

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

February 2025

Vol. 25 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

**Honoring Maggie's Legacy:
Jewelry Fundraiser for Points of Grace**

This February, the Christian Mart invites you to share in our focus on love by honoring the enduring legacy of Maggie Karner, the late wife of our pastor. Before her passing, Maggie brought back handcrafted jewelry from Kenya with the hope of selling it to financially support Points of Grace Academy, a mission she boldly championed in the service of our Lord. Sadly, she was unable to fulfill this goal.

Now, we have the opportunity to continue Maggie's efforts by offering these beautiful handcrafted jewelry pieces from Kenya. This jewelry will be available for purchase throughout the month of February. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to Points of Grace Academy. The academy is dedicated to educating children who are unable to afford schooling, equipping widows and extended families to care for orphans, and protecting vulnerable children in need.

Visit the Christian Mart this February to select a gift that expresses love and helps support a ministry that is changing lives. Let's come together to carry forward Maggie's legacy and share Christ's love with those in need.

"Let all that you do be done in love." – Corinthians 16:14



**Annual Police
Appreciation
Luncheon**

**Thank You for Your
Support**

A number of Bristol
Police Officers came in
on January 9 to enjoy a
wonderful meal.



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

“Love Is In the Air”

February... the shortest month of the year. 28 days (sometimes 29) of gray skies, bare trees, and cold air. But speaking of “air” – “love is in the air” in February. Right smack dab in the middle of the month is Valentine’s Day. To lift our spirits from the death of winter we’re reminded of those who matter most to us – those we love, and those who love us!

The word “love” (or some form of it) is mentioned 555 times in the Bible (trust me, I counted them!). Which isn’t surprising when you read in 1 John 4:8 that “God is love” – in other words, it’s in His very nature to be loving. It’s the essence of who, and what, God is. So again, it’s not surprising that when it comes to the chief work of His creation – humankind – love is why we exist: to be loved by God, and to love Him (and our neighbor) in return. God the Giver; you and I the receivers – and the *re-gifters* (OK, how many of your Christmas gifts have you later given to someone else? Can you say, “fruit cake”!).

This idea of “re-gifting” God’s love for us to others reminds me of that old Christian campfire song “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love.”

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord...

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand...

We will work with each other, we will work side by side...

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love...

Which leads me to ask the question: “Do others know you’re a Christian by your love?” If not, what changes need to be made in order to let the love of Christ shine through you to those around you? And don’t just think individually. What about our congregation? Are we known as a “loving congregation” in our community? If not, what changes need to be made in order to bring the light and love of Jesus to those around us?

Those are good questions. And how we answer those questions will determine the direction of our lives (i.e. – our sense of purpose, the priorities we embrace, the principles we live by), as well as the direction of our congregational life together.

So let’s use the rest of 2025 to focus on our life together as the people of God at 154 Meadow Street. Let’s work at removing anything among us that hinders our Gospel work – pride, greed, or gossip (“corrupting talk,” as St. Paul calls it). Let’s figure out ways to love each other better, so that others will “*see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*” Let’s walk together (in hearts and minds); let’s work together; let’s love together!

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.... In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” – 1 John 4:7, 9-11

Pastor Karner

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Pastor Karner is Leaving? Is It True?

Yes, it’s true. But not for a while.

At our January 27th voter’s meeting I announced my intention to retire from full-time ministry. My health (or lack thereof) is demanding more of my attention. And the same is true for Renee.

The plan is for my last Sunday to be July 27, 2025, and my last official day as Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church & School will be July 31, 2025.

This has been a difficult decision to make. I have relied upon prayer with my Heavenly Father, upon the wise counsel of brothers in the Ministry, and on discussion with loved ones. It’s been difficult because I have been so blessed to be your pastor for what will be over 15 years this summer.

I will say more as the date approaches. But as members of Immanuel, you need to know how much I love you, and how appreciative I am of your loving support for these many years.

May God bless the next 6 months of our time (and work) together.

Pastor Karner

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 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



It's February already, as we send 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 some 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 21 at 10 am in the**

Parish Center; please join us as we plan our year ahead. Needed are programs for our seven lunches so contact Julie Follo, Program Leader (860-261-7228), with suggestions or to volunteer to do a program. Remember, many hands make lighter work for all of us; please come February 21.

On Mondays at 1 pm in the Parish Center you could join the card players; or Walk & Talk on Tuesdays another great chance for fellowship during the cold winter months. Hope you stay healthy and safe this winter so we can greet you in church on Sundays!!

ALTAR FLOWERS

There is a new flower chart for 2025 across from the coat rack. If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion, please put your name on that date with your phone number. Jayne Eugene Florist is our new florist for altar flowers and has been doing a wonderful job! We hope you have been enjoying them. Please contact Sue Rich at 860-833-5106 for any questions.

Thank you,
Dee Krampitz



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 11, at 12:30 at BARC. Bring a friend, men are welcomed.

