

Rev. Kevin A. Karner  
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman  
School Principal

# Messenger

January 2023

Vol. 23 No. 1

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT



## OUR MISSION

The people of Immanuel Lutheran Church are living proof of the grace of God through salvation in Jesus Christ. Empowered by Christ, our mission is to reach out in love to those who have not yet responded to the Gospel that all may be united in Christ.

## School Mission

The Mission of Immanuel Lutheran School is to provide a loving atmosphere of academic excellence for children while developing in them and their families a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Immanuel Lutheran  
Church and School**  
154 Meadow Street  
Bristol, CT 06010

860-583-5649

[www.ilcs.org](http://www.ilcs.org)

## BLESSINGS TO ALL IN THIS NEW YEAR OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR

The Lord has truly blessed Immanuel during HIS year of Grace 2022! We have had so many blessings showered on our Church and school. If I were to list them all it would take a great portion of the Messenger!

So many positive, good things have happened and will continue to in the year 2023. Our Mission Statement is a guiding principle and we have seen the fruits of our labor in the growth of both the Church and the remarkable increase in enrollment in our day school. If you recall a few years ago we were wondering if the school could survive – and look what the Lord has done for us! Each time I go into the office it is such a joy to see all the smiling happy faces of all the children and to witness the dedication shown by all of our staff!

We still face the challenge of the secular world and how attacks against Christianity are on the rise not only in our country but throughout the world. But the Lord is with us and guiding us with HIS Love and Grace as we spread the Word of Life and Salvation throughout the world, now that we broadcast all our Divine Services which reach folks globally.

We must always remember that the Lord said “The gates of hell shall NOT prevail against his Church”. So we face many challenges but more so, we face many opportunities in the year of 2023. Always remember “Immanuel – GOD WITH US” – how can we not succeed!

In HIS Service

*Howard T. Schmelder*

Congregational President

## Young-At-Heart Christmas Party



(See Young-At-Heart on Page 4)



Messenger is published monthly by Immanuel Lutheran Church and School for its members and friends.

Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Ed & Dee Krampitz  
Newsletter Editors  
Deadline for submissions is the 19th of the month.

**SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICES**

8:00 a.m.

— (Live Streaming) —  
Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month.

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10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month.

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**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

9:30 a.m.

— (Live Streaming) —



**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

Worship Services are broadcast each Sunday at 1:00 p.m. on

**WNTY Radio**

**AM 990**

**&**

**FM 96.1**

and online at [KoolOldiesRadio.net](http://KoolOldiesRadio.net)

**From the Pastor's Desk**

**“What’s New about the New Year?”**

*On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.* Luke 2:21

A blessed new year in Jesus our Lord! The Irish rock band U2’s hit single “New Year’s Day” echoes the world’s divisions and the bloodshed they cause. It has a refrain of sorts: “Nothing changes on New Year’s Day.” It may seem that way to us too. We wake up to a new year, yet we still hear stories of hurt, of suffering, of bloodshed. Many are feeling the pain of the loss of a loved one to bloodshed, especially in the midst of this holy Christmastide.

But something does change on New Year’s Day. Eight days after Jesus was born, He was circumcised. His blood was first shed on this day. Shed to fulfill

the requirements of God’s covenant. Shed that He might be the perfect Son for us before the Father. Shed as a precursor to His blood being poured out on the cross for our forgiveness, for the world’s life.

His shed blood comes to us in His Holy Supper, not to cause us to mourn, but to lead us to rejoice that His blood brings us forgiveness, life, and salvation. In His shed blood is our peace for the New Year and forever.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, pour out Your grace upon this new year, that we might ever be found covered by the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Amen.*

Pastor Karner  
*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

**Pastoral “THANK YOU”!**

Renee and I would like to thank the members of Immanuel for your gracious gifts this holiday season. It reminds us of what a privilege it is to serve among you. May God bless each of you in this new year, as together we continue to celebrate His ultimate Gift – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**New Adult Membership Class**

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church? Do you have a spouse, or a friend, who might be interested? Are you a life-long Lutheran who would like to wipe away the cobwebs from your Luther’s Small Catechism? If so, then we have the class for you!

On Sunday, January 15, Pastor Karner will begin a new 12-session adult membership class entitled, “God For Us: An Introduction to Lutheran Teaching.” The 75-minute class will meet every Sunday night, from 6:45 – 8:00, in the OSB (old school basement). If you’re interested in attending, please contact the church office at 860-583-5649.

