



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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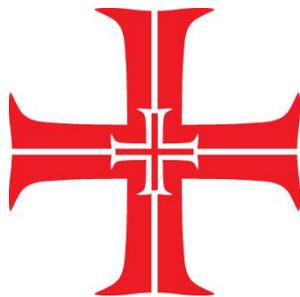
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September 2019

A Word from Pastor Gregory Fryer

Holy Cross Sunday



Homecoming Sunday

September 15, 2019

When everything starts anew

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Holy Cross Sunday is our traditional homecoming Sunday, when we welcome back the Immanuel Choir, our

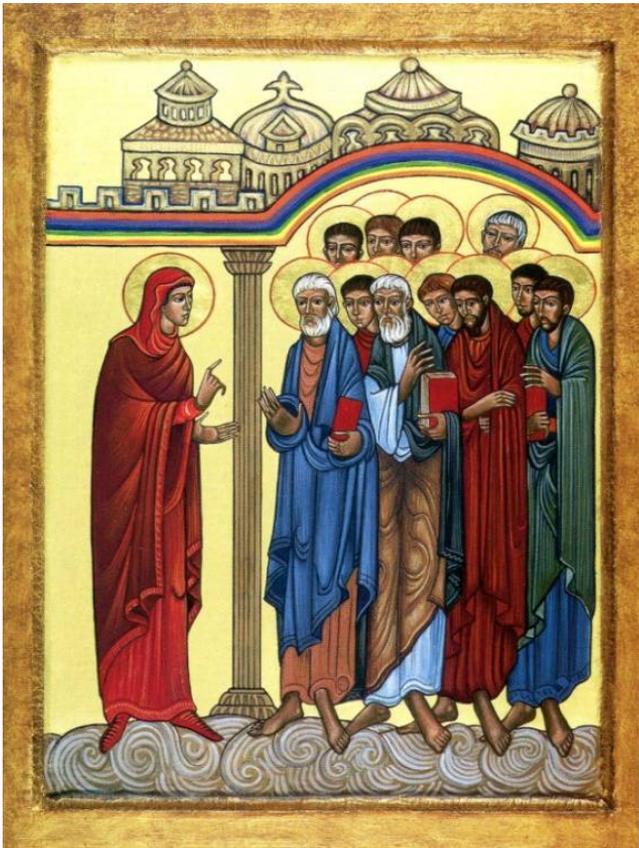
Sunday School, and the people of our congregation from their summertime travels. It is a happy Sunday for us. It is gathered around a solemn theme – the holy cross of Christ – but it is a happy and wholesome thing for us to gather again for worship. I hope you can make it.

In Christ,

Gregory Fryer

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Pastor Carol's Installation



4 PM Sunday October 6

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer about Pastor Carol's Installation

In church tradition, Mary Magdalene is often called “the Apostle to the Apostles.” The icon on the previous page of this *Immanuel Messenger* shows her preaching the Gospel to the remaining eleven disciples. “He is risen!” she says. We have been echoing her words as best we can ever since.

We mean to include this icon on the front page of the worship folder for Pastor Carol Fryer's installation this coming October 6. Mary Magdalene is a good image for a pastor.

I have been especially grateful for Mary Magdalene since reading a sermon about her by my dear old pastor, Pastor Raymond Shaheen. I've pointed to this sermon before. He refers to Mary's past, when she was bound by seven demons. What a wild past that must have been! The concluding paragraph from Pastor Shaheen's sermon goes this way:

But in the Resurrection Garden, when no one is around, who is it that makes brave and bold to go even by herself to be at the grave? Mary! — Mary Magdalene. Say it again, the harlot, the prostitute, the fallen woman. Once she was like that. The Church commemorates Mary of Magdala — a sinner, child of the Devil — saved by the grace of Jesus Christ, who paid attention to her.

How are people saved? Not by removing ourselves at some detached distance, not by ignoring the fact that they exist. They are saved when good people pay attention to bad

people and hope and pray that the good that's in the bad will one day dominate. That's why I've come to this sacred desk this morning — happy as all get-out to talk to you about a woman — a good woman ... once a bad woman, but a good woman, who when nobody else was around, there she was. Which leads me to say to you as I walk away from this sacred desk — and don't you dare ever forget it — every saint has his past... every sinner has his future. This I most certainly believe.

As a matter of Biblical interpretation, Pastor Shaheen might be wrong in identifying Mary Magdalene with the fallen woman of Luke 7. But that fallen woman is a great woman too, the way she washes the feet of Jesus with her tears and wipes them with her hair. In any case, Mary Magdalene had at one time been possessed by seven demons (Luke 8), and there must have been an ocean of suffering and unruliness in those troubles. But Pastor Shaheen is right: Jesus paid attention to poor Mary Magdalene, and all the Gospels agree that it was to her that our risen Lord first appeared:

Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared *first* to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. (Mark 16:9, RSV, my emphasis)

So, the icon of Mary Magdalene is set for the worship folder for Pastor Carol's installation.