Roberta Kuhr,

Parish Nurse
home #860-621-0230

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 26 for Pledge Sunday, and are still considering your pledge for 2025, pledge cards can be mailed or dropped off in the church office, or placed in the offering plate until Sunday, February 23. If you are unable to attend church and would like to have your pledge for 2025 included you can confidently call the church office to offer your pledge.

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



Holy Baptism

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

Irelynn Plaskett
daughter of Shuni and Emily Plaskett



Youth Sunday School on a Sunday morning. Thank you to Diane Ruffino, Director and George Tavernier.

Rev. Louis G. Nuechterlein October 10, 1928 — January 25, 2025



Rev. Louis G. Nuechterlein, 96, entered eternal rest to be with Jesus, his Lord and Savior, on January 25, 2025, at Elim Park, Cheshire. He was born in St. Joseph, Michigan on October 10, 1928, and baptized eleven days later by his father, also Rev. Louis G. Nuechterlein, in that town's Trinity

Lutheran Church. He was educated at St. Joseph's Trinity Lutheran parochial school; Concordia High School and Junior College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; the St. Louis Institute of Music; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri (M Div) and the University of Michigan (MA in Music Literature). Following graduation and ordination in 1953, he was called as assistant pastor and director of music and Christian education at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne – and later in 1960, as pastor of Cheshire Lutheran Church in Cheshire, CT, where he served until his retirement from full-time parish ministry in 1994.

The funeral will be held at Cheshire Lutheran Church, 660 West Main Street, Cheshire on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Calling hours will be held in the parish library beginning at 11:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to the Cheshire Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund. The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire is assisting with arrangements.



#whywemarch #ctmarchforlife

keep marching for life!

EVERY BABY DESIRES ASPIRATION

love & hope

If we want to change the culture, we must cherish our daughters!

CONNECTICUT MARCH FOR LIFE
March 19, 2025

12:00 p.m. - Rally
1:00 p.m. - March for Life

210 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

scan the code!
FIND OUT MORE AT:
CT.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG

Hosted by:
Connecticut Catholic Conference
MARCH FOR LIFE
Family Institute of Connecticut

~ Steeple News ~

Dear Members, Alumni & Friends,

I want to extend heartfelt gratitude for all those who have prayerfully and generously supported the steeple fund. *We have collected \$74,450 so far, bringing us almost one-third to our goal.*

For generations, the steeple of Immanuel Lutheran Church has been a symbol of faith and hope, standing tall as a reminder of God's presence in our lives and in our community. Now, this cherished part of our church needs your help. Years of weather and time have taken their toll, and significant repairs are needed to ensure the steeple remains strong for future generations. To meet this challenge, we have formed a Steeple Committee and established a new Steeple Fund, dedicated to this important restoration project.

We ask you to consider joining us in preserving this beautiful symbol of our faith. Every contribution, no matter the size, will bring us closer to our goal of \$300,000. Together, we can ensure that the steeple continues to inspire all who worship here and all who see it as a beacon of hope in our community.

Continued Donations May be Sent:

- **By Mail:** Immanuel Lutheran Church – Steeple Fund
154 Meadow Street,
Bristol, CT 06010
- **Online:** <https://members.myeoffering.com>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to the church office at (860) 583-5649.

– *Howard Schmelder, Chairman of The Steeple Committee*

A Special Message From the Board of Christian Stewardship – Support Immanuel Through Your RMD –

Did you know you can direct your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account to Immanuel Lutheran Church or the new Steeple Fund? This is a wonderful way to support our ministry and special projects, such as the critical steeple repair planned for 2025, while also receiving tax benefits by reducing your taxable income. It's a simple and impactful way to contribute. We encourage you to consult your financial advisor or contact the church office to learn how to designate your RMD and make a meaningful difference in supporting Immanuel's mission.



~ Orphan Grain Train News ~

To all our readers: Thought you might enjoy this update from Jon Rossman who is at the Gbarnga mission in Liberia. He's doing a lot. One of the pics shows the sewing class which is expected to graduate over 30 students. You can see some of the treadle sewing machines we sent. The graduates now have a skill and can sew for their families or develop a business by serving others. Great way to help. God is good!
 Paul & Linda Arbesman, Warehouse Manager

It was a hot one today! I found myself taking refuge in the guesthouse several times throughout the midday to take a break and rehydrate.

Andy and the team assembled additional sections of drip irrigation. Since our system relies on gravity feeding from a water tower that is not that high, the pressure isn't sufficient to supply the last feeder lines off the manifold. I think we have reached the system capacity.

Isaac completed the solar racks and applied the final paint while I wired up the lithium battery array. I'm shooting for panel installation on the roof on Friday, then feeding the wires through the attic space and into the solar closet for final connections. I expect to flip on the lights by Saturday.



I visited the tailoring class which has 35 students. This is the last of their two-year program and they'll be graduating this year. With grant money from the New England District of LWML, we are working with these students to produce reusable/washable sanitary pads which will be distributed in conjunction with hygiene training.



