



Messenger

February 2015

Vol. 15 No. 2

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT



Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Mr. James F. Krupski
School Principal

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

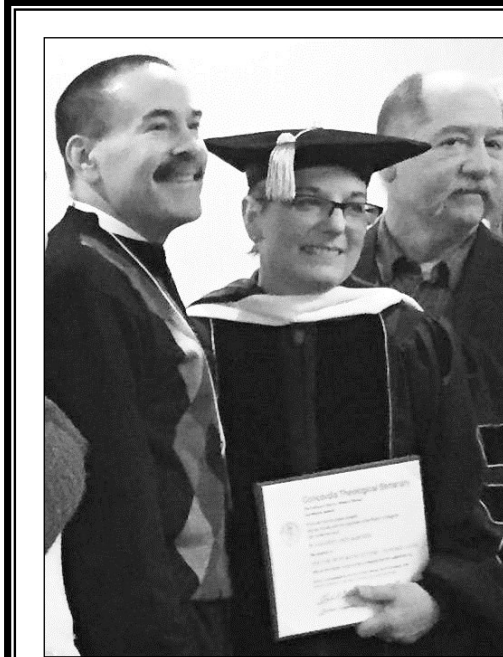
The Mission of Immanuel Lutheran School is to provide a loving atmosphere of academic excellence for children while developing in them and their families a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT 06010

860-583-5649

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www.ilcs.org



Congratulations, Dr. Maggie Karner!

On January 23, at the LCMS Life Ministries banquet in Washington, D.C., Maggie Karner, outgoing director of LCMS Life and Health Ministries, was awarded the Doctor of Letters by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, for teaching the church about life — from conception to natural death — and the innate value and worth of humans on account of Christ.

Renewal of Vows Ceremony



Join Pastor Karner and the Board of Elders as they have a **Renewal of Vows** ceremony, followed by a movie in the Gymnasium on Friday, February 13. The ceremony will start in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm. Take a night off with your spouse and take a moment to reaffirm your commitment to each other.

Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” There’s the ultimate word on stewardship: your heart goes where you put the treasure which God has given you to manage in this life.





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 Krampitz
Dee Krampitz
Newsletter Editors

**SUNDAY
DIVINE SERVICE**

8:00 A.M.

10:45 A.M.

BIBLE STUDY

9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 A.M.



**WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE**

Worship Services are broadcast each Sunday on

WXCT RADIO

990 AM

1:00 P.M.



From the Pastor's Desk



"The Sacrifice of Love"

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." Psalm 51:17

This month many will be celebrating Valentine's Day. A few days later the Christian Church will begin its annual preparation for Easter, as the Season of Lent commences on Ash Wednesday (February 18th). Love and Lent – "they go together like two birds of a feather!"

Unfortunately for some, Valentine's Day can be pretty confusing. At least, that's what Reuters News Service reported recently.

For example, eight million Americans admit to sending themselves Valentine gifts. So, if the person in your office has five dozen roses, it may not be from a known or unknown admirer. They just may not want to feel lonely or unloved on Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day can be confusing. According to a recent phone survey there is a big difference between what people want as a gift for Valentine's Day and what they're probably going to get.

For example, twenty-two percent of the men polled said they were going to give their wives or girlfriends lingerie as a Valentine's Day gift. Lingerie was their top choice. Only two percent of the women said lingerie was a gift they would appreciate.

On the other hand, if you think diamonds are a girl's best friend, you may not be wrong. Jewelry was the top gift choice when the ladies were asked.

When the men had their turn of rating gift ideas, jewelry ranked no higher than fifth place.

Valentine's Day can be confusing. For example, the survey says many practical (or cheap) men readily agree when their lady suggests she "really doesn't want a gift this year", or "we don't have to exchange gifts this year for Valentine's Day". Those lines are nothing more than that -- lines. Because Valentine's Day is so confusing many relationships have a tough time surviving the day. The survey suggested that three million couples have broken up on Valentine's Day.

This leads me to ask, "What will you give God for Valentine's Day?" We already know what He has given us -- His Son. We see the Father's love in Jesus' birth, His life, His suffering, death, and resurrection. Because of Jesus we have been given forgiveness and life eternal. Now the question is, "What shall we give God?"

It's not an easy question, is it? How do you find a present to give Someone who already owns everything? Thankfully we don't have to rack our brains for an answer. In Psalm 51, God says what He wants: a broken and a contrite heart. God wants our repentant, trusting hearts for Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday and for everyday.

