

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

December 2023

Vol. 23 No. 12

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.

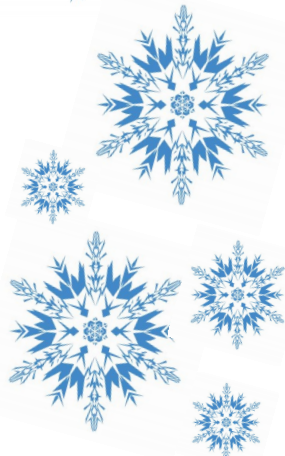
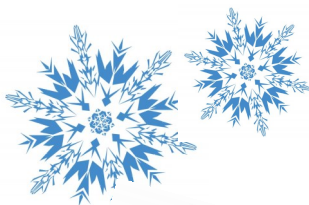
School Mission

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



Advent: The Season

The four-week season of Advent opens the Church Year and prepares us for Christmas. During the Sundays in Advent, familiar symbols and Scripture readings bring us “the bad news and the good news.” On the one hand, they sharpen our sense of unworthiness and need for redemption. On the other, they stir in us an eager expectation for our promised Savior.

Advent’s somber side reflects its message of repentance: “*Prepare to meet your Maker!*” Advent’s joyful side reflects its message of grace: “*Prepare to receive God’s gift – Himself!*”

Preparation for “Xmas” – the commercial Christmas holiday – usually means hectic planning and much activity. But Advent’s preparation for Jesus’ birthday means time-out and quiet moments.

“Xmas” preparation may be a dreaded burden with high emotional expectations that are seldom met. But Advent’s preparation is God’s work, cleansing our minds, setting our hearts at peace, and fulfilling our inmost longings.



Join us for midweek Advent worship on the Wednesdays of December at 10:45am and 7:00 pm for this special time of reflection. Our theme is “Advent Waiting.” The schedule includes:

December 6: Waiting in Silence (Zechariah)

December 13: Waiting Together (Mary & Elizabeth)

December 20: Waiting in Wonder (Joseph)

Take the time to “slow down” and spiritually “breathe.” You’ll be glad you did!

Pastor Karner

The Women of Immanuel will hold their annual Christmas potluck on Saturday, December 16 at noon in the OSB. Bring your favorite dish and a friend; desserts will be provided. All women are welcome. Mark your calendar to celebrate the Advent of the coming of our Lord with your sisters in Christ.

Don’t forget to bring your Mite Box offering for LWML.





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.

Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month.

— (Live Streaming) —

~ ~ ~

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

AND

FM 96.1

and online at KoolOldiesRadio.net

From the Pastor's Desk

Giving and Receiving

With the month of November now in our rear-view mirror, and with the days of December straight ahead, I've been thinking about the so-called "season of giving" that our world seems to embrace on an annual basis. In November the focus is on "Thanks" *giving*. *Giving* mercy comes from thankful hearts – hearts that have been touched and changed by the mercy that God has *given* us in Jesus. And it's not just about helping others (even though that's our primary motivation); it also builds a sense of community among us. There's nothing like working side-by-side with a brother or sister in Christ: a common mission will bring together people who may have very different backgrounds and interests (it may even cause 8:00 am people to cross paths with 10:45 am folks!). May the Holy Spirit continue to work in each of us to be the "hands and feet" of Christ to a dying world.

And that brings us to December – with midweek services, the carol sing, Christmas (and ILS Christmas programs), and the celebration of a New Year. And one of the phrases that you'll hear time and again is that "it's better to *give* than to *receive*" – which comes from Acts 20:35, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we

must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to *give* than to *receive*.'" Now, I'm not about to argue against Scripture; but I would like to mention one "caveat." As important as *giving* is, let's not undervalue the importance of *receiving*.

In its explanation of the Divine Service, the introduction of the Lutheran Worship hymnal states: "The rhythm of our worship is from him to us, and then from us back to him. He *gives* his gifts, and together we *receive* and extol them"; which is to say that God desires to be worshipped through the *receiving* of His gifts. So let this be my "pastoral encouragement" to the members of Immanuel: in this season of *giving*, take time to be on the *receiving* end of God's good gifts – His Word of life, healing, freedom and forgiveness, the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood to bring you into a closer relationship with Him, and the fellowship and support of our Immanuel family. It's not selfish to think about receiving gifts this time of year, especially the greatest gift of all – God's Son, our Savior, lying in a manger. Christmas blessings to all!

