

Rev. Kevin A. Karner  
Pastor

Deborah Krueger  
School Principal

# Messenger

March 2025

Vol. 25 No. 3

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)

#whywemarch #ctmarchforlife

keep marching for life!

love & hope

life: why we march

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

Hosted by:

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

Connecticut Catholic Conference  
MARCH FOR LIFE  
Family of Immanuel of Connecticut

## 10:15 am

Worship Service  
President Beinke preaching  
at Bethany Lutheran,  
1655 Boulevard Ave,  
West Hartford, CT

## 11:00 am

Travel to the State Capitol  
Building  
210 Capitol Ave., Hartford

## 12:00 pm

March for Life Rally  
on the south side of the  
Capitol Building  
1:00 pm March begins,  
2:00 pm completed.



## Join us for a Church/School Potluck!

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

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](mailto:christyhslp@yahoo.com).

For the potluck, each school and church family brings one dish based on the first initial of their last name. For example: Pastor Karner, a **Salad**. Paul Tessier, a **Side 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.)



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.

~ ~ ~

**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**

**“Justified”**

Luke 10:25-29 – *And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

The lawyer’s attitude is really common, isn’t it? We all desire to justify ourselves. We want people to see we are clearly right – and if by some chance we aren’t right, we want to make sure nobody notices.

I think it’s borne of shame. Being wrong, making mistakes, supporting a false idea – all of those things make it clear that we aren’t perfect. We don’t want people seeing our weaknesses. We’d rather hide them – as this lawyer tried to do by changing the subject. It’s almost as if he said to himself, “Aha! I know what to do. Let’s raise a technical question about exactly who qualifies as a neighbor in the eyes of God. That ought to start a fascinating discussion! People will run off after the new topic and forget about the microscope Jesus just placed my personal life under.”

Of course, it didn’t work. Ever courteous, Jesus took the new conversational gambit – and turned it right back to the same question again, by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. Here we have a man, a nobody, who unexpectedly comes across a neighbor in need. He has pity on him. He binds up his wounds, gets him to safety, and pays for his recovery. He isn’t turned off by the pitiful state of the man he rescued. Instead, he loves

him. He becomes the man’s savior.

Of course, the real Good Samaritan is Christ Himself – and we are the victims. He finds us broken, naked, harmed by the power of the devil, unable to help ourselves. But He doesn’t stick His nose up in the air and walk past. He rescues us. He covers our shame, cleans our wounds, and brings us to safety in His Father’s kingdom. He justifies us – that is, He takes the mess that is us and transforms us into clean, whole, beloved children of God. He heals us and covers our shame with His own perfect goodness.

Jesus does all this at His own cost – not just a sleepless night and a couple of denarii, but the cost of His own suffering, death, and resurrection. He takes our death and applies His own resurrection life to us. And now we are truly justified – as Paul writes, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” We can stop trying to justify ourselves. Jesus has taken care of it.

WE PRAY: Dear Lord, thank You for justifying us through Your own death and resurrection. Amen.

Pastor Karner

*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

**Mid-Week Lenten Services**

- March 12 – Noah, Cleansed for Life
- March 19 – Moses, God’s Presence for Life
- March 26 – Israel, God’s Discipline for Life
- April 2 – Jonah, Repentance for Life
- April 9 – Elijah, Food for Life

***Make plans to join us!***



*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** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



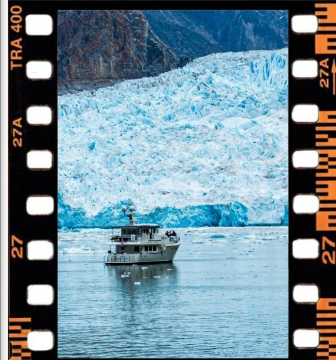
Here it is March already and Daylight Saving Time begins on March 9, so you need to change your watches and clocks ahead for church services. It's kind of busy this month with Ash Wednesday on March 5 and the first day of Spring on March 20th, but Easter is late this year on April 20. Although we don't start our Lunch program yet, you should plan on going to our Church/School Potluck on Sunday, March 16 at noon for Christian Fellowship.

Our Planning Committee met in February and decided to continue our activities as we have the past years. We encourage anyone over 50 to join us for these different lunches on the first Thursdays of most months in the original school basement at 11:30 am. We always have an interesting program after lunch for \$5 or only \$2 if

you add to our buffets. Our first lunch date is April 3 and is our annual Pizza Party when we will enjoy all kinds of Pizza and salad and desserts and beverages. Mark your calendar also for May 1st when Greer's Chicken will be served.

