

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman
School Principal

Messenger

December 2016

Vol. 16 No. 11

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
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Immanuel Lutheran School children say thank you to our Veterans on November 4th.

— Photos by Vern Koch —





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 the 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.

YOUTH 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

“Just What I Needed”

... *The Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:20b-21

What do you want for Christmas? You don't have to ask children a second time. They know what they want for Christmas. Recent letters to Santa tell us what's on some wish lists:

- One child wrote to Santa and summarized: “I didn't get what I wanted last time. My name is Penny and I'm still living in the same house. There's a big number 40 on the door. Santa, let's get it straight.”

- Another child named Mike minimized word usage when he made this simple request: “Dear Santa, I want one of everything you've got.”

- Six-year-old Robert was a bit more directive when he sent his letter to Santa. His instructions were “I want a rifle, a pistol, a machine gun, a hand grenade, dynamite and tear gas. I'm planning a big surprise for my big brother.”

- Of course, there are children who are a little more pragmatic. One girl wrote, “Dear Santa, me and my brother aren't very happy this Christmas. Our daddy left home in the summer and hasn't sent any money. Plus, my mom is sick and can't get out to work much. We don't have a tree this year, and I'm afraid we won't have any presents at all. Will you please send just a little toy to my brother David to make him feel good? Thank you. From your friend, Samantha.”

As the years change, so does our list of

things we want for Christmas.

Thankfully, the Lord pays more attention to what we need, rather than what we say we want.

And what do we need?

The Lord answered that question when, in a dream, He spoke to Joseph, Jesus' step-father. He said, “Jesus will save His people from their sins.”

A SAVIOR FROM SIN – THAT'S WHAT WE NEED.

The best and worst of us, the successful and the failures, the healthy and the sick, the young and the old – all of us need a Savior because all of us are helpless to save ourselves. We need a Savior who will do for us what we can't do for ourselves.

A Savior is what we need, and a Savior is what was given to us in Bethlehem. Seeing our helplessness to live a perfect life, resist temptation and defeat death, the Lord gave us what we needed: a Redeemer who would live the perfect life we couldn't, who would die the death we deserved, who would rise on the third day to show the world that death had been defeated.

Jesus is the gift humanity needs. He's the Savior whose birth is what Christmas is all about.

Now, let's pray that by the Holy Spirit's power and before another Christmas comes around, the lost of this world may be turned from the things they think they want, to the Savior the Lord knows they need.

Have a blessed Advent / Christmas Season!

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 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Join us for our annual Christmas potluck on Thursday, **December 8th** at 6:00 pm in the **Old School Basement**. Bring your favorite dish and a friend; desserts will be provided. All women are welcome.

Mark your calendar to celebrate the Advent of the coming of our Lord with your sisters in Christ. Don't forget to bring your Mite Box offering for LWML.

TREE DECORATING. The Christmas tree in church will be decorated Sunday, **December 4th** after the second service. The Trustees will set up the tree and help place the Chrismons™ which are ornaments made from Christian symbols or Chrismons, a contraction for 'Christ monograms'. Please join us to learn meanings and placements of the Chrismons™.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL \$100,000

The Apple of His Eye Mission Society is a pioneer in Christian evangelistic work throughout the Jewish community. Despite the great challenges that exist in the Israeli territory, outside missionaries are scrambling to stay in Israel — many have had visas

revoked or not renewed. In order to develop a strategic plan of outreach the mite offerings of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will financially help to recruit, train, and equip Jewish believers who are Israeli citizens in positions of service and help them to be self-sustaining.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

The Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch loaded a container for Lithuania in September. Included were clothing, linens, blankets layettes, School & Hygiene kits, medical equipment, tools, bicycles and eight church pews. The pews were a special donation from Immanuel Lutheran in a request from the Lithuanian Church. We packed around the pews so that they took up minimum space and we had room for more. The load was filled to the top.

We had a great loading team of 15, including the truck driver! He was great; he was there an hour before loading. The owner of the warehouse was expecting a shipment at 2pm — the same time we were to start loading. Our driver said we could start and he would move if need be. Well, we started and the owner even helped us! As we finished and the driver pulled out, the owner's truck shipment was on the street ready to pull in.

— Paul Arbesman, Warehouse Manager



Young at Heart

Christmas Blessings to all our members and friends!

Our last Young-At-Heart event this year will be our annual Christmas Party Lunch at Nuchie’s Restaurant in Forestville. Notice that it is on a Tuesday, December 6, at 11:30; remind your friends of the date! The deadline to register was Sunday, Nov. 27, but last minute changes, questions and requests can be made by calling Carol up until Dec. 4th at 860-582-9608. Remember – we offer valet parking, rides, visiting time, prizes, singing, fellowship and fun!

