

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

February 2024

Vol. 24 No. 2

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

Lutheran Schools Week at Immanuel



February & Ash Wednesday

As part of our annual Easter preparation the Christian Church participates in a season of repentance and renewal – the season of Lent. This year, **Lent begins on February 14 (Ash Wednesday)**. Immanuel Lutheran Church will offer two worship opportunities each Wednesday at 10:45am and 7:00pm. Our 2024 Lenten theme is: “The Facets of Forgiveness.” The theme is inspired by a book of the same name by Daniel Paavola, CPH, 2021. Hold a diamond up to the light and turn it around, and it refracts the light into many colors. The best of diamonds produce the most amazing array of colors. This Lenten season we’re holding forgiveness up to the light to see its beauty – and its many colors. The schedule includes:

February 21 - Cleansed

February 28 - Covered

March 6 - Fixed

March 13 - Far

March 20 - Paid

Make plans to join us!

— Pastor Karner





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

“This Is Love”

(Jesus said) *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.”* John 15:12-13

You probably don't know John Baca.

Even so, for many he's a poster boy for this month's Valentine's Day.

Born in January of 1949, Baca grew up in San Diego. I'd love to say he was always a good kid, but the truth is he was in and out of juvenile hall numerous times. Eventually, he fulfilled the conditions of his parole and was drafted into the military.

On February 10, 1970, Baca led his unit through intense fire to rescue a platoon, which was pinned down. Successful in setting up a protected firing position, Baca and his pals started to fight back. That was when a fragmentation grenade was thrown into the middle of him and his pals. Without hesitation, Baca covered the grenade with his helmet and covered his helmet with his body.

On top of his helmet – that's where Baca was when the grenade exploded.

That was love. No, that's not the smoochy-smoochy kind of love most people celebrate this month. It's not the candy or the flowers or the candlelight dinner kind of love most will share.

It's the kind of love, which on June 15, 1971, had the Medal of Honor bestowed on John Baca.

It's also the kind of love the Lord spoke about in John, chapter 15 – the kind of love that's willing to die for a friend.

That's the kind of love John Baca had. It's certainly the love that Jesus has.

No, that's not quite right. Jesus has a love that's far greater than that of John Baca. You see, while Baca was ready to die for his friends, he was also willing to shoot at his enemies. Jesus was crucified for those who loved Him, but also for those who hated Him, who mocked Him, spit on Him, whipped Him and beat Him.

He also died to save sinners like you and me.

This is why even as we celebrate God's blessed gift of earthly love, we also give thanks for the fact God so loved the sinful world He gave His only Son.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, today we give thanks for the many people who have loved us. We also wish to express gratitude for the opportunity of showing love to others. Most of all we're moved by the love of the Savior who gave His life so we might be forgiven and live forever. May we reflect such a selfless, giving love to others. In Jesus' Name we pray it. Amen.

**THE REST OF THE STORY: John Baca survived that day and is alive and currently involved in helping the homeless and Vietnam veterans.

Pastor Karner

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

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



Gordon R. Sonstroem

March 31, 1930 — January 3, 2024



ALTAR FLOWERS

A very special thank you to Pat Wollenberg. She has been coordinating the Altar flowers for each Sunday, along with taking care of the ordering of the Poinsettias and Easter Lilies and decorating. After many years Pat has stepped down. Thank you, Pat!

Sue Rich has graciously volunteered to fill this important position. There is a 2024 flower calendar across from the coatrack. If you would like to celebrate a special occasion, put your name on the that date and you will receive a call about the specifics. Any questions, please call Sue at 860-833-5106. The base cost for flowers is \$62.

Thank you, Dee Krampitz



Young at Heart

It's February already, as we send you cold weather greetings to all our "over age 55" members and friends!

Our group does not hold any regular monthly lunches during the winter due to the uncertain weather and safe driving concerns. Check out the glass cases by the rear parking entrance to see the color photos from our Christmas Party; thanks for taking the great photos David Hintz.

Are you thinking about stepping up to help out our group this year? Our annual planning meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 16 at 10 am. at the Parish Center; please join us as we plan our year ahead.

Needed are programs for May and June so contact Julie Follo, Program Leader, with suggestions or to volunteer to do a program. Remember many hands make lighter and more enjoyable work for all of us; come February 16.

Did you know that Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines Day, February 14th? (No lunch on 14th). Morning Lenten services, a light lunch is served in the Parish Center and is a great chance for fellowship. On Mondays at 1 pm in the Parish Center you could join the card players; another great chance for fellowship during the cold winter months. Hope you stay healthy and safe so we can greet you in church on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Immanuel Lutheran Church

As the Lord blessed me, I pledge for the proclamation of the Gospel...

