

**German Festival 2025
Meeting Announcement & Official Festival Dates**

We're excited to announce that the official dates for German Festival 2025 are set for September 19-20! We also invite YOU to join our fun and dedicated planning committee! Our first meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 7 PM. If you're interested in joining the team, contact Christina Curry, Rhoda Lange, or email us at il.german.festival@gmail.com with your contact info by March 1st. We'll fill you in on everything you need to know, including meetings, meetups/activities, and more. We can't wait to welcome new ideas and make this year's festival an unforgettable success!

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
LUTHERANS for
LIFE

Lutherans for Life will be having a meeting on Monday, March 3rd, at 11am in the Parish Center. We are commanded in the Word to "Love your neighbor," Thus we are called, in the midst of a terminal diagnosis, critical injury or other life event that can come like a thunderstorm - sudden, earth-shaking, overpowering - but through the love of Christian neighbors, the Lord can deliver both comfort and peace. If you feel a special place in your heart to uphold the God-given value of human life and influence society to do the same, please join us for our upcoming meeting.

You are invited by President Beinke to join the Connecticut March for Life, which will take place in Hartford on Wed., March 19. The schedule of events is below. A Service for District attendees will be held that morning; the details for that have not yet been set.

CONNECTICUT MARCH FOR LIFE

March 19, 2025

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

*scan the
code!*



210 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

FIND OUT MORE AT:
CT.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG

Immanuel Lutheran School invites you to walk the halls and enjoy the student's artwork and projects displayed throughout the building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Deadline for Sunday Bulletin is Wednesday at noon.
Please send articles and updates to Lydia at LROjas@ilcs.org**

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Please join us *after the first service* for Coffee, Tea, Juice, Cakes and Fellowship in the (OSB) Original School Basement as **we celebrate the installation of Rev. Robert Beinke as our new Associate Pastor.**

Today's coffee hour donations will be given to the Board of Evangelism.

**The Young-At-Heart annual planning meeting has been moved to
Friday, February 28 at 10am in the Parish Center.**

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A Call Committee has been established and has already met with President Beinke to start the process of calling a Pastor. The committee members are: Howard Schmelder - Chair, Dawn Milano, Christy Hislop, Ryan Bodley, Norman Stone, Michael Krampitz and William Wentland.

We are currently working on a Congregation Self Study that we will be asking our members to complete and a form that members can also complete suggesting a particular pastor we should consider as part of our calling process.

These two documents will be available for pickup at the Church beginning today, Sunday, February 23rd and must be returned to the Church Office on or before Sunday, March 16th.

I want to encourage all of our members to become actively involved in this important task. If you should have any questions please contact any member of the Call Committee.

In HIS Service,

Howard J. Schmelder

Immanuel Lutheran School is excited to invite you to support by shopping our Christian book fair. You can access the site by scanning the QR code here and searching our school or going to this site: www.readyletsread.com/store/immanuel-lutheran-school-2. The link is also on the school website at the bottom. Then, simply shop just like you would on any other site. You can shop as a guest or make an account on the site so you can easily reference back to past orders.

The Spring 2025 book fair is from **February 24th(8:00AM)-March 9th (11:59PM)**.

All orders must be placed during this time. You will be notified when the class orders have arrived. (Shipping is free to the school!!) We will communicate with you about shipping & delivery times and pick up info.



SCAN TO
FIND YOUR
SCHOOL'S
BOOK FAIR

BOOK FAIR DETAILS

Ready? Let's Read! is an online book fair where you can shop for the whole family. Created as a resource for parents, teachers, and students, Ready? Let's Read! brings you exceptional products that don't compromise your values. We are proud to offer you a curated list of products that you can trust.

Access your school's unique store by scanning the QR code in this flyer and searching for your school. Enjoy shopping any time from February 24 - March 9. All orders must be placed by 11:59 PM on March 9. Your school will receive up to 20% cash back of total sales. Books are shipped FREE to your school! Your school will communicate all information to you about receiving your order. Enjoy shopping!

Upcoming 13 Day Trip to Israel with Pastor Nabil Nour

Pastor Nabil Nour, the 4th VP of the Synod and a retired Pastor, is planning on leading a tour to the Holy Land in August. If you are interested in joining him please send him an email at preachermanfootwasher@gmail.com and he will send you the itinerary and tour-enrollment form. The trip departs from Chicago on August 4th and returns on August 16, 2025. The price is \$5, 190.00 per person, including: air fare from Chicago to Tel Aviv and back to Chicago, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy) tips, entry fees and all meals.

We're Hiring!

Our Little Lamb toddler and infant programs are growing and we're hiring! We are seeking **early childhood educators** to work with children 6 weeks to 3 years old. Some childcare experience is preferred but training is available. We are also hiring **substitute teachers** for Immanuel Lutheran School. Please inquire with our Early Childhood Director, Susan Schneider at sschneider@ilcs.org or Principal Krueger at dkrueger@ilcs.org. You may also call the main office at 860-583-5631 to find out more.

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 \$204,000 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.

Honoring Maggie's Legacy: Jewelry Fundraiser for Point 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 Point 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.



In Honor of Valentine's Day, Share the Love!

February, the month known for love, kindness, and Valentine's Day, is the perfect time to support our homeless community (beyond the Christmas holiday). Local shelters and soup kitchens aren't open around the clock, and the cold weather months has been especially hard for those in need.

In response, in the month of February, we're collecting **\$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 gift cards** for places like **Dunkin', McDonald's, and Burger King** to provide a warm meal or drink. These gift cards will be distributed to **Agape House** and **Brian's Angels** to help fill the gap during this difficult season.

If you can help, please drop your gift card donations in the collection box in the lobby—just look for the **big red heart!** Be sure to clearly mark the card's value for effective distribution.

Thank you for showing love and kindness this Valentine's season!



Join us for a Church/School Potluck!

**Lutheran Week Kick-Off Potluck
Following the All-School Sing
Sunday, March 16th, 2025
School Gymnasium**



For the potluck, each school and church family brings one dish based on the first initial of their last name. For example: Pastor **K**arner, a **S**alad. Paul Tessier, a **S**ide Dish.

A–M Salad (These are typically cold items. Some ideas: fresh green salad, antipasto platter, potato salad, gelatin salad, veggie salad, tomato salad, fruit salad, coleslaw, cold pasta salad, etc.)

M–Z Side Dish/Casserole (These are typically warm/hot items. Some ideas: hot potato salad, tomato pie, quiche, macaroni and cheese, Mexican casserole, enchiladas, baked beans, roasted potatoes, Spanish rice, scalloped potatoes, etc.)

We will finish up lunch with cake!

If you are not sure what dish to bring and need some ideas/recipes, or, if you have any other questions, you can email Christy Hislop at christyhslp@yahoo.com.



*Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, Connecticut*