Pastor Karner

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
Now may the God of peace himself, sanctify you completely. and may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

Lenten Worship

**Lent begins on February 18 with
Ash Wednesday Services
at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.**
(Communion at both services)



Lenten Service soups

Starting on Wednesday, February 25, different groups will be hosting different soups before each Lenten service. The dinners will start at 6:00 pm with the service at 7:00 pm. There is no cost for the dinners. Bring your families and join us for fellowship.

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



LENTE 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.



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING and MID-WEEK SERVICES!

Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Communion Services are in bold

Sunday, February 1 — **8:00am** and 10:45am

Sunday, February 8 — 8:00am and **10:45am**

Sunday, February 15 — **8:00am** and 10:45am

Ash Wednesday, February 18 — **10:00am** and **7:00pm**

Sunday, February 22 — 8:00am and **10:45am**

Lenten Services, Wednesday, Feb. 25 — 10:00am and 7:00pm

ILC Youth News

Our Junior High Youth group will be attending a New England District Winter Extravaganza on Friday, February 20 - Sunday, February 22, 2015 in Keene, New Hampshire. The Middle Schoolers will be having fun outdoors, bible based discussions, and get to meet other New England teens in the process. Anyone interested should contact Brenda Buonafede.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please Join us in between the services for a grade specific introduction and study of the stories of the Bible.



All grades are welcome
Pre K - High School

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Mornings 9:30am in the Gym

Last Tuesday of each month 7:00pm

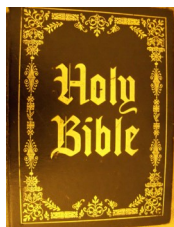
Women's Bible Study

Thursdays 7:00am Men's

Emmaus Walkers

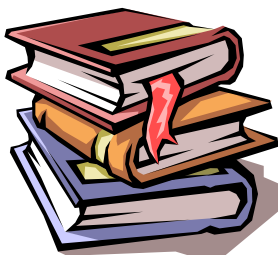
— *Be in the Word* —

Every Day Of The Week!




Archive Committee

Immanuel Lutheran Church is looking for individuals to participate on an archive committee to research former School graduates collecting addresses so that we can reach out to these alumni. If you would like to help, Please call the Church office. This is a great opportunity to touch base with some classmates you have not talked to in years! Many hands make light work!



Just for fun.....

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Christian elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The headmaster made a note, and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE. God is watching.' Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples....'




Women of Immanuel



The next meeting of the Women of Immanuel will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 in the Parish Center. The spring meeting has been changed from March to

April in hopes that the weather will be better.

The Terryville division of **Orphan Grain Train (OGT)** has made two shipments since its dedication in June. Hygiene kits, hospital beds and equipment were shipped to Liberia to help with the Ebola crisis. A delivery was made to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Included were 359 boxes of winter coats, clothing, blankets, linens, socks, underwear, hygiene kits, etc. and a wheelchair. Also, clothing, hygiene kits and medical equipment have been given to people in need in the community.

Thanks to everyone who has supported OGT. We continue to collect items which can be left in the boxes near the library. Hygiene Kits: bath towels, washcloths, bath-six bar of soap, stick deodorants. School Kits: backpacks, spiral notebooks, pencils, pkg of construction paper, crayons, rulers (English and metric measurements), blunt scissors, washable markers, protractors and glue sticks.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

WHITE AS SNOW

Snow is not always appreciated by those of us in the northern climes. It can make life complicated, travel hazardous, and cause a lot of work. But when it falls slowly and provides a clean blanket of sparkling white, it can also be peaceful.

Snow reminds me of God’s love for us. Even though we sin daily and make a mess of things from time to time, God promises all our crimson sins will be white like new-fallen snow because of Jesus’ sacrificial love for us. Today is a good day to share that love with one another.

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; (Isaiah 1:18b)

Nancy Bogenhagen, VP of Communication

LWML 2015 36th Biennial Convention June 25 – 28, 2015, Des Moines, Iowa



Get ready to register early for the LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Those who register between February 2 and March 14, 2015 will receive a discounted rate on their registration fee. So sign up now to gather under our theme **Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap**. Registration forms and more information can be found in the winter issue of the Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly and online at www.lwml.org.

LWML MISSION GRANT

Support for Lutheran Public Radio \$40,000
Lutheran Public Radio’s principle effort is the live, call-in radio program, Issues, Etc. For two hours a day it provides live, interactive, Christian talk radio, including Bible study, hymn and liturgy study, discussion of theological topics, and discussion of timely social issues addressed in Scripture. The audience is invited to respond and interact by phone, email, Twitter, and Facebook. For more information on this and other 2013-2015 Mission Grants go to www.lwml.org and scroll down to “Mission Grants.”