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. — 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

# ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **Women of Immanuel** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Christmas Potluck Dinner Meeting was held on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at noon in the old school basement. President Claudia Bishop welcomed all sixteen in attendance to our wonderful buffet lunch after a brief meaningful devotion. After lunch, she opened the meeting with the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer \$742.25, Mite Treasurer \$67.93. Our loose change collection brought in \$375.48 for LWML. The German Fest proceeds added \$392 to our treasury. Claudia shared some thank you notes our group has received.

Coffee Hours have been handled by Laurie Grekula and Sue Ginter with help from other members, and that will continue for the second Sunday into 2023.

Lois Koch, our Card and Prayer Shawl lady announced that she has distributed 255 Shawls and lap robes over the years, and continues this project.

We decided to distribute \$600 from our treasury at this holiday time. Gifts to: Radio Ministry \$100, Orphan Grain Train \$200, Zion Meals for Neighbors \$100, Parish Nurse Ministry \$200 – Gifts totaling \$600 will be distributed.

Thank you for supporting our coffee hour and German Fest. bake sale.

Remember, all women of Immanuel are welcome. Our next meeting will be in April; watch for news in the Sunday bulletin.



# Young at Heart

Blessings for a Happy Healthy New Year 2023 to all our "over age 50" members and friends!

We held our last event of the year, our Christmas Party, on Thursday, December 8 on the second floor of Max IV Restaurant on Middle Street. We welcomed over 50 members and friends who enjoyed buffet food, fellowship, Christmas songs, door prizes and fun. We also recognized many of our special lunch volunteers that make our monthly lunches happen; we would also welcome more volunteers in 2023. We do not hold our monthly lunches in the winter months due to the uncertainty of the weather and our safety concerns.

We hope to see you and greet you in church on Sundays or on Mondays if you enjoy playing cards at 1 pm in the Parish Center. Happy New Year!!



~ ~ ~ ~ **Church News** ~ ~ ~ ~

Please make sure to pick up your 2023 contribution envelopes located in the **Church/School** lobby. If you do not see your envelopes or would like to contribute using an envelope, please contact Dawn Milano our Financial Secretary. You may do so by leaving a note in the Financial Secretary slot in the church office or by e-mail at [dawn.milano@comcast.net](mailto:dawn.milano@comcast.net).

The contribution statements for 2022 will be in the mail the 3rd week in January 2023.



**Immanuel Welcomes our newest members!**

**William & Sandra Fabrizio**  
**Susan Schneider**  
**Paul Newport**

**Welcome to Our Church Family**

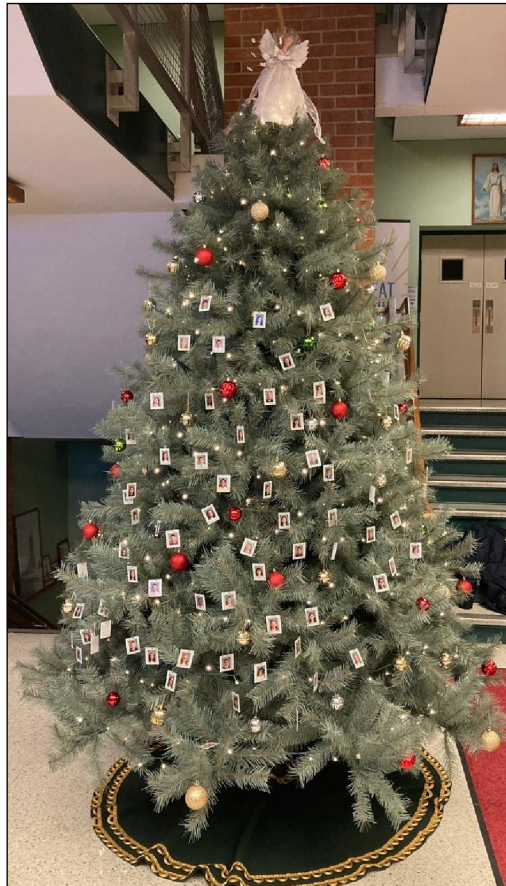
**Thanks To All!**

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate Immanuel Lutheran Church & School for Christmas! Our facilities are joyful and festive – and, a reminder to all of us to **Celebrate the true Reason For The Season!**

– **The Board of Christian Stewardship**



Amy Richmond helping with decorating.



Thank you to the Prindle and Tessier families for the new Christmas tree for the lobby. Photos show how beautiful the tree is during the day and lit at night.



