

Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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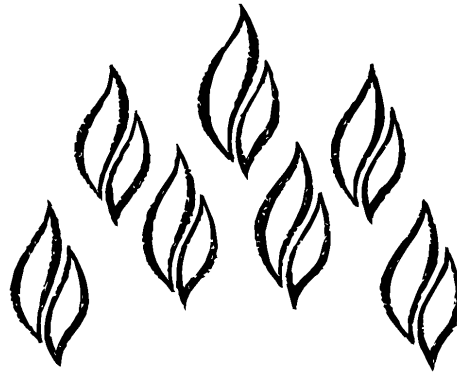
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June/July 2014

A Word from the Pastor

Pentecost Sunday

“...power from on high”



Sunday, June 8, 2014

The high festival of Pentecost celebrates the swooping down of the Holy Spirit on earth, and with that divine outpouring, the creation of the Church. Pentecost speaks of a holy ambition: a yearning, inspired by the Holy Spirit, for good and holy lives. The appointed “Prayer of the Day” hints at this power to improve things on earth:

...open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love...

In my sermon for the day, I mean to point to Pentecost as the fulfillment of our Lord’s promise at his Ascension:

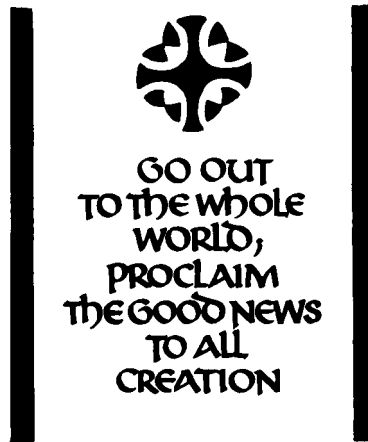
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⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed *with power from on high*.” (Luke 24:48-49, RSV)

That sure sounds good to me: power from on high! So, let’s gather on Pentecost Sunday to adore our Triune God and to learn some more, if we can, about this being clothed with divine power.

Holy Trinity Sunday

The Great Commission



11 a.m. Sunday, June 15, in the undercroft

I picture my sermon for this Holy Trinity Sunday as being my keynote sermon for my remaining years. An advantage to living a long time is that it gives you a chance to notice your mistakes, and God willing, leaves you some time to try to do better. I feel that going forward, I want to do a better job at speaking of the mission Jesus gives to the church. We read of that in the final verses of the Gospel Lesson for Trinity Sunday, June 15:

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20, RSV)

This passage is called “The Great Commission.” I tend to summarize it as “win people to Jesus and teach them the faith of the Church.” My heart goes out to the people of this world. So does yours. I believe that we want to obey Jesus in the

matter of winning people to him and teaching them the faith of the Church. So please try to make it to church on Trinity Sunday, June 15, if at all possible for you.

It looks that that Sunday, June 15, will be our first Sunday in the undercroft. That's for the good reason that the scaffolding and preparatory work are nearly done, and the construction workers are about to begin replacing our slate roof. For the first two or three months of that work, we need to worship downstairs in the undercroft. We've done that before. It is nice because we are closer together, things feel more intimate, and the air conditioning is better. So, I am hoping for good attendance this Trinity Sunday.

In Christ,

Gregory Fryer

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Update on Our Roof Project



Scaffold at the end of work week two

God bless our scaffold workers! So far, so good. Since this photo was taken, the building of the scaffold has gone on and upward, working its way up our beautiful and high church steeple and all around our church, including our courtyard. The scaffold is now draped in black protective cloth to make sure nothing drops on people below.

Soon work will begin on removing the old slate from our roof. Our contractor, Baschnagel Bros., means to set aside one hundred pieces of unbroken slate so that we can wash them and work on them and sell them as mementos of our old church.

Pentecost Sunday, June 8, is set to be our last Sunday to worship upstairs in our nave for a while. On June 15, Trinity Sunday, we will begin worshiping in the undercroft for two or three months.

Worship Changes Because of Construction

- ✦ Our main Sunday liturgy, 11 a.m., will move to the undercroft starting June 15. Let's use the elevator door to enter the undercroft, especially if the liturgy has already begun. That way we will not have to walk through the middle of the liturgy, but can approach things from the rear.
- ✦ Our 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening liturgy will shift to the Martin Luther Room, located in the church office, two doors to the right of the church steps. That way we will not disturb the big AA meeting in our church undercroft at that same time.
- ✦ We will suspend our Monday Morning Devotions while the nave is closed off to us.

Hard-Hat Barbecue

Coffee Hour, June 29, 2014

It's time for another of Chris Schulze's popular barbecues. This time, we are inviting our construction crew, including supervisor Greg Maher and foreman John Graham, and architects, Nancy Rankin and Lyndon Julien-Sehl. It's a chance for you to meet some of our workers and to express our gratitude to them. Chris will grill out in the courtyard as usual, but we will have to have the food and keg in the undercroft. It's too crowded and dangerous to eat out in the courtyard this time. Still, it should be fun, so please put it on your calendar.

Children's Choir to Sing on June 15

Our Children's Choir under the direction of Tiffany Rosenquist de la Torre and James Miller will once again lift up their voices during our 11:00 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, June 15. We hope that all the children will be able to be with us as this is the last time they will be singing before summer break.

