

Rev. Kevin A. Karner  
Pastor

Deborah Krueger  
School Principal

# Messenger

January 2024

Vol. 24 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)

## Immanuel's Pre-k 3 and 4 Christmas Program



## Young-At-Heart Christmas Party



(See Young-At-Heart on Pages 4 & 5)



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](http://KoolOldiesRadio.net)

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

### **WHAT IS THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD?**

The Epiphany of our Lord is the wonderful liturgical festival observed on January 6. It is the oldest of the Christmas festivals and originally the most important. Since January 6 is most often a weekday, Lutherans and liturgical Protestants sometimes shift the celebration of Epiphany to the Sunday immediately following the 6th. Epiphany is also a season that lasts until the beginning of Lent and encompasses four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

### **WHAT DOES THE WORD “EPIPHANY” MEAN?**

The word epiphany comes from the Greek noun “epiphaneia,” which means “shining forth,” “manifestation,” or “revelation.” In the ancient Greco-Roman world, an epiphany referred to the appearance of one of the gods to mortals. Since Hellenistic kings and Roman emperors were considered by many to be gods, the word epiphany was also used as a term for divine majesty. The Epiphany of our Lord is the Christian festival that celebrates the many ways through signs, miracles, and preaching that Jesus revealed Himself to the world as Christ, God Incarnate, and King of kings.

### **WHAT DOES THE CHURCH COMMEMORATE DURING EPIPHANY?**

The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord originally commemorated three incidents that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). Nowadays, most liturgical churches emphasize the visit of the Magi on January 6th and celebrate Christ's baptism on the first Sunday after the 6th.

### **WHO WERE THE MAGI?**

The Magi were members of the religious hierarchy of ancient Persia and Media (the region corresponding to modern Iran). They were scholars and practitioners of astrology, divination, and the interpretation of dreams.

Their expertise in these arcane subjects is the reason they were often referred to as “wise men.” The Magi of Babylonia undoubtedly came into contact with exiled Jewish priests living among them. Through these acquaintances the Magi learned of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming of Christ, including the cryptic “messianic star” passage of Numbers 24:17. This explains why the astral phenomenon described in Matthew 2:1-12 so fascinated the wise men of the gospel narrative. Many pious legends about the wise men have arisen over the centuries. In the western Christian churches, these include the traditions that there were three Magi who visited Jesus, that their names were Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, and that they were kings.

### **WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOR FOR EPIPHANY?**

White, the color of purity, holiness, and joy is the traditional liturgical color for Epiphany, the first Sunday after the Epiphany (the Baptism of our Lord), and the last Sunday after the Epiphany (the Transfiguration of our Lord). For the other Sundays of the season, green is normally used. Green represents the new life that Christ gives us in baptism, as well as the spiritual growth we experience during the season as we study the Lord's ministry of teaching, healing, and miracles. Some churches prefer using white on every Sunday of the Epiphany season and reserve green for the season after Pentecost.

### **WHY IS EPIPHANY SUCH A SPECIAL DAY AND SEASON?**

Epiphany is one of the most important festivals of the liturgical year because it shows the church how God comes to His people. We are so full of sin and deserving of divine punishment that we cannot hope to approach God. Knowing that we cannot come to Him, God took the initiative and came to us by becoming one of us. The most holy and almighty God condescended to take on human

(Continued on Page 3)

*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*

## **From the Pastor's Desk** (Continued from Page 2)

flesh in order to reveal His salvation to the world. This is the mystery of the Epiphany of our Lord.

During this season, Christians meditate on many of our Lord's epiphanies. Epiphany Day itself commemorates the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem to worship the Messiah and bring Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:1-12). Since the earliest days of the church, these wise men have been considered to be representatives of all the peoples of the earth. By means of a miraculous star, God showed them that Jesus was born to be not only the King of the Jews, but the Lord and Savior of all nations. The Baptism of our Lord is the first Sunday after the Epiphany. This important festival is the observance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of John the Baptist (Mark 1:9-11). The words of the Father and the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove as Jesus came out of the waters revealed Him to be God's true Son.