Prayer: O most gracious God, we live in a world filled with many social issues that are challenging to the faithful Christian.

We give You thanks and praise for the dedication of those working at Lutheran Public Radio who provide live, interactive, Christian talk radio programming which includes Bible study, hymn and liturgy study, discussion of theological topics, and discussion of timely social issues addressed in Scripture. We ask you to keep Your Spirit stirring in their hearts and in those who are listening. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.



Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow St.
Bristol, CT 06010



Dear Friends at Immanuel,

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus! I am writing to you with a grateful heart for your support. Through your support, The Martin Adams-Jacob Westfall Endowment Fund has awarded me financial support. I like many other seminarians, at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, greatly appreciate the partners in the Gospel. An education, that is in mission for training and equipping pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

I am a third year student in the Masters of Divinity program. The third year in the seminary curriculum is the vicarage year. My vicarage assignment has placed me at a congregation in South Florida: St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Boca Raton.

My role is in a variety of things at St. Paul. I assist primarily the associate pastor, in the various pastoral ministry duties, such as preaching, teaching, visiting members, proactive at St. Paul Lutheran School, and assisting in the various mission projects in the congregation. I am truly benefitting greatly in this experience. You have helped make this experience and I thank you for that.

Thank you so much for your support to Concordia Seminary. On behalf of the seminary community, I greatly appreciate your generosity. May God bless each and every one of you!

In Christ,
Andrew J. Howe

Young at Heart

Winter greetings and blessings to all our over age 50 members and friends.

Our annual big Planning Committee will be meeting this month to plan our year of Monthly Lunches and interesting programs for you. We will probably meet in the office area on February 10, Tuesday; watch the weekly bulletin for exact time and place; committee members will be contacted by phone. We are in need of a Program Chairperson and a Daytrip Planner; perhaps you are recently retired and can



help us out. Anyone who has suggestions for programs is welcomed to attend or phone us; we are looking for new ideas for programs for these eight lunches. Contact Carol Maron at 860-582-9608.

We will have some sunny winter days when you could visit a homebound member. Ask our Parish Nurse, Roberta Kuhr, for her suggestions of members who really would enjoy a pleasant winter visit from you.



The Adult Fellowship group plays Cards on Monday Afternoons in the Parish Center; come join this group, if you are interested.



You're welcome to join us for an...
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday – February 8th
12noon-3:00 p.m.



Immanuel Lutheran School



154 Meadow Street, Bristol, CT 06010
 (860) 583-5631

Tours of the school. Teachers will be on-hand to discuss curriculum and answer your questions.



Immanuel Lutheran School offers...

- Christ Centered Excellent Education.
- All day and half day Preschool through 8th grade.
- All day Kindergarten.
- More individualized instruction for your child.
- Strong programs in Music, Art, Computers and Athletics.
- SMART Board® Technology.

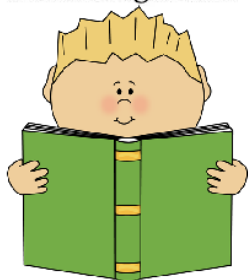
To learn more visit www.ilcsschool.org.

Immanuel Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

BASKETBALL SEASON COMING TO AN END—This has been an exciting season as we moved to a new league. Thank you to Larry Beaudoin, Dawn Santilli, Amber Phillips and Evan Foley for taking on the leadership of our teams. We would also like to thank Rob and Becky wells for heading up the concession stand during many home games and weekends. Special thank also goes to Amber Phillips who took on the daunting task of scheduling families to work at the game. We would also like to thank the many who made this entire season work.



Immanuel Lutheran Christian Book Fair



Sunday Feb. 8th, 2015
 Just outside of the Church /office entryway after Sunday Services and during Immanuel Lutheran School Open House noon-3 pm, Sun. Feb 8.
 > Books for all ages!
 >Improve your personal and family devotional life!
 >Includes Bibles, devotionals, Christian Children's storybooks.
 >Actual Sample books to review and for purchase or order.

New Year—New Resolutions! Bring God's Word to your family dinner table or to your children's bedtime with easy to use Lutheran devotionals and Bible Story books for you and the whole family! Great Lutheran theology to support your child's Christian education from our Church's own publisher—Concordia Publishing House. Sponsored by Immanuel Board of Christian Education.
 For more information, contact maggiakamer@gmail.com.

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL SEASON COMING

WHO: Any 4TH-8TH GRADERS WHO ATTEND ILS OR WHO ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.



CONTACT: MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH SHOULD CONTACT MR. KRUPSKI IF INTERESTED:

(860-583-5631) or

jameskrupski@ilcsschool.org

Time for practices will be announced at a later time.