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## The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

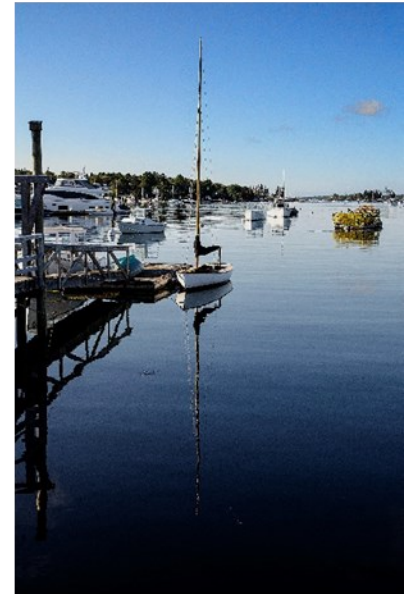
# REFLECTIONS – *THINK ABOUT IT!*

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*Using reflections* in photography allows the photographer to create more artistic and abstract images. Reflections can take an image that's just a snapshot and make it a much more interesting photograph. By reflecting the subject in water or some other shiny surface, a symmetry is created in the photo giving the image balance, an added point of interest, amazing effects, and beautiful images.

*Below from the top, L to R: West Arlington Vermont, Boothbay Harbor, Student Union Building-University of Hartford - Reflection in a Window, Main St. Torrington, Crane, and Collinsville Axe Company.*



**Join us!** *We meet on the First Tuesday of every month except July and August at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.*

## **From the Principal's Desk**

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

Students are due back on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, after a nice long Christmas break. One highlight leading up to Christmas break was our Christmas Pageant. The link is on our Facebook page, or you can access it here: [https://fb.watch/hLy\\_KFsnpt/](https://fb.watch/hLy_KFsnpt/) Little Lambs have been in session throughout the break. We have also offered Christmas Camp for school families.

In the Christmas Pageant our preschool children were sheep, all elementary boys were shepherds, and all elementary girls were angels. Middle school students served as narrators and many students had solos. It was a packed church and the children did a wonderful job of telling the story of our Savior's birth through verse and song. The students of Immanuel Lutheran School know the true meaning of Christmas.



Our basketball season continues. The boys had a win over St. Matthew on December 19. Way to go boys, and nice coaching Mr. Fedorchick!

Upward basketball will be renting our gym throughout January and February for basketball practice on week-day evenings and games on Saturdays. Their schedule will not impact the school practices, which end at 4:30 each day. The Upward schedule yields to our school's activities, which includes family nights and our own basketball games.

We are looking forward to National Lutheran Schools Week, January 22-28. Our theme this year is "Making Disciples of Christ," based on Matthew 28:18-20.

The second annual Daughter Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 11. A new Nerf Night for boys and moms, is scheduled for Saturday, March 11. Any help setting up the morning of either of these Saturday events would be very welcome.

The school's accreditation visit is around the corner. This occurs every five years. The staff has worked hard to gather evidence for their respective assignments. The NLSA visitation team arrives to begin their work February 13. Please keep the school in your prayers!

Blessings!

