

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman
School Principal

Messenger

May 2023

Vol. 23 No. 5

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.

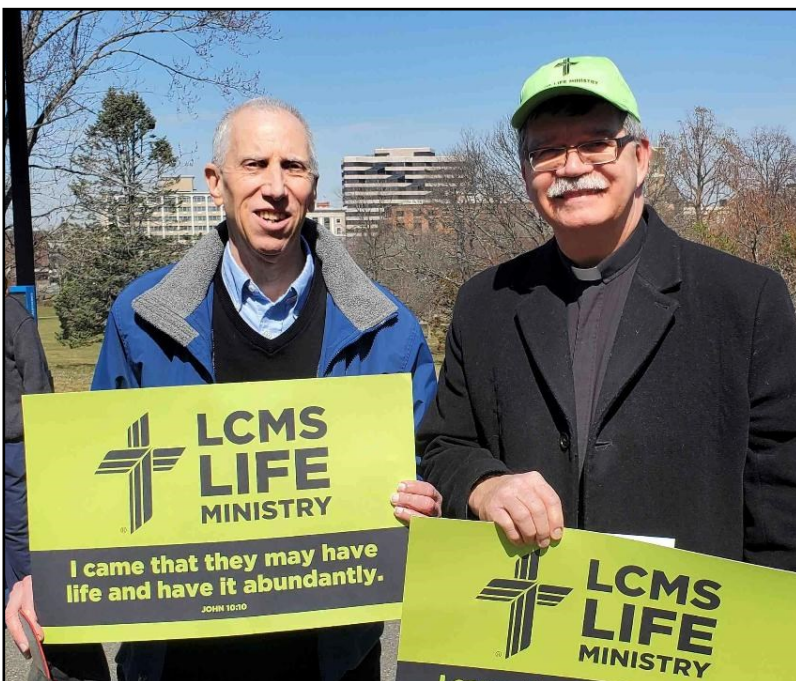
Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT 06010
860-583-5649
www.ilcs.org

Confirmation Class of 2023



Abigail Deloge, Ethan Dubois, and Lindsey Donahue

Connecticut March for Life



Members of our CT Chapter of Lutherans for Life, and other Lutheran pastors and their parishioners, attended the CT March for Life at the State Capitol on March 22nd. After listening to pro-life speakers on the lawn of the Capitol, we marched around Bushnell Park. Led by District President Beinke, we sang hymns as we marched. We are hoping that next year we can get more participation from Immanuel's congregation and other Lutheran churches in the area.

Don Smuda and Pastor Kotila of Holy Trinity.



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.

~ ~ ~

10:45 a.m.

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

~ ~ ~

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

From the Pastor's Desk

“I Predict. . . .God Is Faithful!”

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own under-
standing.* Proverbs 3:5

Here's a front-page headline from a few years ago: According to USA Today, scientists are going way out on a limb and predicting the state of California will be rocked by a strong earthquake before the year 2037.

When I first became aware of that headline I thought, I'm in the wrong line of work; I need to go into the prediction business. If you're wondering how I'd do, I'd like to submit my first batch of prognostications:

1. I predict it is going to rain in Seattle before the end of 2023.
2. I predict Death Valley will, for the most part, remain dry.
3. I predict a Missouri Synod-Lutheran Church will have a voter's meeting that will run longer than thirty minutes.
4. I predict a pastor will pick a hymn somebody in the church will not like.

Those are my predictions, and I'm ready to stand by them.

As silly as those predictions are, they're no sillier than promising an earthquake will hit California in the next two decades, and my predictions are less silly than the psychics who, a few years ago, apparently couldn't predict the Psychic Friends Network was going to go bankrupt.

The truth is this: nobody knows what the future holds. We don't know if our days will be many or few; we don't know if we are going to be healthy, wealthy, or wise.

Christians who know their limitations trust the Savior. We who have seen God's grace in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, find peace and contentment knowing that no matter what may come the Lord – who has made us and saved us – will keep us.

That's the promise He made thousands of years ago. It's the promise He has faithfully kept over the centuries and that He keeps even now. Equipped with that knowledge, we can take any and every problem to the Lord in prayer.

THE PRAYER: Dear heavenly Father, this sinful world is a difficult place in which to live. There are pressures, problems, and pains. These dark and evil things that beset us we turn over to You. We know, according to Your promise, You will hear our call and deliver us. This You will do because of Jesus, our Savior and Intercessor. In His Name we pray. AMEN.