The Transfiguration of our Lord, the last Sunday after the Epiphany, is a celebration of the moment that Christ, in the company of Moses and Elijah, literally shined His glorious divine nature on Peter, James, and John, leaving them dazed and awestruck (Luke 9:28-36). This event, the greatest of Christ's epiphanies until His triumphant resurrection from the grave on Easter, serves as the dramatic conclusion of the season. Transfiguration Sunday stands in vivid contrast to what takes place just a few days later: Ash Wednesday, the day of sorrow and repentance that initiates the season of Lent.

In between the two Sundays that mark the Lord's baptism and transfiguration, the church concentrates on several of the other incidents from Scripture that show how Jesus

manifested God's love to the world through His ministry of preaching, miracles, and healings. What is common to each of these epiphanies is that in one way or another they make known the identity and mission of Jesus Christ: True Man and True God, born into this sinful world to be the Lord and Savior of all humanity.

We begin to understand the joy and wonder of Epiphany when we read the story of Simeon (Luke 2:22-35). Simeon was a devout old man who lived in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah with his own eyes. When Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated according to Jewish law regarding firstborn males (Exodus 13:2), Simeon realized that this infant was the Christ. In joyful response to this personal epiphany, the old man took the baby Jesus in his arms and chanted a magnificent song of thanksgiving best known by its Latin title, *Nunc Dimittis*. We at Immanuel, along with Lutheran Christians everywhere, sing Simeon's great canticle at the end of the service of Holy Communion. The words of the *Nunc Dimittis* remind us of the mercy and grace that God revealed to the world in His Son, Jesus Christ:

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace  
according to Thy word,  
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation  
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people:  
A light to lighten the Gentiles  
And the glory of Thy people Israel.

Pastor Karner  
*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

The contribution statements for 2023 will be in the mail the 3rd week in January 2024.

Please make sure to pick up your 2024 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 Lutheran Witness* subscription for 2024 is now \$20.60.

Please have your subscription in by Thursday, February 1



## **CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN**



**Judith A. Buonafede**

April 6, 1941 — December 18, 2023



**L. Samuel Gahr**

May 13, 1918 — December 20, 2023



# Young at Heart

Blessings for a Happy, Healthy New Year 2024 to all of our “over age 50” members and friends!

We held our last event of the year, our Christmas Party, on Thursday, December 7 on the second floor of Max IV Restaurant on Middle Street. We welcomed almost 50 members and friends who enjoyed buffet food, fellowship, Christmas songs, door prizes, and fun. We enjoyed the music of the talented Kevin Read for the first time and appreciate him so much for filling in. We also recognized many of our special lunch volunteers that make our monthly lunches happen; we would also welcome more volunteers in 2024. We do not hold any lunches in the winter months due to the uncertain weather and safety concerns.

Hope to see you and greet you in church on Sundays.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !!**



# Young at Heart



## Women of Immanuel

Our Christmas Potluck Dinner Meeting was held on Saturday, December 16, at noon in the old school basement. President Claudia Bishop welcomed all twelve in attendance to our wonderful buffet lunch and a brief, meaningful devotion.

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

This year we were able to give the following gifts:

- Parish Nurse Ministry - \$200
- Orphan Grain Train - \$200
- Immanuel Lutheran School - \$200
- Meals for Neighbors - \$100
- Immanuel's Radio Ministry (75th Anniversary) - \$100
- Immanuel's Archive (David Hintz) - \$100
- Concordia Seminary Food Bank - \$100
- Immanuel's "Forward in Faith" - \$100
- Lutheran Home of Southbury - \$50

A special thank you to Claudia Bishop for keeping this important group together.

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



## Parish Nurse Corner

**Happy New Year everyone!!!**

God has blessed us with another year. Praise the Lord!!! May God give us the strength to continue doing His work. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Blessings,  
Roberta Kuhr



On Thursday, December 28, we hosted the policeman luncheon.