Anne Stuhlman



## “To Be A Winner”

Essays by the 8th grade, Immanuel Lutheran School, 1995

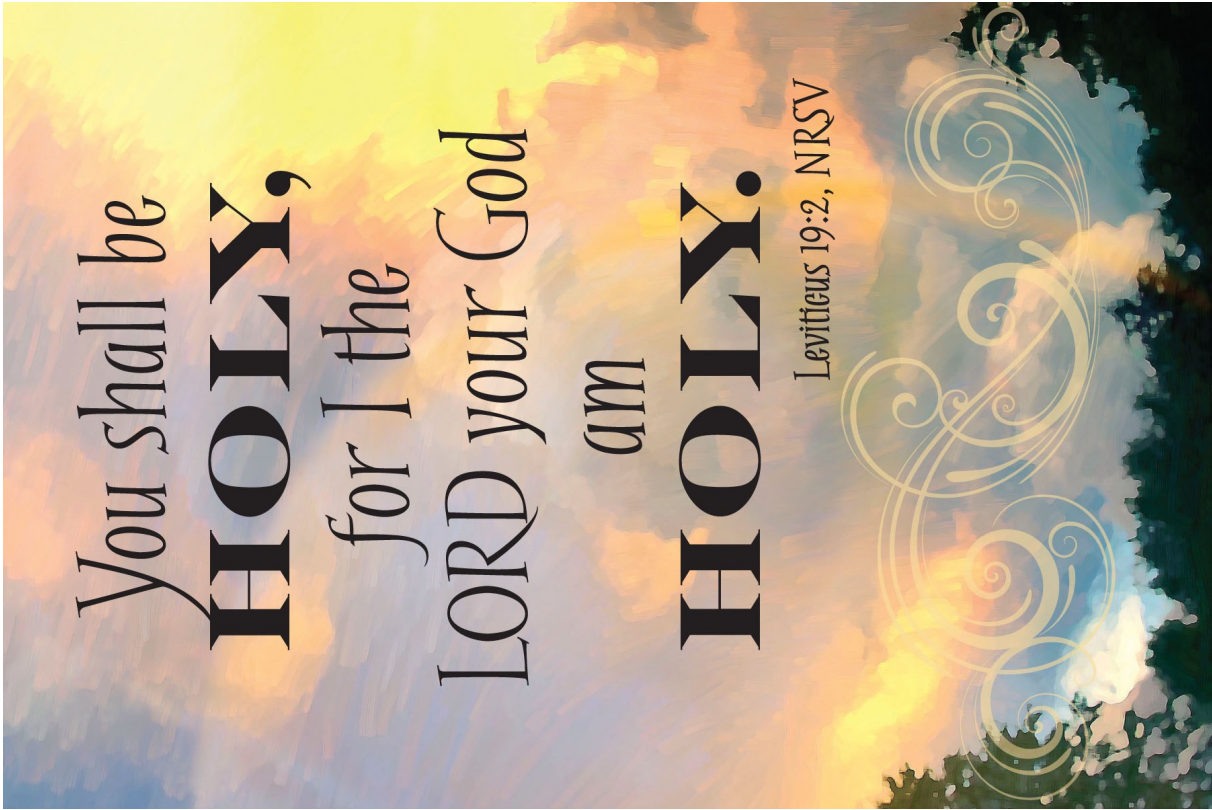
**Scott Preli:** To be a winner is more than just winning, it means having a heart to play and the spirit to never give up no matter what the odds are. A winner can be somebody who loses the game but keeps the heart to play and win.

**Tiffany Mockler:** To be a winner in anything, one must have drive. Without uncompromising determination you can never be a true winner. You also need to be a perfectionist, always wanting the best. A winner never settles for good; they just keep working. You also have to have a goal and a plan. A winner needs to be flexible and able to change plans at any given time. A winner, most importantly, never dwells on the past. Never look back; always look forward. A true winner has these qualities.

**Brian Saucier:** To be a winner, one must have many qualities. The first of these is ambition. The person must have a great desire to succeed no matter what it costs. The second is persistence. The person must keep striving for a goal no matter how far they get set back. The last is hard work. The person must be willing to take on hardships and be prepared to make sacrifices. The person needs all of these qualities to be a winner.

## JANUARY 2023 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Joyce Jacy Tanya Sakowski Kelly Tower	<b>2</b> Harry Niemand-Evans	<b>3</b> Marion Sonstroem	<b>4</b> Gilman Madore Ella McIntyre Paul Neumann Madelynn Parenteau Tami Raspanti	<b>5</b> Lynda Hintz Howard Schmelder	<b>6</b> Edith Frechette	<b>7</b> Edward Bodick Hannah McIntyre Todd Romaniello
<b>8</b> Ethan Dubois	<b>9</b> Judy Eichorn George Rindfleisch	<b>10</b> Tallulah Madore	<b>11</b> Jill Croce	<b>12</b> Rhianna Schab	<b>13</b> Jason Lindstrom	<b>14</b> Samara DeJesus Mark Simonides
<b>15</b> Edward Krampitz, Jr. Charles Radcliff Adam Swicklas Jacqueline Tessman	<b>16</b> Jeanette Eschner Emily Palmisano	<b>17</b> Vernon Koch Clifford McCorrison	<b>18</b> Tracy Bielert Joseph Ravita Heather Tessman	<b>19</b> Caleb Beaudoin Doug Fitz Sandra McIntyre Donna Ptak Doreen Reed Naomi Skinner	<b>20</b> Cynthia Jackson	<b>21</b> Dawn Milano Bram Pesce
<b>22</b> Jill Tonn Matthew Zurell	<b>23</b> Gregory Croze	<b>24</b> Rodney Grekula William Mazzaccaro Ralph Milano Gail Roberts John Tessman	<b>25</b> Robert Jankowski Jeffrey Maron Brad Schaffrick	<b>26</b> Logan Jackson	<b>27</b> Derek Werner	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Milton Kisser	<b>30</b> Gary Eschner	<b>31</b> Amanda Dennis Beverly Werner				



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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