

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

January 2025

Vol. 25 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

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 25th 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.

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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

From the Pastor's Desk

“God is Different”

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Ps 118:24

I've got good news and I've got bad news.

First, let me give you the bad news. The bad news is there is a lot to feel dreadful about in the month of January. For example, you might have noticed the news is filled with stories concerning the housing crisis (for younger families), the retirement crisis (for older families), the cold and inclement weather, rising prices, and more.

To that general list you might add your own personal difficulties.

Things are so bad you may not be surprised to hear Dr. Cliff Arnall, a researcher for Cardiff University, has decided January is the darkest month of the year. Factoring in things like the weather, consumer debt left over from the holidays, and the collapse of most people's New Year's resolutions, Dr. Arnall says he has been able to identify January as the most depressing month of 2025.

Even more, he says he can pick out the worst day of the year.

That's the bad news. Here's the good. The day Dr. Arnall designated as being the bottom of the pit was the third Monday of January – January 20th, to be exact.

And what's the good news? Well, what Dr. Arnall calls “Blue Monday” coincides with the Presidential Inauguration Day in the United States. New President. Transfer of power. Executive orders.

Don't you feel better now? Guess it depends on how you voted, right?

Christians who know the Savior aren't immune from dark and depressing days. We know that having Jesus as our Redeemer doesn't mean every day of our lives will be filled with blue skies and rose gardens.

No matter what we may hear elsewhere, Jesus never promised that.

But that doesn't mean Jesus leaves us helpless or hopeless. With Christ by our side, we're

able to weather the storms, pass through the dark valleys and know, because of Him, we are conquerors and more than conquerors. Not even death can bring us down to a place so low Jesus can't help.

Because all this is so is the reason I selected this month's Bible verse: “This is the day (and New Year) the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (And we can, you know.)

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, for being with us always, we give thanks to You. May our days reflect Your ongoing presence and power, and may this day, and new year, be filled with gladness in You. In Your Name. Amen.

Pastor Karner

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

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 12, 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 basement of the Immanuel Lutheran Old School building. If you're interested in attending, please contact the church office. Child care (ages 2-12) can be provided.

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.

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



Dear beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, to include your dear Pastor Karner, I simply want to say "Thank you!" to all of you for your loving-kindness and support to me as your fellow servant in Christ and as pastor serving your neighboring church at Holy Trinity in Terryville. These years have flown by, and I will cherish the many times that we were able to share together in so many different ways. I always loved leading the Emmaus Walkers Bible Study, helping Pastor Karner at the Easter Vigil Service, assisting him with visitation for a time, being highly involved with the Central CT Lutherans For Life Chapter, attending a good number of your special worship services, all those wonderful meals and luncheons, stopping in to say "Hi!" to Pastor Karner and the office staff, and so many other things over the past 19 years. And I want to also express my gratitude for your continued support of and volunteerism with our

Orphan Grain Train - New England Branch.

I was blessed incredibly through you! There is so much I would like to share with you, but I want you to know that I thank God for you and your fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peace and joy to you in Jesus as we continue to celebrate His coming at His incarnation and birth and throughout the upcoming Epiphany season!

Merry Christmas and a blessed new year in the Lord!

Pastor Joel Kotila

P.S. If you might ever desire to send Kari and me a note, here is our address starting January 7th (2025):

Rev. Joel D. and Kari Lee Kotila
W193N16340 Lea Fon Circle
Jackson, WI 53037

Please make sure to pick up your 2025 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.

Please join us weekly at the Parish Center.



CARDS Every Monday at 1:00 pm. Open to all adults. Please join us for an afternoon of laughs.

Walking every Tuesday at 9:00 weather permitting, and Walk and Talk at 9:30 am. All are welcomed. We are a fun group – we even laugh! Snacks and coffee provided. Please join us.



The Lutheran Witness subscription for 2025 is \$20.60.

Please have your subscription in by Saturday, February 1.

**LUNCH
at
BARC**

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month,

January 14,
at BARC - 12:30 pm.

Join us and bring a friend.

Youth Group

The youth of Immanuel will once again be collecting your returnable cans and bottles during the month of January!

Please leave them in the kitchen near the gym. Thank you for your support!

January Bottle Return



Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 7 and 21 at noon. Bring a lunch, and join us for a Bible Study in the Parish Center.