I stepped one door down and met with Gertee (soap making teacher) and Ma Nancy (baking teacher). Our discussion focused on the pilot microloan program. This month was intended to be the student's final payment so they updated me on each student's

progress. We agreed that Saturday we would visit several communities where the most delinquent students live to encourage compliance with their loan terms. More discussion and evaluation is needed to determine if we will give the upcoming tailoring graduates a similar loan opportunity.

I spent the afternoon and into the early evening visiting each of the hand pump wells and meeting the well caretakers. The variation in community organization within the different regions of Deanville is fascinating. Some groups have many leaders: a pump caretaker, a key holder responsible for locking/unlocking to limit hand pump access, and a treasurer to collect monthly fees for future maintenance costs. Other areas have no structure



and struggle because none of the other community members are willing to financially assist, thus one caretaker bears the burden of paying. Fortunately,

all wells are in good working order except one that has already been evaluated for a repair. The well digger, Scott, is going to visit each hand pump to evaluate performance and make recommendations to help keep the pumps functioning before costly repairs render them unusable.

At one home, called the Promised Land, I saw for the first time a small grove of cocoa trees with the pods ready for harvest. So interesting how the pods grow out of the tree trunk rather than at the tips of branches.

To all: OGT National has set up an arrangement with Thrivent, an Insurance Company, to receive and match donations to aid the fire victims in California. Thrivent will match all donations to magnify your gift and will pay all fees so 100% of all donations will reach the victims. If you desire to help in this way, just go to the **OGT.org** website and there is a link for donating. We pray for all those affected by the fires and who have lost so much. Blessings, Paul & Linda Arbesman

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Your next Photo Shoot?

Go Back in Time ... maybe wait till it gets warmer!

As industry and employment grew from clock making to other manufacturing, several families became very wealthy, built elaborate homes and were generous benefactors to the city and people of Bristol. They included Jerome, Dunbar, Manross, Welch, Ingraham, Sessions, Treadway, Peck, Barns, Page, Rockwell and famous architect Joel Case. Many of those homes and other buildings of the time remain. They photograph well but coupled with their history, they provide an fascinating trip back in time. A sample below includes; 1) Beleden Gardens Coachman's Lodge circa 1905, 2) The remains of Beleden Gardens circa 1910, 3) Walter Ingraham home circa 1892, 4) Rockwell Brightwood Gate House, 5) Miles Lewis Peck Home circa 1881, and 6) Castle Largo built by Joel Case. *"Bristol Historic Homes"* by Lynda J. Russell provides a great pictorial guide for the trip. You might find it in CVS.



Join us!

Our next February 4th, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

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



School News

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

January has brought us a few new staff members and they include, Claudette Matozzo, our new PreK 4 teacher; Noemi Jalbert, our 6th-8th grade spanish teacher; Brooke Lowe, an assistant toddler teacher; Kimberly Perteeet, our new K-8 music teacher; and Leila Pesce, our new school nurse.

We also have some wonderful volunteers who enhance our curriculum. George Tavernier provides music classes to our toddler and PreK classes, Joanie Hermann reads books to our students every Wednesday, and Kristen Jacques volunteers in our library. We also have wonderful volunteers who help out with our hot lunch program and we thank all of our volunteers for their dedication to making our school great!

Despite the cold weather, our students have been active this month. Our boys basketball team has been playing well, and they have been supported by our enthusiastic cheerleading team. Middle school students went on a field trip to the Bristol Senior Center where they learned how to hammer together birdhouses and sew pillowcases. The online article from the Bristol Press highlighting this event can be found here: https://www.bristolpress.com/news/students-learn-woodworking-and-quilting-from-bristol-senior-center-volunteers/article_8a26f774-d1de-11ef-ab25-17d4aea84b85.html

We also had a nice turn out for our PTO sponsored "Nerf Night" and a good time was had by all.

We will soon be enrolling students for the 2025-2026 school year, so please spread the word to family and friends about our wonderful school. Some of our families will also be applying for tuition assistance, and if you would like to contribute monetarily to this worthy fund, please reach out to me at dkrueger@ilcs.org, or call the office at 860-583-5631. Your generosity will help to keep families enrolled at Immanuel Lutheran School so they can continue to hear about the love of Jesus through the Gospel message!

Yours In Christ,
Deborah Krueger



George Tavernier during PreK music.



Joanie Hermann reading to the students.



(See More Photos on next Page)





FEBRUARY 2025 BIRTHDAYS

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



2
Genevieve Casagni
Nancy Pease
Logan Williams

3
Kristin Laforge
Edward Phillips
Benjamin Scarpati

4
Dorothy Johnson
Aiza Nazir
Ayan Nazir

5
Susan Rich
Sandra Tonn

6
Jared Jankowski
Robert Neumann
Jessica Triplett

7
Ashley Romaniello
Haley Romaniello

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 McCorrison

20
Jeffrey Bergeron
Linda Neumann
Evelyn Palmisano

21
Linda Hogan

22
Jan Blaschke
Mary Sylvia

23

24

25
Lorrin Jackson
Catherine Kane

26

27
Michelle Kinosh
Samuel Skinner

28
Joan Hermann
Mia Knight



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