

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Mrs. Claudia Bishop
Interim School Principal

Messenger

May 2016

Vol. 16 No. 5

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.

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Bristol, CT 06010
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The Young at Heart

Photos from our April luncheon, where we enjoyed pizza, had a musical preview of our Immanuel students' presentation of "The Sound of Music" on May 13 & 15, and Eric Larson discussed his latest book and alternative ways of publishing.

(More Young at Heart news on Page 4)

"My Faith" poems by the 7th and 8th grade students

My Faith:
By: Paris

My Faith is my foundation.
My Faith is like a river, always flowing.
My Faith teaches and guides me.
My Faith is loving and forgiving.
My Faith is always with me.
My Faith comforts me.
My Faith sustains and supports me.
My Faith uplifts me.
My Faith is as tall as a mountain.
My Faith is as deep as the deepest ocean.
My Faith strengthens and protects me.
My Faith gives me eternal life.
My Faith takes away my trepidation.
My Faith brings me closer to God.



My Faith:
By Morgan

My Faith is as big as the highest peak of a mountain
My Faith is as deep as the deepest ocean
My Faith is as tall as the highest skyscraper, you can imagine
My Faith teaches me that I am dearly loved
My Faith shines like beams from the radiant sun
My Faith is as beautiful as a blooming flower
My Faith makes me feel safe and secure
My Faith is like a tree, it's strong and it is guided in the wind, just like Jesus guides me
My Faith is like time, never stopping, or slowing down



ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

with Holy Communion

Thursday, May 5 at
10 am and 7 pm

(See Poems on Page 7)



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 15th of every month.)

SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICES

8:00 a.m.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 a.m.



**WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE**

Worship Services are broadcast each Sunday at 1:00 p.m. on

WNTY Radio
990 AM
96.1 FM

From the Pastor's Desk

“The Colors”

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the Name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
Acts 4:18-20

The Day of Pentecost will be celebrated this month; the day the Church remembers the dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit, and how He motivated the disciples to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with “all nations.”

And if you’ve been following current events lately — with all of the “bathroom confusion” and political maneuvering — it makes me wonder if the Church could use another Pentecost today to spur the Gospel message among us.

In the Civil War most regiments had a ten-man honor guard, which carried the flags of country and unit into battle.

Not surprisingly, carrying something as conspicuous as these great flags made the soldier an immediate target for the enemy. Battlefield records tell us how one carrier of the flag after another could be shot. The colors would wobble, and the next member of the guard would grab it and continue on.

It was an honor to carry those flags, if even for a very short time.

On occasion, all of the color guard would be killed or wounded, but there’s no record that speaks of a charge being stopped while officers searched for volunteers. Volunteers were always at the ready because they knew it was an honor to carry the flag.

Go to the bloodied battlefield of Gettysburg (as our ILS 7th and 8th-graders do every other year) and see — placed in display cases of honor — the colors of these regiments, ripped and torn by

shot and shell, baptized by the blood of men, who had made a commitment to a cause that changed the world.

As great as the cause of freedom was, it pales in comparison to God’s cause to free souls from the slavery of sin, death and Satan.

Christians should remember it’s an honor to share the cross of Christ with a sinful world. Because of the Savior’s innocent life, suffering, death and glorious resurrection from the dead, we’ve been given a message that can change the world. But we need to remember how easily other things can get in the way of the church moving forward in the sharing of that message.

We need to remember those things, and we need to avoid them.

To carry the colors — the cross of Christ — is the honor the Savior has given to every generation of the church. Some decades have carried those colors well and souls have been won; others have failed and the advancement of the message has almost faltered.

Now you and I are not responsible for what’s happened in the past, and we’re not entirely responsible for what happens in the future, but this is our time to do what we can, where we can, in the sharing of the Redeemer’s Name.

As the disciples said, “We cannot help but speak of those things which we have seen and heard and touched.”

THE PRAYER: *Dear Lord, send the Holy Spirit upon the church and upon us. Grant us the courage, the wisdom, the words, to share the story of salvation with a lost and sinful world. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

Pastor Karner
1 Thess. 5:23-24

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Women of Immanuel ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

THE SUMMER POT LUCK SUPPER will be held Thursday, June 16th at 6:00 P.M. in The Old School Basement. We invite all women of Immanuel to attend. Bring a friend and your favorite dish. Don't forget to bring your Mite Box offering for LWML. Watch the bulletin for details.