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

Young at Heart

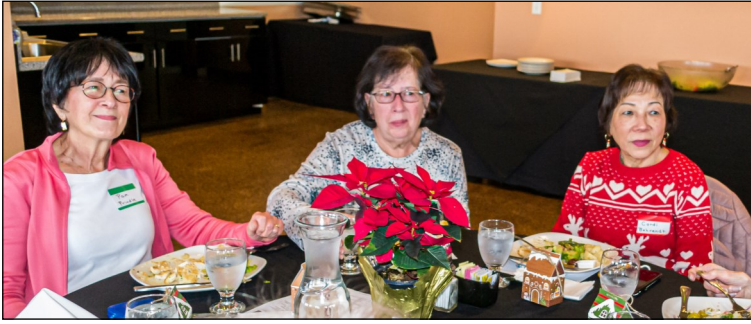
Blessings for a Happy, Healthy New Year 2025 to all our "over age 50" members and friends!

We held our last event of the year, our Christmas Party, on Thursday, December 5, on the second floor of the Max 4 Restaurant on Middle Street. We welcomed almost 50 folks, but because of the snow we missed a few, although we did welcome quite a few "first timers" to our lunch. We all enjoyed the buffet food, fellowship, Christmas songs, door prizes and fun, but the best part was having the Reads provide the music. Thank you to Kevin and Diane Read who sang for us and played for our sing-a-long and shared their wonderful musical talents with us. We also recognized many of our special lunch volunteers that make our monthly lunches happen; we would also like more volunteers in 2025. Thanks go to David Hintz who took photos during our party that you can view in our glass-enclosed bulletin boards by the gym entrance.

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, and if you enjoying playing cards, come on Mondays at 1 pm to the Parish Center for some fun. **HAPPY NEW YEAR !!**



Young at Heart



Women of Immanuel

Our Christmas Potluck Lunch Meeting was held on Saturday, December 7, at noon in the old school basement. It was a little chilly without heat, but with hot food and great fellowship everyone had a great time. President Claudia Bishop welcomed all sixteen members in attendance to our wonderful buffet lunch and a brief, meaningful devotion.

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

This year we were able to give the following gifts:

- Steeple Fund - \$500
- Orphan Grain Train - \$100
- Hope Pregnancy Center - \$100
- Immanuel's Radio Ministry - \$100
- Parish Nurse Roberta Kuhr - \$100
- Immanuel Lutheran School - \$100

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.





(Continued on Page 9)



Immanuel's K-8 Christmas Program



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

December was a busy month as our students prepared for our annual Christmas pageant. The program was well attended and the students did a great job sharing the story of Jesus' birth! We also received some generous donations from those in attendance for the handbell refurbishment happening in the spring, and a thank you goes out to all who made contributions to this worthy ministry.

We also had some opportunities to give back to the community by helping out with the police department toy drive, and by raising money to help fund research and awareness for childhood cancer at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Several of our middle school students worked hard academically this last trimester and made the honor roll. High Honors was achieved by Megan Carter, and Honors was achieved by Blake Gorneault, Nicholas Haddon, Robert Rulewicz III, Jilleen Sugrue, Noah Edwards, Maria Lanchi, Ava Mendoza, David Werner, and Liam White-Lancaster.

Congratulations go out to all of these students and we hope they continue to strive for academic excellence!!

We are thankful for all that God is doing in our school, and we pray that he will continue to guide us and lead us in the way we should go as we enter into a new year.

Yours in Christ,
Debbie Krueger

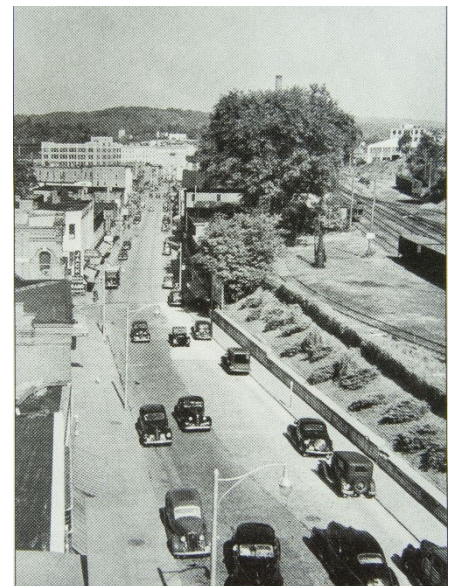
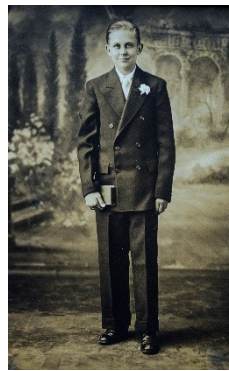
The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