Pastor Karner

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24



Oh Holy Night

Christmas Services and New Year's Eve

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24, 9 am (HC) 7 pm & 11 pm (HC)

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25, 9 am (HC)

New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, December 31, 9 am 7 pm (HC both services)

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** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN



Pauline Blaschke

May 4, 1939 — November 21, 2023



We welcome to our Immanuel Family



Ryan Anthony Hamelin DeGregory,

through the

Rite of Holy Baptism.

Son of Matthew DeGregory and Laura Hamelin.

Young at Heart

Christmas Blessings to all our members and friends!! Hope you are planning to join us on Thursday, December 7, at 11:30 at Max IV Restaurant on Middle Street for our Christmas Lunch event. We needed your reservation and check last month, but want to let you know that slight changes are possible by calling Carol at 860-582-9608 by the 5th. We don't want you to miss out on the buffet meal, singing, door prizes, and fellowship. This is our 8th event of the year and we will not hold any senior lunches until next spring 2024.

Last month about 30 of us enjoyed wonderful soups and sandwiches as we celebrated the 29th Anniversary of this lunch program for our

older members and heard from a Beltone representative.

Thanks to everyone who supplied the wonderful foods we enjoyed.

Remember: Advent mid-week church services begin Dec. 6 at 10:45 am and 7 pm. The Wednesday morning service is followed by a soup lunch in the Parish Center for fellowship. Watch the church schedule this month. There will be two Sundays with just a 9 am. service. Don't miss the Community Carol Sing on Dec. 9 and the School Christmas Pageant on Dec. 18 just to mention a couple activities.

Hope to see you often as you share your Christmas Joy!



Thank you all so much for the very generous donations for Warm a Child. Your donations were very much appreciated!

May God bless you all,
Christy



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



Parish Nurse Corner

Monday, December 4, 11 and 18 for Immanuel’s Card Players. Starts at 1 pm in the Parish Center. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tuesday, December 5, 12 and 19 for Walk and Talk. Starts at 9:30am in the Parish Center. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tuesday, December 5 — Women’s Bible Study at noon in the Parish Center. Bring your lunch.

Tuesday, December 12 — ladies lunch at BARC at 12:30.

December 28 — Policeman’s luncheon at noon, in the school gym for our Bristol heroes. Looking for volunteers to set up, and to help with clean-up after the event. Please contact me.

Anyone wishing to make visits to the home bound or if you know someone who would like a visit, you may also leave me a message.

Merry Christmas and God’s blessings for a happy, healthy New Year.

I will be on vacation next month from January 6 till January 26. Please don’t hesitate to leave me a message while I’m away. I will contact you as soon as I return on Monday, January 29.

Thank you for your support. My thoughts and prayers are with you always.

*Roberta Kuhr, Parish Nurse
860-621-0230*

**Proverbs 31 Women Bible Study
Tuesday, December 12**



Our next Bible study will be with **Holiday Cheer** at 85 East Road (Rhoda’s home). Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange. It can be new or one you’ve had that you want to exchange. Please bring a snack to share.

Gift exchange and snacks are at 6 pm. and Bible study is at 7 pm.

Brenda Buonafede

Community Carol Sing

Join in the festive spirit at our cherished annual Community Carol Sing! On **December 9th**, at 6:30 PM, we’ll light up the outdoors with our dazzling tree lighting ceremony, followed by the timeless melodies that define the season. Save the date for an evening that promises warmth, music, and the treasured spirit of our church and community. Treats, crackling fires, cozy beverages, and an abundance of holiday cheer.

You’re invited to join us for a Holiday

Community Carol Sing

ALL ARE WELCOME!

