or friend to add to the beauty of our worship at Easter. Gifts in any amount are sought for the Music Fund; lilies are \$15.00.

Ester Neubacher will be standing by the table in the narthex after the morning service

on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and again on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please see her if you are interested in donating to the Music Fund or contributing for lilies at Easter. You may also call Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office (212/289-8128) in this regard. The deadline is Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Signing the Contract!

An Update on our Roof, Masonry, and Steeple Project  
Some notes from Pastor Fryer



Roof Committee members Evelyn Junge and Richard Charlton sign the contract

On Tuesday evening April 1, we signed the contract with Baschnagel Bros. Inc for the new slate roof for our church, new tin-coated stainless steel roof for our steeple, and needed masonry repairs. A dear member of our congregation, who knew that we were scheduled to sign the contract that evening, stopped by the church and left a bottle of champagne for us. And so it was that even shy, plain Lutherans lifted a glass and saluted a job well done.

Permits are being sought now, materials are being ordered, and work schedules are being refined. If all goes well, construction will begin the day after Easter Sunday and will finish the end of the year.

I have probably mentioned this before, but let me say it again: Watching the work of our Roof Committee, along with John G. Waite Architects, has been like watching a fine chamber music group at work. Each person brought devotion to the work and distinct skills, and it all worked together harmoniously. Evelyn Junge was our superb conductor. Our church owes a lot to her, in my opinion, along with all the members of the Roof Committee. Here they are:



(From left to right: John Graham (foreman for the project), Greg Maher (supervisor), Darryl Scherba, JGW architects Nancy Rankin and Lyndon Julien-Sehl, Evelyn Junge, Richard Charlton (behind me), me, and Chris Schulze (taking the photo).

## “Second Sunday” Evening Worship

Palm Sunday, April 13, *Lectio Divina*, 4 p.m., Vespers, 5 p.m.  
Easter Sunday, April 20, Vespers, 1 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room  
Led by Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt

*Lectio Divina* this month falls on the Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday). Since this is only a few days before our liturgical observance of Jesus' death on Good Friday, we will shift our format to consider a few of the many ways Christians have meditated on Christ's suffering. This will be more didactic than usual, with a view towards enriching your individual meditation throughout Holy Week. Join us at 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 13.

Evening Prayer on Sunday of Holy Week is an unusually solemn service with a long and rich tradition. The *Lucernarium* (or Service of Light, with its hymn “Joyous Light”) and the doxologies after each psalm and canticle are omitted, not to limit festivity but because the form of this service returns to the earliest practice of the Church, before the christological controversies of the Nicene era. Nonetheless two hymn meditations on Christ's Passion of later composition will be sung: Fortunatus' “The royal banners,” describing Jesus' reign from the Cross as from a throne, and Isaac

Watts' “Nature with open volume,” considering the limits of human comprehension before the mystery of our salvation. Sunday, April 13, at 5:00 pm, following *Lectio Divina*.

Easter Vespers has been much neglected in modern times, especially as more congregations have become familiar with the Great Vigil of Easter. Occurring right after the complex and moving services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Vigil on Holy Saturday, and Easter morning, Easter Vespers has always been a bit abbreviated. Yet it contains a liturgical gem: reading the account of the Risen Lord meeting some disciples on the way to Emmaus at the very time it occurred. (See Luke 24.) To facilitate your participation, we will celebrate Easter Vespers at 1:00 pm in the conference room, shortly after the festive Easter morning Liturgy. Have a coffee, then join us to conclude the Triduum in joyful prayer.

## Immanuel Artists in Residence Show

Please note change of date: Now being held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
7 – 9 p.m.

Last March, our own John Wilson prepared a showing of the art he has been inspired to create, partially as a result of his in-depth analysis of the Book of Job. Using wood, barbed wire, clothing hangers and other found objects, John has sculpted crucifixions, angels, and other figures both sacred and secular.

Now, on the night of Saturday, May 17, 2014, John will once more display over a dozen of his works in the undercroft of Immanuel Lutheran Church. This year, John is joined by Immanuel member Clifford Rose, the creator of our John the Baptist banner. Clifford will display some of his paintings, and Roberta Albrecht, a former member who currently lives in Wisconsin, has contributed some of her drawings and greeting cards.

Beginning at 7:00 p.m., there will be a wine and cheese reception, and all works will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds of the sale to be donated to the church. Music will be provided by the well-known Jazz Pianist, Marjorie Eliot, joined by Nick Mauro on Trumpet, and Gaku Takanashi on Bass.

For those unable to attend Saturday night, John has agreed to leave his work on display on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, through the end of Coffee Hour.

If there are any other artists in our congregation who wish to participate in the show, please contact Parish Secretary Karen Rombey in the church office (212) 289-8128.

# Holy Week at Immanuel

## PALM SUNDAY

**APRIL 13, 11 A.M.**

Procession with Palms

Sunday Liturgy, with congregational reading of the Passion

Music by Anton Bruckner, Josquin des Prez and Children's Choir in the "Victory Chant"

Sermon by Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

## HOLY WEDNESDAY,

**APRIL 16**

6:30 p.m. Simple, spoken Liturgy. Holy Eucharist. Sermon by Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**APRIL 17**

† 1:15 p.m. Free lunchtime concert: soprano Sarah Chalfy accompanied by Gwendolyn Toth singing "Lamentations of Jeremiah" by Johann Rosenmüller

† 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, with Footwashing. Music by Ola Gjeilo, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Claudio Monteverdi. Sermon by Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

## GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

† 7 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae service. Music by Johann Kuhnau, Felice Anerio and William Byrd. Sermon by Rev. Dr. Thomas Nelson Green

† 8:30 p.m. Musical Meditation with the Immanuel Choir – Jacob Obrecht: Passio; Josquin des Prez: Motet cycle, Qui velatus facie fuisti

## HOLY SATURDAY

**APRIL 19**

7 p.m. Easter Vigil

Music by Samuel Scheidt, Ludwig Senfl and Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, with brass quartet

## EASTER SUNDAY

**APRIL 20, 11 A.M.**

Sunday Eucharist

Sermon by Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Music by Samuel Scheidt, Jacquet de Mantua and Georg Frideric Handel, with Immanuel Choir, Children's Choir and brass ensemble