LWML NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

LWML New England District President Leslie Colligan presided over her final convention in New London, Connecticut on April 8-9. With 100 assembled around the theme "Still Quenched by the Water", convention activities included Bible study, mission speakers, worship services, district business, and the election of the district's new LWML President, Barbara Lis.

Mission Grants for the 2016-2018 biennium were chosen:

Immanuel Lutheran School will receive \$5,000 for financial assistance.

Hands of Grace in New Hartford, CT will receive \$4,000 to purchase food from the Connecticut Food Bank.

The New England Branch of **Orphan Grain Train** had been selected to receive the **Gifts from the Heart**. The women of LWML were very generous with their donations; a large truck was filled with their contributions.

Warehouse managers Linda and Paul Arbesmen are grateful for everyone's generosity.

LWML MISSION GRANT

OUTREACH IN REFUGEE CAMPS—LEBANON \$72,000

The mite offerings of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League support the Outreach in Refugee Camps in Lebanon. Muslim Women and children fleeing from war, famine and death, are provided with humanitarian supplies, outreach meetings and events, but the most important of all, a long term growth and expansion of the Gospel, so that they can improve their lives.

Middle East Lutheran Ministry (MELM) is doing an extraordinary job with the many displaced people in Lebanon, as they look at the physical and spiritual needs of those in the refugee camps. Facing extreme religious violence, displacement and rejection, this program enables the team to share the faith and true love of Jesus Christ. Supported by a mission grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, MELM will truly rescue women and children, including widows and orphans, at a time of desperate needs and hopelessness, by giving them a strong Christian presence as the gospel is being shared with them.

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

A Baby Bottle Fundraiser is a fun way for families to participate in crisis pregnancy ministry. The Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) in Unionville is a non-profit, volunteer, Christian agency committed to assisting women in crises due to pregnancy by providing emotional support and practical assistance. Baby bottles will be handed out on Mother's Day, May 8th, for you to take home, fill with pocket change and return on Father's Day, June 19th.



Young at Heart

You won't want to miss our May lunch event on Thursday May 5, at 11:30 am in the accessible Old School Basement. It's our annual Greer's Chicken lunch with volunteers bringing the extra menu items for our buffet tables. Those bringing food pay \$2 instead of the usual \$5 contribution at the door; call Carol (582-9608) for needed items. Are you an over age 50 member or friend? Come for food, fun, and fellowship! Better yet, why not attend the Ascension Day Service with Holy Communion at 10 am and then "come on down" to our Greer's Chicken luncheon!

You really missed out if you didn't come last month for our Pizza Party — we had almost 50 people including 5 newcomers. We enjoyed "The Sound of Music" songs that the children sang for our preview of their wonderful May musical; our group donated \$100 for this production. We sincerely also thank Eric Larson who did a great, interesting program, "You've Got a Story to Tell", for us. He showed us new ways to publish books that we ourselves can put together, as he has; he had many of his booklets and published books to show us.

Vernon Koch is looking forward to sharing with us a wonderful photo program of the trip he and Lois took to



Alaska in 2015. We are sure you don't want to miss this special production, "Alaska", that he has prepared for our viewing pleasure on Thursday, May 5; invite your friends to join you.

We don't have any summer daytrips planned yet. Where do you want to go together — Goodspeed, Museums, Outdoors, etc.? We also would like someone to help out by volunteering to assist our Daytrip Planner. Looking for a trip with other groups for yourself? Be sure to check the bulletin board in the lower hallway by the door for trip flyers.

Remember, you can always join the card playing Adult Fellowship group on Monday afternoons at 1 pm in the Parish Center.

Try to take time to visit a homebound member who is waiting for a friendly visitor to come and visit, or even to just call and chat; call our parish nurse or the church office for names.



Put May 5 at 11:30 on your calendar now; you don't want to miss this Alaska & Greer's event!

From your



Keep **MAY 10th** open for our next luncheon, which will be at the Parish Center at 12:30 pm. We will probably have a box lunch. The cost will be \$10.