The Pause Button of Life

We don't remember days, we remember Moments

A photograph is the pause button of life. It captures a moment in time. It can be a picture of something no one else but you can truly see and feel. It becomes a picture of a memory. A memory is a way of holding on to the things you love, the things you care about, the things you enjoyed. ... the things you never want to lose. Some photographs also teach a lesson;

Sometimes we don't recognize the true value of the moment until it becomes a memory.



Join us!
*Our next meeting is
Tuesday, January 7th,
at 7:00pm in the
Parish Center.*



Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, a charity located at 33 South Main Street in Terryville, CT, loaded a 40 foot container of needed items for **Latvia on November 18, 2024**. OGT has the use of a warehouse in Terryville that is owned by Mr. Bill Allread, who has made space available for this charitable work.

The Latvian shipment was sent to a Church in Saldus, which is part of a Diaconia—a network of churches and welfare organizations that support people in poverty and people with disabilities. They also aid Ukrainian refugees in the area. Included on this shipment were: 1448 boxes and items of men's, women's, children and Infant clothing, blankets, quilts, linens, shoes, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, belts, diapers, hygiene and school supplies, bicycles, sewing machines and supplies, and also medical items like walkers, crutches, canes, commodes and wheelchairs. The container was taken to a port to be loaded on a ship for transport overseas to Latvia. The estimated weight of the items shipped was almost 22,000 pounds with a valuation of almost \$240,000. The Mission receiving the container will then distribute the items to those in need.

Other shipments have gone to missions in a number of countries e.g. Liberia, Senegal, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Lithuania, Nepal, the Philippines, Trinidad, Panama, Ghana, Venezuela and the Republic of Georgia, as well as Appalachia and hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, Florida and North Carolina. The Branch also helps those locally in New England, giving medical items that have been donated to individuals in need and thru the visiting nurse and hospice care organizations of the area. It has also helped with a shipment to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

The effort is an Outreach Ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and OGT is a 501(3)(C) charity affiliated with the church and supported locally by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Terryville, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bristol, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterbury, and it is open to all who want to help others. For more information, please call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 860-582-0723 and/or check out the OGT.org website.



Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main Street in Terryville, CT, loaded a 53 foot trailer of needed items for **Appalachia on December 19, 2024**. OGT has the use of a warehouse in Terryville that is owned by Mr. Bill Allread, who has made space available for this charitable work.

The Appalachian shipment was sent to Manna from Heaven, a local Mission in Myra, Kentucky that provides food, clothing, medical items and other needed supplies to families in need due to the shutdown of the coal industry and flooding. Included was about 1,000 pounds of food to help with their meal program to feed over 600 families. The Branch also arranged for 600 canned hams to be made available at a local food store in the area for pickup by those in need. Also on the shipment were 25 pallets containing hundreds of boxes and bags of blankets, linens, clothing, shoes, household and cleaning supplies, hygiene supplies, medical supplies and diapers, appliances, and TV's. Over 40 pieces of furniture, other household items, hand tools, mattresses and boxsprings, beds and frames, boxes of Bibles and books, numerous toys, 5 bicycles and 3 sewing machines. Medical items included 2 electric and 5 regular wheelchairs, walkers, canes and shower chairs. All these items had been requested by the Mission to assist the families there.

Other shipments have gone to missions in a number of countries e.g. Liberia, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Romania, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Nepal, the Philippines, Trinidad, Panama, Ghana, Venezuela and the Republic of Georgia, as well as Appalachia and hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, Florida and North Carolina. The Branch also helps those locally in New England, giving medical items that have been donated to individuals in need and thru the visiting nurse and hospice care organizations of the area. The effort is an Outreach Ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and OGT is a 501(3)(C) charity affiliated with the church and supported locally by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Terryville, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bristol, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterbury, and is open to all who want to help others. For more information, please call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 860-582-0723 and/or check out the OGT.org website.



JANUARY 2025 BIRTHDAYS

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



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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 154 MEADOW STREET
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