DATE: **Saturday, Dec 9th**

TIME: **6:30 PM**

PLACE: **Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**
(Outside on the corner of West & Meadow Streets, across from Boys & Girls Club)

Christmas Tree Lighting
Sing your favorite Christmas Carols
Outdoor Fires & Luminaries
Refreshments & Warm Beverages

 **Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**
154 Meadow Street, Bristol, CT 06010
18601.583.3649 | www.ILCS.org



Thank you to Pat Wollenberg and Elaine Larson for Immanuel’s Thanksgiving display.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Roadtrip - *Get Close*

The Bridge of Flowers - Shelburn Falls, MA



"Google" Bridge of Flowers and Shelburn Falls, MA.
There's more to the story of this small New England town incorporated in 1775.



An hour and 30-minute drive from Bristol brings you to Shelburn Falls, Massachusetts and the famous *Bridge of Flowers*. You'll find an impressive display of floral wonder on an old railroad bridge from 1908 managed by the local Women's Club since 1929. The town still feels like 1920. Lots of photo opportunities. *And ...* a short walk from the bridge brings you to the falls on the Deerfield River, and the Glacial Potholes!

Photograph those flowers up close so you don't miss a single petal.



Join us! Our next meeting is, Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

Radio Ministry Celebrates 75 Years

On the 19th of December this year, Immanuel Lutheran Church celebrates 75 years of Radio Ministry; sending our worship service out over the radio throughout Bristol and surrounding towns. What began as an idea for a new ministry has lasted for more than seven decades and continues even today. Over the years, homebound members have listened faithfully to this real connection to their church and non-members also have followed our broadcast and have been moved to send a note of appreciation or even a monetary gift in support of this ministry begun in 1948.

In January of that year, a new radio station, WBIS, began broadcasting in the Bristol area. Because the radio focused on local news and events, some members of the congregation began to think of a new ministry; broadcasting our Sunday worship services over the radio. On Monday, December 6, 1948, a special voters meeting was called to present to the congregation a proposal to broadcast Sunday worship services over WBIS radio. It was decided to allow the broadcasts for a period of 26 weeks and a committee was selected to handle all the details of the broadcast. The committee made arrangements with WBIS to air the worship services at a cost of \$29 per week. Notice was placed in the Bristol Press on Saturday, December 18 and the first worship service was broadcast on Sunday, December 19, 1948.

For the first five years, the equipment was rented from WBIS and an engineer from the station came each Sunday to program the broadcasts. Then in 1953, money was raised to purchase equipment for the church. Over the years, dedicated volunteers have manned that equipment and sent our worship service out over the radio waves.

At first, the broadcast went out through the phone lines to the local radio station and later taped on a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Later the tapes were on cassettes which were copied and given out to those who asked for them.

Today, the ministry continues. The services are now digitally copied onto a CD and copies are made on a multi-disk duplicator every Sunday morning. Copies are given out each Sunday to those who request them, and the master disk is transported by a volunteer to the radio station in Southington for the afternoon broadcast at 1:00 p.m. on WNTY radio 990 AM, 96.1 FM and online at KoolOldiesRadio.net.

Please keep this important ministry of our church in your daily prayers. Also, consider a monetary gift to this ministry so that in the words of our Mission Statement, we may “reach out in love to those who have not yet responded to the Gospel that all may be united in Christ”.

High School Youth News Higher Things

<https://higherthings.org/events/who-am-i-2024/>

Who Am I

2024 Higher Things Conferences

“BEHOLD, I HAVE ENGRAVED YOU ON THE PALMS OF MY HANDS” (ISAIAH 49:16A)

Identity.

More than what you want to be when you grow up. More than what's expected of you. What do you see when you look in the mirror? What gives you value? What makes you... “you”? Dealing with insecurity, anxiety, and self-hate is hard enough before the pressures of the world, the pressures of your family, your own hopes and wants and dreams, and even the pressures of the church make this question debilitating.

So Jesus baptizes you. Your identity is here. A child of God. It gives shape to the rest. It gives shape to your role as a man, a woman. It gives promise to your vocation. It even gives answer to your sin. You don't identify by that anymore. Not by what you've done, but by what's been done for you.