- \$ _____ weekly
\$ _____ monthly
\$ _____ annual

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

Board of Christian Stewardship

If you were not in church on January 28 for Pledge Sunday, and are still considering your pledge for 2024, pledge cards can be mailed or dropped off in the church office, or placed in the offering plate until Sunday, February 25. If you are unable to attend church and would like to have your pledge for 2024 included you can confidently call the church office to offer your pledge.

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



**We welcome our
new members
Thru Reaffirmation of Faith**

*Thomas Huntley
Joseph Zerbey*

Thru the Rite of Adult Confirmation


*Emily Plaskett
Judith Green*



**We welcome to our Immanuel Family
Thru the Rite of Holy Baptism**

Clara, Gabriel and River Plaskett
Children of Shuni and Emily Plaskett

SOUP'S ON



We are continuing to offer Lenten Soup Lunches on Wednesdays during Lent after the 10:45 am Mid-Week Lenten Service. If any group or individual would like to volunteer to prepare a crockpot full of soup for one Wednesday during Lent, please see Christy Hislop.

German Festival 2024 Officially Announced!

Mark your calendars, the official dates for this year's German Festival are **September 20-21, 2024.**


**German Festival – Committee Meetings
Pre-Scheduled for 2024 Planning**



This year, committee meetings for the German Festival are set for the second Tuesday of every other month, starting on February 13th. All meetings will take place in the Parish Center and will begin promptly at 7 PM on the following dates:

- Tuesday, February 13, 2024
- Tuesday, April 9, 2024
- Tuesday, June 11, 2024
- Tuesday, August 13, 2024

If you are an existing committee member OR if you would like to become a member of the 2024 German Festival committee, please join us at these meetings. Your presence and input are so important as we work together to make the German Festival a memorable and successful event. Please note that additional meetings may be scheduled as needed to ensure comprehensive preparations for the upcoming festival.

From your 

CARDS – Every Monday at 1:00 pm. in the Parish Center. Open to all adults. Please join us.

WALK AND TALK – Every Tuesday at 9:30 am. in the Parish Center. Open to all adults. Please join us.

LADIES LUNCHEON – Tuesday, February 13, at 12:30 at BARC. Bring a friend, men are welcomed.

Roberta Kuhr,
Parish Nurse
home #860-621-0230



Paper Shortage!

You can help cut the cost for paper, printing and postage by getting your *Messenger* via email instead of through the Post Office. Contact Dee Krampitz at dkrampitz@ilcs.org.

Lenten Worship

Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday Services at 10:45 and 7:00 pm.

(with Holy Communion and 7 pm Live-Streaming)



Mark your calendars for Lenten Mid-Week services

February 21 - Cleansed

February 28 - Covered

March 6 - Fixed

March 13 - Far

March 20 - Paid

Services are at 10:45 am and 7 pm each Wednesday. The 7 pm service will be Live-Streamed.

During Lent we prepare our hearts to receive our crucified and risen Lord by...

Decorating the church using violet. Violet, the color of royalty and repentance, is the color for Lent. In biblical times, violet dye was very expensive and could only be purchased by royalty or the very rich. The people of God our His royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:8-9). We decorate the church in the royal color of violet for our times of repentance – turning away from our sins and turning toward Christ for His mercy and forgiveness.

No longer singing Alleluia. Alleluia is a Hebrew word that means “Praise the Lord.” It appears often in the Psalms and is a joyous expression of faith in God. During Lent, we do not use this joyous response in order to focus on our need for repentance and faith.

No longer singing the Gloria in Excelsis. Just as in Advent, so in Lent we give up singing the joyous Hymn of Praise. We do this to focus our worship on repentance.

Lent is a season that has a number of interesting customs: Ash Wednesday and the Imposition of Ashes. Lent always begins 40 weekdays before Easter on Ash Wednesday. The name comes from the ancient custom of the imposition of ashes. The pastor dips his thumb into some ashes (traditionally made from the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and



LENTEN WORSHIP

marks an ashy cross on each person’s forehead while saying, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This custom uses the biblical image of ashes (Job 42:6) to remind us that we, too, shall die and therefore need forgiveness from Jesus.

Fasting. Fasting is giving up eating at a particular meal or time in order to devote that time to prayer and meditation on the Word of God. Jesus directed that His disciples would fast (Matthew 6:16-18), and the Small Catechism says that fasting is “fine outward training” before taking the Lord’s Supper. Many Christians use Lent as a special time of fasting – especially on Fridays in remembrance of Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross.