Last month we celebrated the 22nd Anniversary of our senior lunch program with over 50 in attendance. We opened with songs by our Immanuel's school children who came over at 11:30 with our new principal Anne Stuhlman. She spoke to us about the many exciting changes she has implemented and others being worked on to attract more students. Our annual donation of \$200 was given to the school to use where it is needed

most. After our delicious Soup & Sandwich lunch, we had a special cake and took photos of our charter members. Roberta Kuhr presented a program on “Laughter Is Good” for us.

Remember – Advent services have begun on Wednesdays at 10:45 am with lunch at 11:30. A German Christmas service will be on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9:30 am. Our School Christmas program is on the 21st at 10:45 and 7 pm. Lots of opportunities for fellowship this month, also be sure to greet one another in church. We do not hold our monthly lunches during the winter months but activities are available, like visiting a homebound member.

Our glass cases have been moved to the hallway near the gym, just inside the rear door, so be sure to look at photos and other announcements for our “Young-At-Heart” group there now. *Share your Christmas joy!*



THANK YOU



... to everyone who so generously donated to our annual FOOD DRIVE!

Thank you to Linda Beaudoin for collecting all the boxes. Thank you to all the scouts and volunteers who helped collect, sort and distribute all the donations.

We filled two trucks with donations of food, toiletries and turkeys for “Meals for the Needy” and St. Vincent DePaul Society and sent a check to “Meals for the Needy” for \$750!!!

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
Matthew 5:7*

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



Advent Light Lunches

Following the Advent morning worship services, a self-serve light lunch will be available in the gym.

Lunch will consist of a choice of 2 soups, bread & butter, coffee and tea. Come and enjoy each Wednesday morning in Advent, Dec. 7, 14 and following the ILS Christmas program on Dec. 21.

Immanuel welcomes
through the rite of Holy Baptism
Cameron James Perry
Baptized on November 20, 2016



From the Helping Ministry Warm-A-Child



Merry Christmas and welcome to the holiday season!

The Helping Ministry's annual "mitten tree" has been presented for several weeks in the hall by the school library. This year's campaign has been going well for which we are grateful. Please make sure to check the tree for any additional requests. Please be sure to wrap and attach the paper mitten to your clothing purchase before putting it under the tree.

We are also supporting this area's Crisis Pregnancy Center. All things appropriate for newborn and "premie" babies are accepted and welcomed. **Do not wrap these items!** - Such an easy way to help the little ones!

Due to delivery and complete filling of orders, it is necessary that all gifts be brought to the tree by December 11th.

Because of your wonderful contributions we at Immanuel's Helping Ministry are able to sponsor this very important program. Remember that your monetary giving through the mite box appeal in the month of December is also designated for Warm-A-Child. Please be generous.

Thank you,
MaryAnn Kalwat



Advent & Christmas Worship Services:

Sunday, December 4, 8 am (HC) & 10:45 am

Wednesday, December 7, 10:45 am & 7 pm

Sunday, December 11, 8 am & 10:45 am (HC)

Sunday, December 11, 9:30 am (HC)
German Worship Service

Wednesday, December 14, 10:45 am & 7 pm

Sunday, December 18, 8 am (HC) & 10:45 am

Wednesday, December 21, 10:45 am & 7 pm
School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 24, 7 pm & 11 pm (HC)
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25, 9 am (HC) - Christmas Day Service

Saturday, December 31, 7 pm (HC) - New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, January 1, 8 am (HC) & 10:45



~ Scout News ~

Since our last update just before school ended for the summer, Troop 21 has as usual been very active and we would like to update the church members.



In June, five members of the Troop went to The Summit Bechtel High Adventure Camp in West Virginia for a week, where they joined many hundreds of boys from throughout the United States. The boys participated in activities and merit badges. As a special note, three of four boys who completed Wilderness Survival, out of a class of 14, were from Troop 21.



In early July, the Troop attended summer camp at JN Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford CT., with most boys earning three or four merit badges. We also had several of the boys complete the ATV riding class, and certification program.

On July 23, Seth Foley completed his Eagle Scout Project at St. Paul Catholic High School courtyard, which involved constructing two sitting benches, planted/mulched two walkway entrances with shrubs, ornamental

grasses, and also planted an evergreen tree.

In August, an Eagle Court of Honor was held for William Jabs who previously advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout.