On April 3, our program is a photographic trip to Alaska taken by our talented photographer, David Hintz. "Alaska Adventure" is a multi-media program that highlights David's photographic talent as he and Lynda vacationed in Alaska. Come and invite a friend to enjoy this program on April 3.

Remember to greet one another in church at our Wed. Lenten services and Sundays!



## Alaska Adventure

(A Multi - Media Presentation)

Based On A Recent Land And Sea  
Alaska Vacation That Included  
Everything From Panning For Gold  
To Cruising In Glacier Bay.

To Be Shown At "Young At Heart"

Photography Provided By  
David C. Hintz

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3 - JOIN US!**



**Daylight-Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour the night before!*


The  
First Day of Spring  
March 20



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

**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, sign up sheet in the office.



From your  **Parish Nurse**

**CARDS** – Every Monday at 1:00 pm. in the Parish Center. Open to all adults. Please join us for an afternoon of laughs.

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

**LADIES LUNCHEON** – Tuesday, March 11, at 12:30 at BARC. Bring a friend, men are welcomed.

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



**CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN**



Walter J. Kuhr

December 2, 1944 — February 20, 2025



Nancy Karner

*Mother of Pastor Karner*

July 26, 1934 — February 22, 2025



Becky Lynn Sears-Wells

April 30, 1972 — February 23, 2025



**Reminder about Thrivent Choice Dollars**  
Thrivent Choice dollars from 2024 must be directed by March 31.  
If you need assistance, go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or call 1-800-847-4836.

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 beauti-

ful 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*

## The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

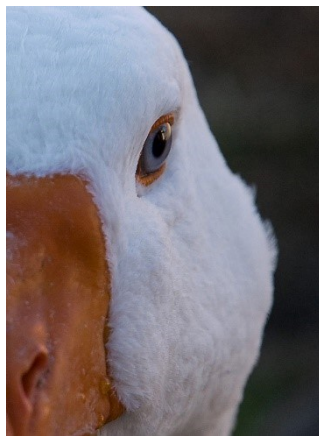
# ***Why Did I Ever Shoot These??***

*The Mystery Remains ...*

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We all take photographs for different reasons but we're all saying, "Look at this! "We're telling a story. It has been said the "The power of a photograph to tell a story comes from its power to get the human imagination started". So, do the experiment. Test your imagination. Let yourself go. Look at each of these photographs. See if you can find a story behind each of them.

Personally, I can't imagine a story behind a can of beans ... *The mystery remains,*



**Join us!** *On the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.*  
*(We do not meet in July or August.)*

## March & 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 began on March 5 (Ash Wednesday)**. Immanuel Lutheran Church will offer two worship opportunities each Wednesday at 10:45am and 7:00pm. Our 2025 Lenten theme is: “40 Days for Life.” The number 40 is a significant number in the Scriptures. 40 is a “journeying” number, a passage number, from death to life. That’s why the Church chose 40 days for this Lenten season, this season of the death of Jesus to the life of Easter! The schedule includes:



March 12 – Noah, Cleansed for Life  
 March 19 – Moses, God’s Presence for Life  
 March 26 – Israel, God’s Discipline for Life  
 April 2 – Jonah, Repentance for Life  
 April 9 – Elijah, Food for Life  
 Make plans to join us! — *Pastor Karner*

*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



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.

With you in His service,



# THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

## Call for Grant and Scholarship Applications

Thanks to a generous gift, the Immanuel Lutheran Foundation has been serving diverse needs of the Immanuel Lutheran Church since 1997. The “General Fund” has provided financial support through a *Grant Application Process* to do those important “non-budgeted” things “for which we never seemed to have the money”.

All this for one reason.

*To provide continuing support for the Ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the Immanuel Lutheran Church here in Bristol.*

While the Foundation’s General Fund earnings are directed to the support of *non-budgeted items*, the earnings of the **Westfall I and II Endowment Funds** established some years later contain provisions to award five scholarships each year. One scholarship is offered to an Immanuel member entering “Preaching and Teaching” ministries of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Four scholarships are offered to members of Immanuel and/or graduates of the Immanuel Lutheran School enrolled in an accredited College or University with a preference given to applicants aspiring to enter the ministry, or a career in medicine, law, or engineering.

### *It's Time!*

**2025 Grant Applications** for the General Fund are being accepted now. Application Forms are available in the Church Office and returned there when complete. **Westfall Scholarship Applications** are also available in the office and must be completed and returned to the office no later than Sunday, June 15, 2025.