WALK AND TALK — Every Tuesday at 9:30 am. Open to adult males and females of all ages. Please join us. It's a Christian fellowship you will enjoy.

MAY 31st

Women's Bible Study at 4:30 pm. Sandwiches and coffee provided. Come and join us as we continue our discussion of the Miracles of Jesus. *Our next meeting will be in September.*

CARING HEARTS — Caring hearts was started for the purpose of providing meals to people in need. I'm looking for peo-

ple who are willing to help provide meals. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me on my home phone, 860-621-0230. Please leave a message with your name and phone number, and I will return your call. This is not something you will be asked to do frequently. I'd like to thank everyone who has participated in the past.

VISITATIONS to our shut-ins. If you need a name to visit let me know. There are many out there that would appreciate a visit — or perhaps simply a phone call to chat with you!

Need your blood pressure taken? *See me!* . . . Every 2nd Sunday after the 8 am service.

God's Blessings to all of you,

Roberta Kuhn,
Parish Nurse



~ Church News ~

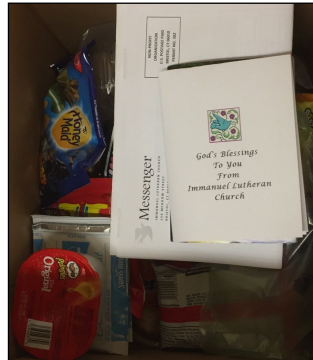


THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

To everyone who provided addresses for the COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES and to all those who helped in the packing!

We were able to send out 14 packages this year! We included a Portals of Prayer, Messenger and mostly healthy snacks.

May God bless our students and keep them in his loving care.



To the wonderful people at Immanuel Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for sending the amazing care package to me right before finals week! I've already begun sharing all the snacks with my friends since the only week worse than finals week is the week before finals week when all the projects are due, and that time is quickly approaching Concordia University Chicago!

While this semester has been fun and challenging, I can't wait to be back home where I can see all of you and jump right into VBS! See you soon and God Bless!

Alex Rindfleisch

Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for the care package that you sent to Roger Williams University. It is very thoughtful of the church to do that for me and other college students. The snacks and prayers sent will definitely come in handy as I approach finals week. The snacks that came in the package were some of my favorites!

*Thank you,
Melissa Buonafede*

(Judy Buonafede's Granddaughter)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Scout News ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Meals for the Needy Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at Nuchie's on April 15



~ Church News ~

THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN FOUNDATION Call For Grant and Scholarship Applications

The Immanuel Lutheran Foundation has been serving diverse needs of the Immanuel Lutheran Church since 1997. Thanks to several generous gifts, it has provided financial support to do those important things we never seemed to have the money for. Most were small in comparison to Immanuel's million-dollar budget but they all answered a real need.

Since that first year, over \$180,000 in Fund earnings has been given out through a grant application process to members, boards, and organizations of Immanuel to allow them to better serve our Lord through Immanuel's Local ministries. This while preserving the Fund's operating principal even in the difficult investment times we find ourselves in today.



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 Endowment Funds administered by Foundation Directors are directed to specific needs; supporting pastoral continuing education, scholarships for Immanuel's members entering the "Preaching and Teaching" ministries of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, local expenses, school expenses, and the maintenance and upkeep of Immanuel Lutheran Church. The Ruth Janning Endowment also administered by the Foundation provides funds to the church with their use directed by the Church Council to best serve this ministry.

It's Time!

2016 Grant Applications are being accepted now. Forms are available thru the Church Office and returned there when complete. Westfall Scholarship Applications are also available in the office.

The Directors begin the Grant Review Process in April and continue throughout the year as funding remains available. Westfall Scholarship applications accepted until June 15th.

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

Reminder: The weekly church bulletin and announcements are posted online on Immanuel's website: www.ilcs.org

Men's Basketball is Sunday nights from 6 to 8 pm.

All men from within our congregation or school are welcome!