Dr. David S. Yeago is our preacher that day. This is a high privilege for us, since Dr. Yeago is a preeminent

theologian here in America. But also it is a personal delight for Carol and me because Dr. Yeago is an old and dear friend, going back to seminary days in Gettysburg, PA.

A treat of this service is that we mean to sing a hymn composed by Dr. Yeago. He has composed a good many hymns. This one is called “For the Holy Ministry.”

So please look forward to that service and do the best you can to attend: 4 PM Sunday, October 6, 2019.

Compline

Commencing again, 8 PM, Sept. 15, Holy Cross Sunday

A note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

We can be very grateful to Pastor Caleb Douglas for bringing prayer services to our congregation. He led us in Compline, Matins, and Vespers. Now we can be grateful to Pastor Carol for continuing what Pastor Caleb started. This fall, she will lead us in Sunday evening Compline. It starts at 8 PM and is usually done in about 25 minutes. It is a lovely service, and it is good for us to join prayers going on all the time around this old globe of ours.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

10 AM, in the Martin Luther Room

Beginning Holy Cross Sunday, September 15

Led by Seminarian Lara Bhasin,

until Pastor Green returns

A note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

ne of my all-time favorite things at Immanuel has been Pastor Thomas Green teaching his Sunday morning Bible Class on Romans. What a splendid combination: To

have such a gifted and loving teacher to teach such an important book as Romans! That class has been suspended while Pastor Green regains his health. He tells me that he is making progress and looks forward with joy to resuming the class.

Meanwhile I am delighted to say that Seminarian Lara Bhasin is offering a class on Ezekiel. It is set to meet in the same place as Pastor Green's class: the Martin Luther Room in the church office suite, two doors to the right of our church steps. Lara means to teach Ezekiel until Pastor Green regains his health. Then she means to suspend her class so that she and everyone else can join Pastor Green's class.

Pastor Carol and I had planned to offer what is called a "Pericope Study" on Sunday mornings in the undercroft. That is a class devoted to the assigned Bible readings for that Sunday. But we want to delay that so that we can join Lara's class. I have read through her class outlines. This is going to be a really good class!

Let me say a bit more about Bible study. My childhood church did not worship according to what is called a "lectionary." Here at Immanuel and across much of the ecumenical church, our Sunday Bible Lessons for worship come from what is called the "Revised Common Lectionary." That means that Pastor Carol and I preach on the assigned Bible Lessons for the day.

There is something very wholesome about that. It means that the preacher more methodically preaches on the whole Bible – not just on favorite passages, but on passages from throughout the Bible.

But there is also something nice about the way my childhood church did it. Back in those days, and in many evangelical churches to this day, the preacher chooses a

Bible passage that has been on his or her heart and preaches on that.

The disadvantage of this freedom is that the Pastor might never get around to preaching on readings that the lectionary would have lifted up.

But a great advantage of this method is that the preacher could choose to preach his or her way through an entire book of the Bible. The preacher could choose to preach every sermon from, say, Romans. That would be an interesting year of preaching.

Not only that - not only would it be interesting - but also it could give a more thorough feel for Romans or whatever book the preacher works his way through.

Our great solution here at Immanuel is to preach on the lectionary, but to also offer Bible studies. My Monday Evening Bible Study will be on the story of King David, (1 and 2 Samuel). Lara's Sunday Morning Bible Study will work its way through the Old Testament book of Ezekiel. This is excellent! I am grateful to Lara for offering this course and I invite everyone to attend, whenever you can.

Monday Evening Bible Class

6:30-7:30 PM, starting Monday, September 16

The Story of King David (1 and 2 Samuel)

Martin Luther Room, 2 doors to the right of the church

Led by Pastor Gregory Fryer

 Our study of King David will actually continue a little ways into 1 Kings, where, in the first chapter, we find David to be a very old man, unable to keep warm anymore, no matter how many clothes he wears.

Other than Jesus, David is probably the most developed character in the Bible. Maybe Joseph is similar, though not

as complete as David, in my opinion. With David, we get to follow the man from his brave childhood, when he guarded his sheep against lion and bear and fought mighty Goliath, through his kingship, his sacred poetry, his terrible sin, his moving repentance, his nobility of character, his heartbreaks, all the way to when he is an old man chilled in the bones.

The books of Samuel tell the commencing of the monarchy in Israel. Before kings came along, the LORD would raise up leaders for Israel as the occasion required. These leaders were the Judges. Samuel was the last of the famous Judges. With King Saul, we have now entered the world of kings, bureaucracies, taxes, and dynasties. King David was the best of Israel's kings. He was the paradigmatic king, and Israel hoped for another such a one. Israel hoped for the Messiah.