Giving something up for Lent. It’s similar to fasting, except instead of a meal a person might “give up” any favorite item: a toy, television, desserts, etc. The idea behind giving something up for Lent is to be reminded to pray, to study God’s Word, and to think of Jesus’ sacrifice when you miss the thing that you have given up.

Midweek services. Many churches observe Lent with special midweek services. These extra times of worship during the week help us to hear God’s Word and prepare us to observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter.

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

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

January has been disrupted with snow days and late openings, but we are moving steadily along.

Midterm reports went home on the 19th and we just celebrated the 100th day of school. Our boys and girls basketball teams have been practicing hard and playing well.

We celebrated Lutheran Schools Week January 22nd-26th. We read a different Bible verse each day relating to being connected to Christ, and students dressed in different themes including crazy hair and mismatched day. They also had fun activities to do all week such as bowling, beach volleyball, relay races and a scavenger hunt.

With the chapel offerings we've collected since September, we were able to donate \$1,000 to the LCMS ministry that supports military chaplains, and we are now collecting money to support St. Vincent De Paul here in Bristol.

May God continue to bless our school, and may he draw others to us, allowing us to reach more families with the Gospel message.

Yours in Christ,
Debbie Krueger



HISTORY REMEMBERED

By Vern Koch
Digging Begins



The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Photography Gone Wild, or...

To Deceive or not To Deceive. *That Is the Question*

It's often said that postprocessing makes a photograph *all it can be*. So, we sharpen the image, crop it, adjust vertical, horizontal, and rotation, and balance light and dark. We can change color saturation, and luminescence, add vignetting, remove an empty can on a sidewalk, and more, much more if we choose. But it remains a photograph. Nothing of substance added – nothing taken away. It's "better".

But... Technology Marches On Even without the use of a camera, people can easily generate *photorealistic images* in seconds or significantly alter a photograph depicting people, places, things, and events that never existed. For most it's fun ... harmless. It's Art! Great, *as long as it doesn't become a photograph*. The *before* and *after* images below give a better explanation. That's what pictures do.

Well, that's obvious!

Peck House
Summer Street
Bristol



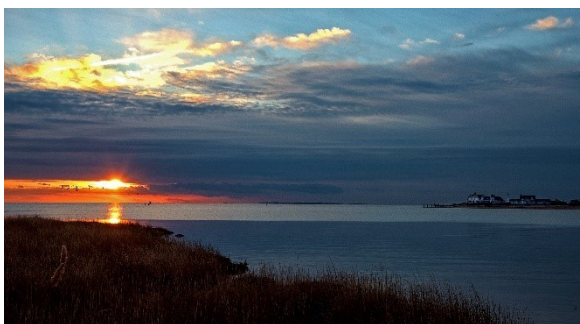
Shipwreck?

Beach Scene
Plumb Island
Newburyport, MA



Does it make you wonder?

Causeway sunset
Old Saybrook, CT



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

SYMBOLS IN THE SANCTUARY

Lamb on the Book

The lamb is mentioned in Exodus as the sacrifice the Israelites brought as a symbolic sacrifice, foretelling the sacrifice of God's Lamb, His Son.



FEBRUARY 2024 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Lukas Tessier Nicole Tessman	2 Genevieve Casagni Nancy Pease Logan Williams	3 Kristin Laforge Edward Phillips Kurt Radcliff Benjamin Scarpati
4 Dorothy Johnson Aiza Nazir Ayan Nazir	5	6 Jared Jankowski Robert Neumann Jessica Triplett	7	8 Michael Phillips Kevin Read Tammy Thormahlen	9 Luke Doncet Rollin Lee Ava Werner Brooke Werner	10 David Peplau
11 Celine Kissler Joshua Mitchell Sydney Therrien	12 Susan Rich Sandra Tonn	13 Karin Hauer Clara Plaskett Susan Schneider	14 Ashley Romaniello Haley Romaniello	15 Caroline Bayer Julie Follo Jessica Romaniello	16 Cynthia Dell'Aera Jill Therrien Kenneth Tonn	17 Brooke Savage
18 Jon Heidorn Amanda Wolfe	19 Kurt McCorriston	20 Jeffrey Bergeron Linda Neumann Evelyn Palmisano	21 Linda Hogan	22 Jan Blaschke Mary Sylvia	23	24
25 Lorrin Jackson Catherine Kane	26	27 Samuel Skinner	28 Joan Hermann Mia Knight	29		



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