



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

East 88th Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan

www.immanuelnyc.org

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC/

Rev. Gregory P. Fryer, Pastorgpfryer@gmail.com

Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer, Pastoral Associateceafryer@gmail.com

Rev. Lara Bhasin, Assistant Pastorlara.bhasin@tsm.edu

(212) 289-8128, church phone

June-July 2024

A Word from Pastor Gregory Paul Fryer

Lutheranism 101

During Coffee Hour, starting Sunday, June 23

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church, “Lutheranism 101” is our course for prospective *new members*, but everyone is welcome to attend. It is a fun course for Pastor Lara and me to teach because we are proud of the Lutheran tradition and enjoy talking about it.

The heart of the course is Martin Luther’s *Small Catechism*. One of my favorite Luther passages is his response to Christians who do not study the catechism. “Many regard the catechism as a simple, trifling teaching, which they can absorb and master at one reading and then toss the book into a corner as if they are ashamed to read it again.” But not Luther! He does not consider the catechism to be a simple, trifling teaching. Rather he studies it his whole life long. And so, here is the passage I like so much:

But this I say for myself: I am also a doctor and a preacher, just as learned and experienced as all of them who are so high and mighty. Nevertheless, each morning, and whenever else I have time, I do as a child who is being taught the catechism and I read and recite

word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism — and I also do so gladly. (Luther, *Large Catechism*, Kolb-Wengert Edition)

So, our Lutheranism 101 course gives us a chance to “remain a child and pupil of the catechism.”

We begin the course with some historical perspective, aiming to place the Lutheran Reformation in the context of church history. We begin with the Council of Nicaea in 325, linger with Luther, and speed on toward Bach and John Wesley and so on, ending with Immanuel's decision in 2016 to join the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). When we discuss the parts of Luther's catechism concerning Baptism, Holy Communion, and Private Confession, it gives us a chance to talk about the liturgy.

We have many new faces at Immanuel these days. You are all dear to us — both longtime members and newcomers. We hope Lutheranism 101 will help you to consider joining our congregation.

The course usually goes for eight or nine sessions. You might not be able to attend every session, but please come whenever you can. It will be good to be with you, always.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

An Update on Our Church Chancel

Back Worshiping in Our Church Nave

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

For a few weeks, we had been worshiping in the undercroft because some plaster and wood fell from our chancel ceiling. But now we have moved the chancel furniture down to the carpet level. We consulted with the engineer and he feels that it is safe. We are all quite a ways forward of the chancel ceiling. A few weeks down the road, the engineers plan to put up a scaffold in the chancel so that they can inspect and make any

necessary repairs. That's okay. We hope to continue worshipping in the nave even with the scaffolding.

Immanuel's Sunday School Lenten Food Drive



Recently Sunday School teachers Karen Bazik and Barbara Chomko dropped off food donations to the New York Common Pantry. We contributed 329 lbs of food. The Sunday School children (and teachers) want to thank everyone who donated items.

The Bible: The Big Picture – A Class for All Ages

In recess for a while
A class led by Pastor Lara Bhasin

We are suspending this popular class for a while for the sake of the Lutheranism 101 Class.

Looking Ahead: Vacation Bible School

The VBS team will blast off to outer space August 19 - 23. We follow Jesus on our week-long journey. The program is open to children ages 3 - 10 years old. Join us for Bible stories, crafts, snacks, outdoor games and music. The program runs from 10 - 12:30 pm.

Immanuel Book Club

The Screwtape Letters

By C.S. Lewis

Once a month. Next class: 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 12
In the Martin Luther Room and via Zoom

Please join Pastor Lara for the class discussion at 8 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room, or sign in via Zoom. There is no need to read ahead. We will read it together in class.

Here is the Zoom information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81940413904?pwd=PyJZ56im1YnRyRCVq3ur1OEDwCCR9Z.1>

Meeting ID: 819 4041 3904

Passcode: 535156

Dial by your location using the same Meeting ID and Passcode: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81940413904?pwd=PyJZ56im1YnRyRCVq3ur1OEDwCCR9Z.1>

Pastor Carol's Mission Trip to Ethiopia and Kenya

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer



Ordination of Dagaga Gemachu

We can read a fuller account of this mission trip on the NALC website: <https://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NALC-May-2024-web.pdf> Here I want simply to lift up one detail of that trip — one joy of that trip: the ordination to the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament of Dagaga Gemachu. Before his ordination, Dagaga served as an evangelist in a congregation in Ethiopia. Now he is called to the holy ministry at an Oromo mission in Nairobi, Kenya. “Oromo” is one of the language groups of Ethiopia. Dagaga’s congregation is mainly a refugee community.

For clergy, it is always a joy to witness an ordination. It means that the Holy Spirit is hard at work raising up a new generation of ministers. It means that there is one more person on earth authorized by God to speak the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. So, the refugees in Nairobi have their pastor now. Carol and Bishop Dan Selbo and Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba are all happy about it. Here is a photo of Carol and Dagaga and a third person (we do not know his name):



Our congregation has sent benevolence money to support Dagaga's ministry to refugees in Kenya.

Coffee Hours

If you can host Coffee Hour or contribute a dish to Coffee Hour, that would be great! It would be most welcome. Please let Kathy Jolowicz know: Kaj133@aol.com. Letting Kathy know will help with our planning. Also, the Board of Deacons would greatly appreciate donations of soda, iced tea or juice. We have coffee and tea, but some people (and the kids!) like to have cold beverages.

Online Giving to Immanuel

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

Nowadays we have the option of giving online. Here is our QR code.



I find that if I simply point the camera on my iPhone to this code, a link comes up leading directly to our Immanuel online giving form. It is pretty easy.

In Our Prayers

IN OUR PRAYERS IN RECENT TIMES: Diane Kinley (friend of Jeff Rudat), Dr. Kathleen Mays (friend of Pastors Gregory and Carol Fryer), The Rev. Ray F. Kibler III (friend of Pastors Gregory and Carol Fryer and regular participant from California in our Sunday evening Compline service), Jennifer Loughrey, Minfang Cheng (friend of Louisa Laverde), Wolfgang Hahn, George Wong (friend of Jazo Ichikawa and family), Jazo Ichikawa, Jonathan Jenkins and Judy McKee (friends of Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer), Dakota Chin (family to Priscilla O'Carroll), Edna Szmodis, Carole Smith, Davida Goldman, Clifford Rose, Richard Ortiz, his wife, Maria, and their daughter, Damaris (Richard is Luz Ortiz's cousin), Susan McIntosh (Richard McIntosh's sister), Timna Rosenheimer (friend of David Kiehl), Melodee Kelly (friend of Thomas Wicks), Celia Cabrera, Stephen and Jean Fischer, Sister Angela (friend of Pastor Carol, David Kiehl, and Maria Barbera), LyAsia Beltre and her mother, Carol Dittbrenner, Ann Wareham, Carlos Opio, Sally Gaudons, Luz Ortiz, Jonathan Lochrichio (nephew of Luz Ortiz), Marcia Rudat (Jeff's mother), Richard Shuta (Jeff Rudat's uncle), Naomi Kinley (Jeff Rudat's friend), Karl Fritsch (Louise Laverde's brother-in-law), Alan Brook (Matt O'Donnell's father), Cayle Powell and Raymond Hernandez (Florida family members of Eric and Ester Neubacher), Tracy Leung (Priscilla's cousin), Robert Huckfeldt (David Kiehl's brother-in-law), Patricia Sanders, David Kiehl

(End)