



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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November 2014

A Word from the Pastor

Consecration Sunday

With Guest Pastor Steve Shipman

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2014

The Liturgy and the Banquet

It was God's grace, I should think, that when Rev. Steve Shipman visited with us last month and extended greetings to us just before the Benediction, our just-sung Communion hymn was LBW 406 *Take My Life, That I May Be*. It was a lovely step in his greetings when Rev. Shipman lifted up the main theme of that hymn: a prayer for a more consecrated life, a more holy life:

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Please view our Consecration Sunday stewardship campaign as an opportunity for this: a life more dedicated to our God, a more consecrated life.

Rev. Shipman serves with me on the Board of Directors for the *American Lutheran Publicity Bureau* (ALPB). The ALPB just celebrated its 100th anniversary. We publish theology, including the journal *Lutheran Forum* and the newsletter *Forum Letter*, along with Lutheran tracts and books of theology. alpb.org

Rev. Shipman is the Director of CORE, which is a Lutheran renewal movement across the land. He and his wife, Linda, live in York County, PA, and

are members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, York, where he is much help, I am sure, to the pastor there, Rev. Beth Schlegel. Pastor Schlegel is a seminary classmate and friend of Carol and me.

When Rev. Shipman first met with our Stewardship Committee, he said that if our campaign yielded nothing in terms of increased giving, but did set people on the path of a closer walk with Jesus, then we should count the campaign a success. I entirely agree with this.

We are scheduled to turn in "Estimate of Giving" cards during the liturgy on Consecration Sunday, November 16. Then we have a celebration banquet during Coffee Hour. It is one of those popular meals prepared by our member John Stevenson. If you have not already turned in a reservation, please do so as soon as possible: krombey@juno.com. This will help us a lot with planning the banquet.

Advent

The Season of Advent is soon here. The First Sunday of Advent is November 30. Advent has a barely-suppressed joy about it as we await Christmas. But liturgical scholars say that Advent is a *penitential* season, and the assigned Bible Lessons tend to bear that out. The mood of the season is much in keeping with the preaching of John the Baptist, who was convinced that something BIG was afoot, that the kingdom of God was at hand, and that the appropriate stance to get ready for that kingdom was to repent.

And this brings us back to the theme of this autumn's Stewardship Campaign. What we seek in this campaign are lives more consecrated to Christ, even in such practical matters as our finances. This is a proper yearning for us, not simply for Consecration Sunday, but also for the Season of Advent. Indeed, it is a proper yearning for us for the rest of our lives, to the glory of our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the benefit of our neighbors, and to a more abundant life for each of us here and now.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Immanuel's Children's Choir

To Sing at Liturgy on Consecration Sunday, November 16th

Immanuel's Children's Choir, under the direction of Tiffany Rosenquist and Jim Miller, will be delighting us with their voices during the morning liturgy on Consecration Sunday, November 16th.

Construction Inside and Out

Some notes from Pastor Fryer

These are fun days at Immanuel, with a flurry of construction high and low, inside and out of our dear church.

Here is a photo of our new slate roof. This is the courtyard side. Soon work begins on the Lexington Avenue side, and then our city will be able to see our new slate roof. Notice that we have recaptured the original design of our slate roof with horizontal bands of color. They alternate between black and green:



For now we are still worshiping in the undercroft, for the happy reason that lots of good work is going on overhead, in our church nave. Thanks to a gift from an anonymous benefactor who has helped us so many times over the years, we are installing Gothic-style pendant lights over our pews, like we had in olden days.

While we are doing that, we are also refinishing our church floors, strengthening, cleaning, and varnishing our church pews, and painting up a storm.

(Continued, next page)

Who knew?

Here is a photo of the ornamental top to the columns flanking our chancel, including a flourish at the top of the column. Is it an angel? Is it tongues of fire? Is it a continuation of the floral motif in the top of the column? I am not sure, but it is fun, especially in the gold paint Sexton Chris Schulze is using:



The workers on our church, both on the roof and in our nave, seem happy, as if they are proud to be working on our church. Pray for them, please, that they will be kept safe and that their work will continue to go along so well.

Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2014

This is the last Sunday of the church year. We are reminded that this world, human history, and our lives come to an end. We are also reminded that the end of our lives, of the world, and of history is the God who is their beginning and that those who are “in Christ” can look forward to the end of things as the time of the gracious kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Voters' Assembly

November 23, 2014

Our Voters' Assembly is scheduled to meet on Sunday, November 23rd, after the Liturgy. At that time we will review and adopt a proposed budget for 2015, 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.*

Thanksgiving Eve

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 26th, 2014

We celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving with a liturgy at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, November 26th. It is a spoken liturgy with hymns and cantor, along with Music Director Gwendolyn Toth.

Caroling at Lenox Hill Hospital

Friday, December 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

On Friday, December 12th, let's meet in the lobby of Lenox Hill Hospital (100 East 77th Street) at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas caroling and fellowship gathering. After caroling there, we are invited to the church parsonage (108 East 82nd Street, Apt. 7C) for some refreshments, fellowship, and sitting around the fireplace. Alas, we are not supposed to bring children into the hospital, but otherwise, everyone is welcome!

Fraternité Notre Dame Toy Collection

Once again this year the Sisters of the Fraternité Notre Dame will be hosting a Christmas party for needy children. This year the party will be on Thursday, December 18th. They are asking for donations of new toys. If you can give a toy, please wrap it and mark it as to the age of the child and whether it is for a boy or girl. (Please no guns or violent toys.) The Sisters will also accept toiletries or clothing as they distribute gifts to the hospitalized and homeless as well. No need to wrap these. You may leave your gifts in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or bring them to the church office during the week. The last day for bringing gifts is Sunday, December 14th, as the Sisters will pick them up from the church office on Monday morning, December 15th.

Sunday School Mitten Tree

The Sunday School will have a mitten tree once again this year. Please give the mittens you bring to one of our Sunday School teachers. The mittens will be given to the Fraternité Notre Dame who will distribute them to needy children. The mitten tree will be put up during the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 20th.

Hanging of the Greens and St. Nicholas Party

Hold the date! Saturday afternoon, December 20th: First, we'll have Hanging of the Greens from 2 to 5 p.m. and then our St. Nicholas Party from 5 to 9 p.m. More info to come in the December newsletter.