Pastor Karner
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

**ASCENSION
DAY
SERVICE**

**with Holy Communion
Thursday, May 18 at
10:45 am and 7 pm**

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Church News ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JUNE – JULY – AUGUST

9 am – Divine Service with Holy Communion

10:15 Coffee

10:30 Adult Bible Study



CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN



Paul Stewart

July 6, 1940 — April 5, 2023



Ruth Lydia Meusel

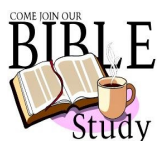
November 24, 1929 — April 18, 2023



Please join us weekly at the Parish Center on Tuesdays at 9:30am for **Walk and Talk**. All are welcomed. We are a fun group – we even laugh! Snacks and coffee provided. Weather permitting, we might even consider walking. Please join us, we'd love to see you.

LADIES LUNCH

We will be having a **Ladies Lunch** on Tuesday, **May 2**, at BARC - 12:30 pm. Join us and bring a friend.



Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, May 9th & 16th at noon. Bring a lunch, and join us for a Bible Study in the Parish Center.

Help wanted for Pastor's Secretary position.

This is a part time position in the church office. Computer knowledge of Microsoft Word and Publisher is helpful. Please contact Pastor Karner for more information 860-583-5649.

If anyone in the church would like a visit from the Parish Nurse, please contact me. If someone is being admitted to the hospital or having surgery, please let me know.

God's Blessings,
Roberta Kuhr RN BSN FCN

Bottle and Can Collection

Youth Group will be collection your returnable cans and bottles during the month of May!

Please leave them in the kitchen near the gym, thank you for your support!



Sunday, May 14



Young at Heart

Happy Spring Everyone! Don't you just love the colorful flowers and trees as you ride around town.

It's our annual **GREER'S CHICKEN LUNCH** on Thursday, **MAY 4**, at 11:30 in the old school basement.

Join us if you are "over age 50" for a delicious \$5 lunch, and if you bring food to fill our buffet tables we ask for only a \$2 donation. Lynda Hintz knows what food would be most helpful – 860-585-7004 – also, desserts are welcomed. This is also true for our June 1 Picnic buffet when we supply the meat and ask for your contributions to fill our buffet tables which include beverages and desserts.

Talented Photographer Bill Wentland has prepared a wonderful show of his photos of Old Deerfield Village for us; don't miss this enjoyable treat. (Representatives from LIFE STAR just canceled their planned program with us.)

Next month, Pastor Karner will do a program on "End of Life Decisions."

We hope you didn't miss our annual Pizza Lunch last month and are doing those Seated Exercises that the therapists demonstrated for you on Maundy Thursday.

We always need more volunteers and people to donate time and talents to our lunch group. Can you provide a program for us later this year, perhaps showcasing your talent or hobby or special interest? We hope to welcome you as one of our new volunteers.

We wish to send Mother's Day blessings on May 14 to all our mothers.

Why not invite a friend to join you on Thursday, May 4 for our lunch in the basement of the original school building at 11:30am!!

LIMITED TIME INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR MEMBERS

Immanuel Lutheran cordially invites its members to participate in a unique Stewardship opportunity to assist the Church in reducing its borrowing costs while earning an attractive 4.00% annual return, a highly competitive rate! By investing in a promissory note with Immanuel Lutheran, you can make a positive impact on our financial health while enjoying a solid financial investment for yourself. As you consider this investment opportunity, here are some details you may find helpful.

- Your investment will help Immanuel Lutheran reduce its borrowing costs, allowing the Church to reduce interest costs paid to our bank lender on our Line of Credit.
- The promissory note is a safe and secure investment, backed by the full Faith and credit of Immanuel Lutheran Church & School.
- You can choose the amount you'd like to invest, starting from as little as \$500.

I hope these details will help you to make an informed decision.

If you have an interest in participating in the new Stewardship investment program, please contact Howard T. Schmelder either by phone 860.583.5649 or email ilcshts@gmail.com.

In HIS Service,

Howard T. Schmelder
Congregational President



Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT 06010

April 11, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Alleluia! Christ is risen! No news greater than that! In fact, that puts a wrap on the entire story.

On Saturday morning, April 2 in 2022, some dear friends from our church came together with us at the site where our house once stood in Wears Valley (Sevierville, TN). They came to help us dig through the ruins, sifting through the ashes, in hopes of finding something remaining—something of memories and times-gone-by. Among what very little was found, there were pieces of broken plates and cups, blackened and broken pottery, once beautiful, hand-crafted chalices and patens (made and given to me through the years). All broken.