September started the normal weekly Troop meetings, as well as the Troop participating in both the Immanuel German Feast with the "Dunk Tank" and assisting with the litter patrol, and the Mum Parade with the Troop selling hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks and drinks to the parade viewers.

On October 15th and 16th, Ryan Hislop completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Bristol Senior Center courtyard, which involved replacing 4 sitting benches, replacing the overhead wood trellis and cleaning and repairing the block patio.

Troop 21 congratulates Luke Foley, Daniel Lauretti and Kyle Lauretti on their recent advancement to the rank of Star Scout.

Congratulations to Seth Foley for competing his Eagle Scout Board of Review on November 13th.

The Troop meets Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 in the top floor of Immanuel's Old School.

Robert Foley,
ASM Troop 21

*Thank You from
Boy Scout Troop 21
We would like to thank
everyone who supported our
bottle and can drive.*



Girl Scout Troop #66072 made two soups — meatball tortellini & chicken vegetable — that were served at the Advent Lunch on November 30. What a great group of workers!

*For more information contact
Becky Wells at 860-916-3621 or
Trina Theriault at 860-384-1530*

Church News



CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN

Carol B. McCorriston
September 19, 1941 — November 22, 2016



Go to Germany with Pastor Karner

In The Footsteps of Martin Luther

12-Day Germany Reformation Tour
September 27 — October 8, 2017

Contact Pastor Karner if you are interested in
taking this
once-in-a-lifetime trip!



A gentle reminder . . .

. . . that we stand during the last verse of some hymns when we sing the "Trinity verse" (indicated by the Δ next to the verse in the hymnal) out of reverence to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to whom the verse is referring.

ANNOUNCING A BUS TRIP TO ATTEND THE LCMS LIFE CONFERENCE and 44TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The LCMS Life Conference is being held January 27th-29th, 2017 at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, VA.

See the attached schedule for an overview of the conference.

We have a bus reserved that will hold either 32 or 38 passengers. There is a lavatory on board.

The basic itinerary for travel is as follows:

Leave from Holy Trinity - Terryville, CT mid-morning on Thursday, Jan. 26th.

Arrive at the Westin Hotel on the evening of the 26th. Check-in/registration is from 7:00-9:00PM. (The official conference begins on Friday AM.)

The Conference ends on Sunday, January 29th with a "Sending Service" at 12:30PM. We would head back to Terryville after that service.

The Conference cost is as follows:

\$275 for adult (until Dec. 1) After that it will be \$300.

\$175 for student (until Dec. 1) After which, it will be \$200.

The registration fee covers the conference, two breakfasts and two dinners (one of which is the banquet on Saturday evening).

Hotel cost is \$119.00 per night plus taxes and other charges (2 double beds). Estimated cost for the three nights is \$404.00.

Bus cost is approximately \$100 per person.

If you would like to attend this Life Conference, you must do the following:

- 1.) Go to lcms.org/lifeconference and register for the conference.
- 2.) On that same web page, click on the link to "Make reservation at Westin."
- 3.) Register your spot(s) on the bus by sending me an e-mail at pastorjkdkt@att.net. (I am asking for a \$50 deposit from each person.) Send the deposit payable to:
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church with "Life Conference" on MEMO line.

Obviously, one way to save costs is to share a hotel room.

I do have an inquiry in to Annette Woehlke, who is coordinator of the Life Conference, concerning any refund policy, if like last year, we must cancel our trip due to a SNOWSTORM.

This is a huge opportunity for pastors, lay people, life advocates, and youth (a large number of attendees two years ago were young people). I know it is not cheap, but let me assure you that the conference (the March, the worship, the speakers, the fellowship, and yes, the food) is worth every single penny.

This is a first come, first serve opportunity for a very reasonable cost for transportation. Act quickly, if you can.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Joel Kotila, serving Holy Trinity - Terryville, CT, also as Pastoral Advisor for the Central CT Lutherans For Life Chapter.

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran, November was a whirlwind of activity at Immanuel Lutheran School and December promises to be the same.

In November students thanked our veterans for their service with a wonderful program in the gym. Our veterans certainly felt appreciated. Students and staff participated in our own school-based democratic decision making process by voting for president and the field day choice using ballots and ballot booths. The winners were Donald Trump and Lake Compounce. Our students sang at the Young-At-Heart luncheon and in our third All School Sing. Our middle school girls attended the Anne of Green Gables production at St. Paul's High School and students in the second and third grade served as student models for a theater arts professional development activity at the Boys and Girls Club. Students in grades K-3 had a mapping fieldtrip around the neighborhood that ended in lunch at McDonalds. Our students were able to give an extra measure of thankfulness before Thanksgiving with a brief program of thanks. Our teachers and parents met for parent/teacher conferences. And, our Annual Book Fair exceeded its goal in book sales. Thanks to those who supported our Book Fair. November was a very busy month!