Who am I? A Christian. You're found in the wounds of the savior. Your identity starts there.

Join us in the summer of 2024 to learn about how your identity is rooted in Christ at Who Am I.

JUNE 25-28, 2024
Concordia University Wisconsin
Mequon, WI

JULY 16-17, 2024,
University of The Ozarks
Clarksville, AR

JULY 23-26, 2024,
Lewis & Clark College
Portland, OR

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **School News** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

November is coming to an end and it has been filled with many memorable events. We started the month with our annual Veterans day program. The students handed out cards to the veterans, and while wearing colors of red, white, and blue, they shared their essays, poems and songs expressing honor and thankfulness to the veterans for their service. We will continue to collect offerings for the military chaplains, and we also donated food this month to help support our local shelters and food pantries.

As a way to help our students gain a positive mindset, some attended an assembly called NED mindset mission. NED stands for **N**ever give up, **E**ncourage others and **D**o your best. They also learned about the power of yet, which means if you're not good at something, it just means you're not good at it yet. Other students went to St. Paul where they enjoyed a great performance of "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe".

We hope you enjoyed our performance of "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart" at our first all school sing, and now it is time for us to begin preparing for our K-8 Christmas program on December 18th at 6:30pm. The preschool will have their own performance of Christmas songs on December 21st at 10:30am in the church. All are welcome to attend both events and we look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Christ,
Debbie Krueger



Photos from our Veterans day program more photos on next page.



Immanuel Lutheran School children say thank you to our Veterans on Friday, November 10th
~ Veterans Day photos by Marilyn Stone ~



WINTER ICE MELT AVAILABLE

In an effort to defray the cost of annual snow & ice removal, the Board of Trustees has Winter Ice Melt available. The ice melt is the Kissner's Co., Landscaper's Choice Ice Melt with CMA (Calcium Magnesium Acetate). It is easier on the concrete than traditional rock salt. This ice melt is environmentally friendly and pet safe. Board members have volunteered to deliver to church member homes if needed. Anyone can order, so tell your friends & neighbors. The order form should be returned to the Church office.



Cut & Return to Church Office

Name: _____ **I need delivery** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

_____ **50 lb. bag/s @ \$17.50 for personal use** = \$ _____

_____ **50 lb. bag/s @ \$17.50 for church use** = \$ _____

_____ **1 for me, 1 for church @ \$35.00** = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Checks should be made out to Immanuel Lutheran Church, with a notation regarding the Ice Melt sale. Call Bob Wollenberg with any questions, 860-584-0587 (hm) or 860-877-3031 (cell).

DECEMBER 2023 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Joy Mora	2 Peggy Campbell Ethan Debaise Walter Kuhr
3 Cameron Reed Luke Sonstroem	4 Lori Eschner Robert Helming	5 Donovan Jusino Hannah Krueger	6 Joy Grekula Elizabeth Wilde	7	8	9 Anthony Lopisi Erin Madigan-Scheidel Oskar Tolmoff
10 James Bishop James Bugryn Scott Dennis Glorie Romaniello	11 James Thaxter	12 Dean Buden III Beth Deloge Alison Eschner Diane Finger	13 Marion Schroeder	14 Nathaniel Tessman Bobby Triplett	15 Valya Rindfleisch Andrew Tonn	16 Luke Foley Stephanie Parenteau Jamie Simard
17	18 Kyleigh Boney Cole Krueger Carol Moge Andrew Skinner	19 Marcia Lopisi	20 Hans Bayer Cheyenne Blaschke James Raspanti	21 Rebecca Croce Maria Santilli	22	23 Myrna Gamache Robert Kirschner Jason Krueger
24 Ingebor Harrington Caroline Scarpati	25 Merry Christmas	26 Kristen Hill Maggie Moliengo Erika Santilli	27 Rosie Fernandez David Follo	28 Brenda Buonafede Edwin Gillette	29 Alan Blank	30 Sheri Lejeune Jacob Stringer Madison Tessier Edward Young
31 Sal Buonafede Victoria Casa						



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRISTOL, CT 06010
PERMIT NO. 382

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
154 MEADOW STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Messenger 