It was how we felt, too, after that disastrous fire of March 30th that completely destroyed our house (and my car). We tried to pray, but so often could not even find, much less speak, the words. We were broken.

But in the midst of our brokenness and out of those very ashes, pure gold was found—in fact, the purest gold ever!

“Kintsugi” is a Japanese word for a venerable, long-standing tradition within that culture where broken ceramics and pottery are reconnected using a specially-formulated Japanese lacquer and pure gold. Down through the centuries, it has become a highly-specialized artistic endeavor, resulting in exquisite beauty. Imagine it: a once-beautiful cup broken to bits, but pieced back together with gold joining the broken pieces, something once-whole and beautiful put back together to be even more beautiful and more precious!

Into our lives over these weeks and months, the Lord has poured gold: pure gold. You, our dear brothers and sisters, are that gold that He has poured into our broken hearts. Your words and hugs, your notes and emails, your boundless kindness and generosity—your help—it was all pure gold poured out on us by God through you.

The Lord has surely used you to heal us during these difficult days, these times of great loss. Out of the ashes He has shown the beauty and tenderness of His love for us. He is putting the broken pieces back together, and—what we should always know!—He is lavish in His love and over-the-top in the ways and works of His mercy toward us. Pure gold!

Thank you for your prayers and for all of the many, many ways you reached out to us to comfort and to help. Thank you for a generosity that is beyond our understanding—your hearts poured out lavish kindness! You are one and all God’s pure gold!

We’ve reached the decision that we will not rebuild on our property in Wears Valley, even as we know its beauty and recall our joy in the years we were able to spend there. God blessed us so richly in enabling us to live in that part of His creation all these years—oh how we loved it! Precious and many wonderful memories we have! However, the decision-making required in the building of a new house (in this current economic climate) is not something that we feel we’re able to handle at this stage of our lives.

Making our way through the insurance process of our household inventory was all but mind-numbing! Remembering everything in every drawer and cabinet and closet and when you acquired it and what it probably cost when you acquired it and what it would probably cost now and... If anything, this lengthy process prolonged the time of great sadness remembering those things most precious to us: photos of our kids growing up, a private visitation Communion kit given me by a faithful Lutheran pastor who lived to be 101, favorite pieces of pottery, a ring given Jean belonging to her grandmother... the list goes on.

A few months ago, with the great help of a member of our congregation in Knoxville (also a realtor), we managed to (finally) locate and purchase a small condo. It’s located in north Knoxville, only about 15 minutes from our church. We’re still in the process of furnishing it, but it’s already quite comfortable for us.

Daily our Lord continues teaching us, leading us, shaping us for the days ahead, and those “days ahead” will be good. That we know.

We know it because *“the Lord is risen, indeed—alleluia!”* Just think of that! Out of the ashes, pure gold. Beyond any imagination.

Pastor Larry and Jean Rockemann

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Brick and Mortar

What is Cityscape Photography?

Cityscape photography is a photographic style that captures urban landscapes. Much as natural panoramas are the subject of landscape photography, man-made features are the focus of cityscape photography. You can shoot city photography from a wide array of vantage points anywhere from street level to the top floor of a tall building, and you can capture both day and night cityscapes, depending on your equipment. The results may surprise you ... it's no longer just buildings.



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

THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN FOUNDATION Call for Grant and Scholarship Applications



Thanks to a generous gift, the Immanuel Lutheran Foundation has been serving diverse needs of the Immanuel Lutheran Church since 1997. This “General Fund” has provided financial support through a Grant Application Process to do those important “non-budgeted” things “for which we never seemed to have the money.”

While the Foundation’s General Fund earnings are directed to the support of *non-budgeted items*, the earnings of the Westfall Endowment Funds established some years later are directed to specific needs. These include; local expenses, school expenses, and the maintenance and upkeep of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Provisions have also been made to award five scholarships each year. One is offered to an Immanuel member entering “Preaching and Teaching” ministries of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Four are available to members of Immanuel and/or graduates of the Immanuel Lutheran School enrolled in an accredited College or University with a preference given to applicants aspiring to enter the ministry, or a career in medicine, law, or engineering.

It’s Time!

All this for one reason.

To provide continuing support for the Ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the Immanuel Lutheran Church here in Bristol.