*A special thank you to Roberta on her 10th anniversary as Immanuel's Parish Nurse.*

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

December has been filled with many moments to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It began with our church and school coming together at the carol sing, and ending with our PK and K-8 Christmas programs. We hope those events filled you with joy!

The PTO sponsored our annual Christmas shop, giving students an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for their families, and they will also be purchasing t-shirts for students to wear during National Lutheran Schools Week which takes place January 22nd-26th. We held a t-shirt design contest in grades 4-8 based on our theme "Connected" from John 15:5, and the winning design was from one of our fifth grade students, Evelyn Ginter.

I pray that you are filled with peace and hope as we journey into 2024, and may God richly bless you all in this new year!

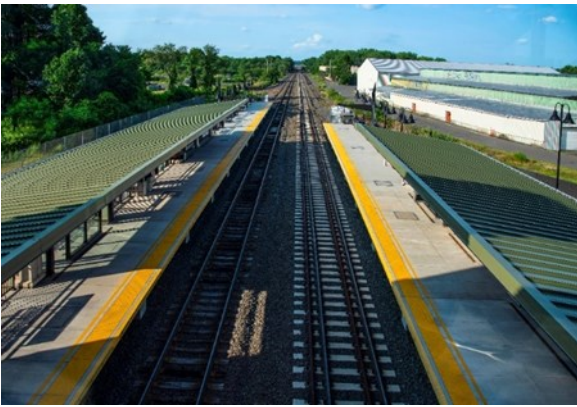
Yours in Christ,  
Debbie Krueger

## The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

### **Tricks of the Trade: *Leading Lines***

*Leading Lines* is a “Compositional Technique” that uses line shapes to direct the viewer’s eye to a specific subject or detail. Line shapes within an image can be naturally occurring such as a river or tree line. They can also be artificial line shapes found in man-made structures like bridges, roads, and fences. When a viewer looks at an image that uses leading lines, their eyes are naturally drawn to the lines and where they lead.

*Leading Lines*, straight or curved, can also create a sense of depth, guiding the viewer’s eye through the image and making a more dynamic and interesting composition.



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

## HISTORY REMEMBERED

By Vern Koch

63 YEARS AGO

**1961 what a year it was!** I, a new graduate from Concordia, River Forest, arrived at my first Call. Meeting my landlady, Mrs. Emma Wentland and moving into my 1 bedroom 'suite' on Divinity Street was easy since I didn't come with much more than a steamer trunk (with Connecticut misspelled on the shipping label), acclimating to a new town and Immanuel Lutheran School. Moving into my classroom, the room on the right on the second floor of the 'Old School' and knowing everything there was to know about teaching was easy. I was ready to go!!

Soon after I was installed, Pastor Robert Riedel, from the Bronx, was installed as our Senior Pastor, following the retirement of Pastor George Meyer.

For some time there had been a campaign to renovate the 1926 school to accommodate our growing enrollment. Finally came the fateful Voters' meeting (MALE VOTERS ONLY) at which the decision was to be made. (Rumor had it that Immanuel was 'frugal' in its financial dealings.)

Arriving at the meeting I firmly believed there would be a separate motion on every brick, hinge, nail, and floor tile in the proposal.

Pastor Riedel's recommendation was for Immanuel to build a new school. Because of the campaign, there were few questions on the final motion and it passed with no dissenting votes.

Immanuel had just committed to pay \$600,000 for a new school building.

What will follow in the next several Messengers will be a picture history of the building of our school. Each day my 4<sup>th</sup> grade class would go to the windows to watch the progress.

What excitement, when in the spring of 1963 we proudly brought our supplies with us and moved into our new digs. Enjoy the look back.

**The removal of the Parsonage which housed the church office.**





## SYMBOLS IN THE SANCTUARY

### The Star

led the Wise Men to the house to adore the young boy who had been revealed to them as the Savior of the world.



## JANUARY 2024 BIRTHDAYS

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



**Messenger**  
 IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 154 MEADOW STREET  
 BRISTOL, CT 06010  
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