~ **School News** ~

Immanuel Lutheran School

PRESENTS:



PERFORMANCES:

Friday, May 13th at 7 pm

Sunday, May 15th at 2 pm

in the

Immanuel Lutheran School Gymnasium

154 Meadow Street, Bristol, Connecticut

For more information call

the office at 860-583-5631

(free will offerings will be accepted at the door)

Poems (Continued from Page 1)

My Faith:
By Melanie

My faith is like a mighty wave
It washes over and refreshes me

My faith is my mirror
Helping me reflect upon my life

My faith is a delicate butterfly dancing on the breeze
Its gentle beauty makes me happy when I need it most

My faith is the pillar on which my life stands

My faith is my gravity
It holds me firm and grounded
Even when I jump away, Jesus pulls me back

My faith is like a warm hug

My faith heals my soul

My faith lives in me
And I live in my faith



More "My Faith" poems by the 7th and 8th grade students will appear next month.

~ **Church News** ~

RADIO MINISTRY

Immanuel's Worship Service
is broadcast every Sunday
at 1 pm on WNTY Radio
on **990 AM** and **96.1 FM**

We are looking for new members for our recording team. Responsibilities may include: recording the 8:00 AM worship service; copying of the CD recording; transport of master CD to radio station by 12:45 PM. If you might be interested, see Don Smuda.

No experience needed!

**Immanuel welcomes
through the rite of Holy Baptism
Madison Ann Tessier, daughter
of Jonathan Tessier & Christina Curry
Baptized on April 3, 2016**

~ School News ~

**Immanuel Lutheran School
7th & 8th Grade Students
trip to New York City
on April 7, 2016**



And we're off...



St. Patrick's Cathedral



Hard Rock Café for Lunch

**THE
PHANTOM
OF THE OPERA**



Important dates in May

May 2-6 is Teacher Appreciation Week
May 13 at 7:00 & May 15 at 2:00 is
"The Sound of Music"
May 20 at 7:00 is the Spring Music Concert

May 27 at 6:30 is Preschool Graduation
May 31 is Field Day at Rockwell Park

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ May Calendar ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Activities

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Adult Instruction Class
- Men's Basketball
- 2, 9, 16, 23 - Adult Fellowship
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Walk & Talk
- 4, 11, 18, 25 - Senior Choir
- 5, 12, 19, 26 - The Emmaus Walkers
- 5 - Ascension Day Services
- Young at Heart Lunch
- 8 - Mother's Day
- 10 - Ladies Box Lunch Parish Center
- 11 - Board of Finance Meeting
- 12 - Elders Meeting

- 13 - BBT Quilt Guild, Sound of Music
- 15 - Sound of Music
- 17 - IL Foundation
- 19 - Photo Club
- 30 - Memorial Day
- 31 - Women's Bible Study

These activities are a sample of what was posted on Immanuel's online calendar as of the publishing of this edition of the *Messenger*. To see the most up-to-date listings of all activities at the church and the school, log onto the church website at www.ilcs.org and click on **Calendar** at the top of the page.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Victoria Holcomb Mary Ann Kalwat Kaitlyn Thormahlen	2 Isabella Yapoujian	3 Gregory Blaschke, Jr. Hedwig Maretzki Billee Wallace	4 Pauline Blaschke Sue Lutz	5 Aaron Boutin David Thormahlen	6 Bruce Helming Dick Prindle	7 Edna Kozikowski Wally Woike
8  Happy Mother's Day	9 Morgan Boucher	10 Cassandra Ewen Rudy Finger John Mora Matthew Raspanti	11 Robert Boutin Marian Goodwin Morgan Moliengo Michael Rodgers	12 James Christopher, III Kimberly Martin	13 Elaine Blank Samuel Gahr Meadow Wells	14 Parker Synder
15 Kelly Lejeune	16 Casey McIntyre Paul Strawderman	17 Carol Young	18	19 Adam Beaudet Roberta Kuhr	20 Nancy Mitchell	21 John Bohn Seth Foley Paul Tonn
22 Nate Kisser Matthew Tonn	23 Annabelle Kirschner Lorraine Sonstrom	24 Tyler Bodley Eva Zebrowski	25 Mark Brasche	26	27 Bryan Pavlik	28 Donald Kalwat
29 Christy Hislop	30  memorial DAY	31 Oscar Jobs				





I LOVE THE LORD,
 for he heard my voice;
 he heard my
 cry for mercy.

Psalm 116:1, NIV

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