Inside the Congregation

I just love Groundhog Day!
It is the one day of the year where a two minute ceremony determines the next 6-8 weeks.



With the re-emergence of a furry creature, we know whether to start pulling the shorts and t-shirts out, or add another layer. This harbinger literally takes the guess work out of the one thing that is always a mystery to all of us here in New England, the weather. If only the Groundhog was always right.

I did some digging to see how Groundhog Day started and I was not surprised to find that it was German immigrants that introduced this into the Pennsylvania Dutch community. It derived from the pagan holiday of Candlemas day where Church clergy blessed candles and had all of their parishioners put them in their windows on the eve of February 1st which is halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. Superstition was that if February 2nd was fair then the second half of winter would be rough. However, if the day was rough, then spring would come early. This is just another example of us mortal humans trying to make sense out of our universe. With the implementation of the pageantry of Groundhog Day, we are trying to predict what is to come.

One thing however, we know for certain; Whether the Groundhog sees his shadow or not, we should embrace each day as if it were a gift. Instead of trying to figure out how good or bad the weather is going to be, take an umbrella with you and wear a jacket that you can take off just in case. After all God has placed all of us here in New England where our slogan has always been, “If you don’t like the weather...wait a minute.”

Jason Krueger – Congregation President

ALUMNI LIST NEARING COMPLETION

Over the last several months our newly formed Alumni Association has been doing extensive research in locating our Immanuel Lutheran School Alumni. The list which has been compiled will be used to contact our alumni, schedule Alumni events, and re-connect with former classmates and members. The goal as always is to share the good news of Jesus Christ. If you have graduated from Immanuel Lutheran School, be on the lookout for the re-emergence of the ILS Alumni Newsletter.

DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS TODAY!



If you receive services through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, then you have Thrivent Choice dollars to be used at your discretion. All you have to do to direct the Choice Dollars is

1. Go to Thrivent.com and log into your account.
2. Go to the Thrivent Choice Dollars Section and designate your Choice dollars to a specific group. Immanuel Lutheran Church, and Immanuel Lutheran School are both listed.
3. Click to direct the Choice dollars!

IT IS THAT EASY!

Thrivent Choice Dollars translate to real money which can help us to offer better programs and services to our members.

From The Editors, Ed and Dee:

Yes, we now have two editors working on the Messenger — I'm artsy and he's technical. This being our first edition, we welcome your input and suggestions. The Messenger deadline will be the 15th of each month. Articles should be emailed to ekrampitz@sbcglobal.net or brought in to the church office and left either in the mail slot or on my desk.

Dee Krampitz

On Sunday, January 25, we recognized Zachary Cudjoe, the recipient of the Jason Atkins Memorial Scholarship for the 2014-15 school year.

Happy Anniversary to

George & Josie Rindfleisch 2/9 (35 years)

February 2015 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Katherine Girard Nicole Tessman	2 Nancy Pease Logan Williams	3 Kurt Radcliff	4 Dorothy Johnson	5	6 Jared Jankowski Tamara Lindstrom Robert Neumann Jessica Triplett Ella Woike	7 Kristen Boutin
8 Jason Dunn Jenna Duval John Girard Sr, Dieter Lorancaitis Michael Phillips Kevin Read Tammy Thormahlen	9 Rollin Lee David Newman Carl Smith Ava Werner Brooke Werner	10 Gertrude Jensen David Peplau Jeffrey Wegner	11 Robert Bayer Celine Kissner Joshua Mitchell Kelci Myers Sydney Therrien	12 Alex Barner Susan Rich Sandra Tonn	13 Karin Hauer Benjamin Winkelman	14 George Behrendt Paula Helming Ashley Romaniello Haley Romaniello
15 Caroline Bayer Julie Follo Randy Neumann Jared Rodriguez Jessica Romaniello Irma Schaffrick	16 Cynthia Dell' Aera Jill Therrien Kenneth Tonn	17 Deborah Norris	18 Carol Fraioli Jon Heidorn Amanda Wolfe	19 Kurt McCorriston	20 Jeffrey Bergeron Rhiannon Carta Linda Neumann Evelyn Palmisano Deborah Schmelder	21 Donna Hamelin Linda Hogan Jonathan Kane
22 Jan Blaschke John Girard, Jr. Brett McIntyre Mary Sylvia Marcy Triplett Stacey White	23 Michael Girard	24 Marissa Cruz Peter Werner	25 Lisa Barner Catherine Kane Natalie Norbut	26	27 Philip Saglimbeni	28 Joan Hermann Betty Quadrato



*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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