2023 Grant Applications are being accepted now for review beginning in April. Forms are available thru the Church Office and returned there when complete. Westfall Scholarship Applications are also available in the office and must be completed and returned to the office no later than Sunday, June 18, 2023.

The Directors begin the Grant Review Process in April and continue throughout the year as funding remains available.

Questions? Pick up a Foundation Brochure in the Church/School Lobby or contact one of the Directors; Bill Wentland, Andy Helming, Bob Wollenberg, Diane Read, Mike Killian.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Applications are available in the church office:

We are accepting applications for Immanuel Lutheran Church Scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded to members of Immanuel Lutheran Church or graduates of Immanuel Lutheran School.

Applications are due on Sunday, June 18, 2023 in the church office.

These scholarships
will be awarded in August.

**“Given
for
you.”**



~ School News ~

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

I am happy to report that Immanuel Lutheran School has been re-accredited for another five years through the National Lutheran School Association. The visitation team members came from Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut. Pastor Rowold, from Cheshire Lutheran Church, served as the pastor on the team. The group was on site for three days. They saw most of the classes, visited with all of the staff and many students as well.

There are upcoming May field trips for all grade levels. PK3 and PK4 will travel to Torrington to PlayCity, a play adventure geared toward young children. On May 5, students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade will go to the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport. Students in grades 4-8 will travel to Groton to participate in Project Oceanology to study water chemistry and ecology in late May. Grades 7 and 8 will go on the bi-annual Washington DC Trip May 21-26. We have a very full month of May ahead!

We conduct annual testing in May. This year we are changing to the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) from the Stanford we used for many years. We believe the ITBS will be a useful tool in planning curriculum changes and monitoring student growth.

Middle School Missions Club (photo) is a faith in action group who create opportunities to share the good news of our salvation. Their first project was care packages for some of our homebound members that include a catechism refresher. Their next project is welcome baskets for the parents of newborns that include information on infant baptism, an invitation to our church, information about our school, and board book Bible stories.

The Track Club for K-8, meets to prepare for an upcoming track meet in Danbury, hosted by Immanuel Danbury, on May 21. Students are working on passing the baton for relays and building their speed.

The students are treated to Dave Kisser as the chapel leader the last Wednesday of every month. Students are all very engaged, smiling and participating in the service. Most of the music includes movements and it is all very exciting. The students are preparing for the All School Sing on May 7. They will be singing at the 10:45 service, with Dave Kisser and Alyssa Kirschner accompanying on their guitars.



(Continued on Page 9)





(Continued from Page 8)



Spring Clubs have begun! Garden Club with Alice Helming meets once a week and has 30 students participating. The K-8 students are planting the seeds for all of the gardens on the church and school property. The students are also learning about plants as they participate.

Yearbook Club is for middle school students and nearly every middle school student has signed up. Our middle school language arts teacher, Claudia Welikson, is guiding the students through the process of yearbook creation.

Yours in Christ,
Anne Stuhlman, Principal

Warren Kirschner led a team in planting a new maple tree in the Little Lambs play area. A very nice maple was selected to give shade in the summer months and beautiful color in the fall. We are very appreciative to Warren and his team of volunteers. The children will benefit from the tree for many years to come.

MAY 2023 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Victoria Holcomb Kaitlyn Thormahlen	2	3 Gregory Blaschke, Jr. Henry Darm	4 Pauline Blaschke Sue Lutz	5 Aaron Boutin David Thormahlen	6 Kenadee Boney
7	8	9 Morgan Boucher	10 Rudy Finger John Mora Matthew Raspanti Cassandra Scarpati	11 Robert Boutin Marian Goodwin Morgan Moliengo	12 James Christopher, III Kimberly Martin	13 Elaine Blank Samuel Gahr Meadow Wells
14 Amelie Hutton Parker Synder	15 Kelly Lejeune	16 Casey McIntyre Nate Poole	17 Carol Young	18	19 Adam Beudet Madison Bloom Roberta Kuhr	20 Kevin Badenhop Nancy Mitchell
21 John Bohn Seth Foley	22 Nate Kisser Matthew Tonn	23 Michael DeAngelo Annabelle Kirschner Lorraine Sonstrom	24 Tyler Bodley Eva Zebrowski	25 Mark Brasche Sophia Reid	26 Savannah Duval	27 Bryan Pavlik
28	29 Christy Hislop 	30 Isla Kirschner	31 Oscar Jobs Anne Stuhlman	 Armed Forces Day May 20		



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