The Directors begin the Grant Review Process in March and continue throughout the year as funding remains available.

Questions? Pick up a Foundation Brochure in the Church/School Lobby or contact one of the Directors; Bill Wentland, Andy Helming, Bob Wollenberg, Diane Read, Warren Kirschner.

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Applications are available in the church office:

We are accepting applications for Immanuel Lutheran Church Scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded to members of Immanuel Lutheran Church or graduates of Immanuel Lutheran School.

Applications are due on **Sunday, June 15, 2025** in the church office.

These scholarships will be awarded in August.



# ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ School News ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## **From the Principal's Desk**

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

February was an event filled month that began with our annual "Sweetheart Dance" for Dads and Daughters and a great time was had by all. Our basketball team played their final games of the season, and students learned about dental health from our dental hygienist. Our staff also participated in a school climate survey to help us learn where we can improve and make our school a great Christian workplace.

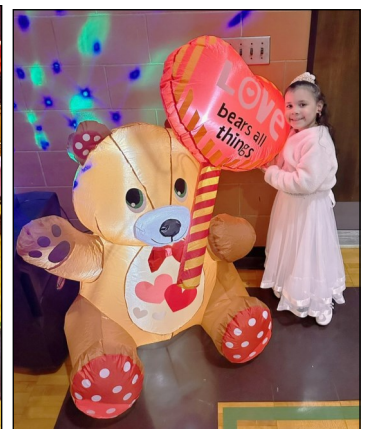
As we march into spring, we are getting excited about the start of track season and participating in the fun events scheduled for Lutheran Schools Week beginning on March 16th with our "All School Sing" at the 10:45am service. There will be a pot-luck luncheon to follow in the gym, and all are welcome to attend!

We are getting closer to the start of our online enrollment for the 2025-26 school year, and as our current families begin to re-enroll, we are praying that God will send many new families to us!

Please continue to keep Immanuel Lutheran School in your prayers, and if you would like to contribute to our tuition assistance fund to help keep families enrolled at our school, please reach out to me at [dkrueger@ilcs.org](mailto:dkrueger@ilcs.org), call the office at 860-583-5631, or send your donation in the mail.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping us to continue our mission of spreading the Gospel to our students and their families!

Yours In Christ,  
Deborah Krueger





# Easter Flowers

Quantity			Totals
# _____	6" Lily	@ \$14.00	
Make checks out to:	Immanuel Altar Guild	Total Amount	\$



In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by (*print name*) \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service.  I will help deliver this flower to a shut-in.

If you would like to order an Easter Lily for the altar for Easter, please fill out the order form and attach cash or check (made out to Altar Guild) and leave it in the Altar Guild mailbox in the office. **Last day to order is Sunday, April 6.**

## Altar Guild Flower Fund

I prefer not to order a lily but would like to contribute to the Altar Guild flower fund. This fund will guarantee that flowers are provided for the altar on Sundays when no one has specially ordered arrangements.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# MARCH 2025 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> David Hintz William Jabs Sue Simons
<b>2</b> Michele Dubois Andrew Massaro Julie Stringer Jonathan Wegner	<b>3</b> Zachary Schab	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Elaine Larson	<b>6</b> Justin Behrendt Nate DeAngelo Aaron Gorneault Marilyn Stone	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Angelina Croce Tammy Croze Sheilah Newcity
<b>9</b> Amanda Doncet Justin Kirschner Chris Schab	<b>10</b> Linda Beck Myles Matthews William Niemand-Evans	<b>11</b> Samantha Buden Diane Ruffino	<b>12</b> Nathan Bentivengo Rob Redman, Jr.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Christina Curry Jackson Mitchell Kevin Reich	<b>15</b> Donna Bell Sienna Galindo
<b>16</b> Nathan Desjardins	<b>17</b> Jordan Boucher Scott DeAngelo	<b>18</b> David Werner	<b>19</b> Alexandria Segal	<b>20</b> Deborah Martin Dominick Ruffino	<b>21</b> John Helming Michael Krampitz	<b>22</b> Stephen Helming
<b>23</b> Andreia DeAngelo Gregory Newcity	<b>24</b> Craig Lejeune	<b>25</b> Zachary Bodick	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Katie Boucher Philip Wells	<b>28</b> Emilee Mowatt	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Ryan Bodley Hannah Mora Terri Pesce	<b>31</b>					



*God proves his  
love for us in  
that while we  
still were sinners  
Christ died for us.*

ROMANS 5:8, NRSV

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