Voters' Assembly

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Our Voters' Assembly will be held on Sunday, June 8th, 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.*

“Second Sunday” Spiritual Practice

Sunday, June 8th, at 4:00 p.m.

Led by Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt

Pastor Meritt notes: “We complete this cycle of group spiritual practice on the Day of Pentecost, which seems to me especially fitting. St. Luke describes the pouring out of God's Spirit as a great noise, which is transformed into bold speech in the mouths of the apostles and their companions and into intelligent comprehension in the ears of the multi-lingual Jewish community gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks. Although we began this year using the “Lectio Divina” model, we have shifted to imaginative contemplation, sometimes called Ignatian Contemplation, for St. Ignatius

Loyola who developed this technique in his Spiritual Exercises. Not unlike the mystery of the Holy Spirit's Pentecost presence, Ignatian Contemplation takes a single passage (usually from one of the Gospels) and invites each participant to respond in an individual way, growing out of his or her own imagination. I think of Ignatian Contemplation as an experiential icon of Baptismal vocation: each of us shares in the same Baptismal Creed, yet our lives give witness to hundreds of different vocations that arise from this single source.”

Pentecost Vespers

Sunday, June 8th, at 5:00 p.m.

Led by Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt

The introduction of sung Vespers this past year has been profoundly enriched by the assistance of a Schola Cantorum of four singers: Joanne Molodowitz, Laurel Cardone, Jeff Thomas and Jim Miller. Jim serves multiple roles at Immanuel, including preaching occasionally as he pursues seminary studies, as well as working with instrumentalists and both adult and children's choirs. Jeff also sings

regularly with the Immanuel Choir, to which he recruited Pastor Kelly-Ray Meritt. Joanne, Laurel, Jeff and Kelly-Ray share a long history of singing together in the Canby Singers.

Schola Cantorum (literally, “a school of singing”) is not quite the same thing as a choir or chorus. In singing an anthem or responsory the Schola may act like a choir, but its chief function is to stimulate the singing of the

congregation, especially in coaching them in the practice of chanting psalms, canticles, and the “office hymns.” Gregory “the great” (d. 604) established a Schola Cantorum in Rome in the late sixth century to collect the chants used in the Western Church at that time and to pass them on to future generations of church musicians – thus Latin plain chant is often called “Gregorian chant.”

Immanuel’s Schola Cantorum, in addition to the usual choral skills, has had to master the eight modes used in

chant (each subtly different from modern concepts of major and minor tonalities), to understand the form of Vespers (the evening office of prayer – “office” here suggesting both duty and offering), and to practice silence in a way that invites the congregation into prayerful meditation. Thus the Schola invites, encourages, and models for the congregation to fulfill the Psalmist’s word: “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with a song.” (Ps. 100:2)

Vacation Bible School “Wilderness Escape”

August 18 – 22, 2014

It’s nearing the time for our VBS “Wilderness Escape” where God guides and provides. Our VBS will be held during the week of August 18 - 22 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 pm. “Wilderness Escape” VBS is open to all children

aged 3 – 10. To register please call Karen Rombey in the church office (212) 289-8128. We’ll also be needing some volunteer helpers, so if you can help out for all or part of that week, please let Karen know.

Roof Fund-raiser at 92nd Y Street Fair

Sunday, September 14, 2014

We will not be having our annual fund raiser Block Party this year; instead we will be part of the 92nd Street Y Street Fair on Lexington Avenue. RAIN OR SHINE! on Sunday, September 14th. Our main liturgy that day, will shift to 6 p.m., so that the workers at the fair can also attend worship that day. We will have a simple, but full service of Holy Communion at 11 a.m. for those who cannot make the 6 p.m. liturgy and for visitors to our church that day.

Setup time is 9:00 a.m. and breakdown is at 5:30 p.m. This is a very busy Fair and attracts a large moving

crowd, from 92nd to 79th Street. It will be fun and the kids love selling the raffle tickets, and working in the Kid’s Mart. The scaffolding will be an asset to our roof fund-raising goal. The History Panels will be displayed, as well as a banner on the scaffolding above us. We will also have brochures about Immanuel to give out.

So we will need volunteers, and your “trash” which can be turned into Immanuel “treasures”. We will have tents and our usual tables: Books, Kid’s closets. We will be taking books, kid’s clothing, toys, books and personal and

Market, and regular Flea Market spots. Now you can start cleaning out your home accessories, jewelry, kitchen items, electronics, and other miscellaneous items. (NO large items, unless you can hold it in one hand and NO adult clothing please; we cannot display them.)

After Sunday services, we do our price marking of current donated items,

so hang around if you can. Contact Kathy Jolowicz at [212/249-0125](tel:2122490125) or, Kaj133@aol.com and Karen Rombey in the church office, at [212/289-8128](tel:2122898128) or krombey@juno.com for more information, and donations. *Please note: From June 26-August 3, Kathy can be reached via email only.*

Newsletter via E-mail

Our newsletter appears on our website each month (www.immanuelnyc.org). The link is on our homepage on the left column: "The Immanuel Messenger: current issue." A nice thing about the website version is that it includes color, including color photographs.

Please contact Parish Secretary Karen Rombey if you would like to discontinue receiving your paper copy. It would help save on postage. Karen can be reached via email at krombey@juno.com or by calling her at the church office (212) 289-8128.