We believe that our Lord Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is similar to David, but better. And that is saying a lot! As we work our way through First and Second Samuel, we will find a lot to admire in David. There are things to regret in the man, but also things that put us in mind of Jesus, and perhaps, thereby, deepen our understanding of Jesus.

Let's proceed in this Bible Study as Pastor Caleb led us in our study of Colossians. That is, we will read the text aloud, with occasional comments from me and others in the class. We will have to go at a faster pace, to make progress on such a long story.

Over the years, I've learned to be rather precise about the time. I set the alarm on my iPhone for 7:30 PM, and when the alarm sounds, we stop. We say the Lord's Prayer and head home, meaning to pick up again the next Monday.

Attend whenever you can. If you must miss some sessions, that is okay. Just dive back in when you can.

This Year's Summertime Attendance

It has been great! – at least compared to previous years. Summers are hard on church attendance, for the happy reason that people travel and go on vacations. Still, this summer suddenly is better than earlier ones:

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average attendance, June - August	69.2	70.2	70.8	82.00

So, that is nice. By God's grace, I think something good is happening. I hope we can forge ahead this fall.

GPF

Sunday School Returns

Our Sunday School reconvenes on Holy Cross / Homecoming Sunday, September 15th. As always it begins 10 AM, for children aged 3 through 12. Welcome!

A Class for Teenagers

Seminarian Lara Bhasin would like to offer a Bible class for teenagers. She means to survey Immanuel teens to help settle on a book to study together. More about this good idea later.

ROAR! Another Great VBS



Our Vacation Bible School was again a huge success this year. Led by Karen Bazik, we went on an epic African adventure exploring God's goodness and celebrating our ferocious faith.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our VBS a success. Thank you to our adult helpers and teachers: Jean, Lara, Kathy, Ann, Liesel, Barbara, Kumi, Louisa, Priscilla, Tamares, Val and Karen Rombey. Thank you to Michael for leading the music. Thank you to all our teen (and younger!) helpers: Imogene, Hans, Kirsten, Katarina, Katelyn, Jason, Luke, Nico, Isabella, Keitaro and Matthias. Thank you to staff Luis, Sean, and Luke. And thank you to Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer!

Immanuel Choir Returns

A note from Dr. Gwendolyn Toth

Immanuel Choir will resume on Sunday, Sept 15th. If you've thought about singing with the choir in the past, now is the time to join. We'll be singing every Sunday & working towards some special music for Reformation Sunday as well as ultimately for our Christmas Eve prelude. We rehearse at 9 am in the choir loft every Sunday, and sing at 11 am service (there is a short break between rehearsal and the service). Some ability to read music is required. We welcome you!

Upcoming ARTEK Performance

ARTEK is collaborating with composer/multi-media artist Ben Neill at Roulette (Interpretations Series) in Brooklyn on Thursday, September 26 at 8 pm. Gwendolyn Toth and Immanuel Choir singer Ryland Angel will perform with Ben Neill in a new audio-visual work, Fantini Futuro, based on the music and life of the baroque composer Fantini, but with a totally modern twist. Tickets are available on the Roulette website for only \$20:

<https://roulette.org/event/interpretations-rocco-di-pietro-ben-neill/>

Fitness Class

Our member Priscilla O'Carroll has recently been certified as a group fitness instructor with the American Council on Exercise, and is offering fitness classes at no charge (and only to people of our congregation). The dates currently set are September 14th, October 5th and October 19th, all Saturdays, from 10 AM to 11 AM, in our

undercroft. Contact Priscilla at ocarrollnyc@gmail.com, or text 917-582-3950. Class size is limited. Flyers with more information will be available at church.

An Immanuel Hiking Group

Pastor Carol would like to start an Immanuel Hiking Group. Anyone interested in going hiking together is welcome to join in! All hiking trips will be accessible by public transportation.

We have planned a first hike for Saturday, September 7. It's an easy hike in Westchester County along the Bronx River Pathway from Scarsdale to Bronxville, about 4.6 miles.

Meet at the Harlem 125th Street Metro North Station to catch the 9:52am train to Scarsdale (cost \$9.75). We will walk to the trail and head south. When we get to Bronxville we will take the train back to Manhattan (cost \$8.75). Bring water, snacks and pack a lunch. There are also shops and restaurants in Bronxville for those who are interested in exploring a nice town.

Interested? Want more information? Contact Pastor Carol at ceafryer@gmail.com or by phone: 212-289-8128 or 917-442-5335.

Ongoing Collections for the Christmas Bazaar

Contributions for our annual Christmas Bazaar are accepted any and all Sundays. See Kathy Jolowicz.

In Our Prayers

Those who are sick or recovering from illness or injury: Manuel Damon (Maria van der Merwe's brother-in-law), Pastor Paul Lorentzen (of Transfiguration Church, Staten Island), Emma Kaefer, June Dittbrenner (Carol's mother), Sonia Bosch (Domingo Quilems' aunt), John Vaccaro (Denise's brother), Christopher Henderson, Jim O'Donnell, James Maffucci (friend of Davida Goldman), Haruko Koseki (mother of a friend of the Ichikawa family), Sarah Linder (Carol Dittbrenner's mother-in-law), Fr. Leonard Klein (former pastor of this congregation and friend of the Fryers), Erick Balce (colleague of Jazo Ichikawa), Veenda Louiseh Shivute (Helga Kuverua's sister), Mark Schaffel (friend of Denise and Sean Curnyn), Lucky Gold (friend of Davida Goldman and the Fryers), Terry Pierce (trombonist), Parimala Rao, Carol McKeon (friend of Edna Szmodis), Simoney Aguilar-Roatcap (friend of the Kiehl family), Rudolph and Ann Haimburger (Emma Kaefer's

brother and sister-in-law), David Bierman (Edna Szmodis' cousin), Knox Chadwick (friend of Kieran O'Carroll), Helene Lund, Gregory Ortiz (Luz's son), Ofc. Christopher Helms (friend of Kathy Jolowicz), Lyonel Laverde, Pastor Thomas Green, Christine Maldonado (friend of Ester and Eric Neubacher), Maria van der Merwe, Diana Montesdeoca, Alison Chu (Charles W. Schramm's daughter), Patricia Sanders, Dorothy Schussel, Joan and Dan Westlake (Denise Vaccaro's sister and brother-in-law), Carol Davis (Sally Graudon's friend), Lena Adams (friend of Maria van der Merwe), Crystal Richardson, Bishnu Panda (Sree's father), Marica Owcarzyova (Anna Stapaj's cousin), Ada Emilio and family (friends of Stephanie Sparvero), Manuel Pamulo (Michael's brother), Eniel Zamora (friend of Maria van der Merwe), Elfriede Sachno, Hope Forrest (mother of Priscilla O'Carroll's friend), Larry Oglesby (Laurin Smith's

father), John Bazik (Karen's brother), Stephen Bazik (Karen's father), Vincent Marino (nephew of Irene Juhasz' friend), Barbara Beck (Carol Dittbrenner's friend), Hannah Smith (Denise Vaccaro's friend), Inge Michaelis (Michele's mother), Jeanne Plekon (friend of the Fryers), Stephen Fischer, Clifford Rose, Rev. Dr. Paul Hinlicky (theologian and friend of the Fryers), Steven Quirong (Vi's son), Dan Blumin (friend of Irene Juhasz), Asta Kibler (Hans' and Kirsten's grandmother), Taylor Cochrane (David Hahn's daughter), Helen and Joe Baker (Irene Juhasz' cousin and her husband), Ernest Lund Jr., Kathy Jolowicz, Elizabeth Dorovich (Michele Michaelis' aunt), Anna Stapaj, Denise Du'Maine, Barbara Lewis, Edna Szmodis, Mary Maska (Wayne Maska's wife), Father Daniel Vitz (friend of Jim and Victoria O'Donnell), Justin Brown (Pastor Fryer's nephew), Jens Hewerer (friend of Deborah Meyer), Samuel Goldman (Davida's brother), Valerie Kirchmann, Frank Zerbi (Denise Du'Maine's friend), Kenneth Held (Jeff

Rudat's friend's brother), Buck Briggs (Joel Bussert's friend), Geraldine Bilus (Evelyn Junge's friend), Julia Galindo Marquez (Monica Marquez's mother-in-law, Lorraine Scharfenberg (Marion Molno's niece), Everett Stallworth and Ray Smith (Denise Du'Maine's cousin's father and husband), Tristan Ramos, Molly Sullivan and Jeff Sullivan (former members), Robin Conway (Nancy Tepper's cousin), Dorothy Leung (Priscilla O'Carroll's aunt), Lyonel Laverde (Louise's husband), Emma Meyer (Deborah Meyer's mother), Linda Schulze, Rich Shedrick (Kim's husband), Tripp Stratton, Georgia Lind, Marion Molno, Voldo Lundre (President, Estonian congregation), Dorian Kuverua, Bonnie Cebry (Diana Robertson's sister), Julie Marable (Susan Singer's friend), Alicia Wood and family, David Young (Richard Schreiber's friend's father), Virginia Fay (Mary Nettleton's friend), Inga McConnico, and Joan Walter. Pray for your brothers and sisters when they are ill and give thanks when they are well.