December is very busy as well. We will have our Christmas Shoppe on December 9 for the students to buy gifts for their families. Our students are taking a trip to the Veterans Hospital in Newington on Thursday, December 15. They will bring stockings filled with goodies to the veterans and sing Christmas selections for them. Donations of toiletries or outerwear to give to the veterans on this outing are appreciated. The Christmas Concert, a musical Christmas celebration, is Friday, December 16, at 6:30 in the sanctuary. The Christmas Program, when they tell the Christmas story, is Wednesday December 21, at 7:00. It is complete with costumes this year and shouldn't be missed! Students have extra practices for these events built into the week for the month of December. With all of these extra events and activities, we are still focused on learning.

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) began in October and will continue through March. We have five teams, which is terrific participation! OM focuses on problem solving and creativity. One of our groups must create three small vehicles that move about 20 feet on their own. Another group must build a balsawood structure that will hold as much weight as possible. We also have groups that must create skits based on classical art and creativity. The groups meet after school, one day a week, for one hour. We really need more volunteers for this program, if anyone is interested, please contact me. The students do the work, the adults are there to guide and supervise.

There have been a few changes in the first floor hallway. We have installed cork strips to hold current student work where the glass cases used to be. The glass cases are now in the hall between the back entry and the gym entrance. This is actually a more visible spot. Young-At-Heart and the Photography Club each have a full side of the case. The bulletin boards that were in the gym hallway are now reinstalled vertically rather than horizontally. They will hold themed trees for which the whole school will contribute content, or "fruit."

We have had some very generous donations from members this month for our special projects. These have allowed us to order a wide format printer and print materials to enhance and promote Immanuel. There will soon be canvas prints of our students above the lockers and back-lit material in the windows. The printer is capable of creating posters for all of the school and church events. It will make banners and all kinds of print materials. We can now stay on top of getting the word out and promoting our wonderful school and church.

We have also had donations of iPads and an iPad mini in the last week. Students in the lower classrooms will use the iPads in centers and stations. Older students will use them as a research tool. More chrome books are on the way for classroom use as well.

Finally, our website is being updated! It should be done by Christmas. This along with a new YouTube Channel for the school will allow us to have a strong online presence. Anyone looking for a new school for their child will start their search online. So, a positive online presence is necessary.

I am asking as many Immanuel Lutheran School Families as I can find, past and present, to participate in an online survey to help us improve and grow. It is vital that we identify deficits, learn from our mistakes, and not make them again. The data collected in the survey will help to pinpoint issues that have led to enrollment decline, or student withdraw. Please use the following link to access the survey and contribute to our data collection. Thank you for your participation!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ImmanuelImprovement>

Thank you for your support of our school. It is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow. They are kind to one another and believe without question that God loves them. They recognize and appreciate the blessings they receive. Our students are building a very strong foundation for life.

Yours in Christ,
Anne Stuhlman, Principal



K-3 Community Walking Field Trip – On November 17 Immanuel students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 walked around the community. While the students in Grades 2 and 3 practiced their mapping skills by writing in street and building names as they walked, the Kindergarten and 1st grade children were seeing the community helpers they have been studying in class.

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

Give the perfect gift. Give blood.

BLOOD DRIVE

Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow Street, Bristol

Thursday, December 29th
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

For an appointment please sign up in the office or call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767)



Donors can enjoy sandwiches and juice.

Presenting donors receive a free long-sleeve Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last!

Save up to 15 minutes at your donation. Visit redcrossblood.org/rapidpass to get started!

Give Something that Means Something.®



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Joy Mora	2 Peggy Campbell Ethan Debaise Walter Kuhr	3 Cameron Reed Luke Sonstroem
4 Lori Eschner Robert Helming	5 Lawrence Beaudoin Hannah Krueger	6 Joy Grekula Elizabeth Wilde	7	8	9 Anthony Lopisi Erin Madigan-Scheidel Gregory Scoville Oskar Tolmoff	10 James Bishop James Bugryn Scott Dennis Glorie Romaniello Bradley Scoville
11 James Thaxter	12 Alison Eschner Diane Finger Robert Wilde Bruce Wondrovski	13 Marion Schroeder	14 Michael Hamelin Virginia Schultz Nathaniel Tessman Bobby Triplett	15 Valya Rindfleisch Andrew Tonn	16 Luke Foley Stephanie Parenteau Jamie Simard	17
18 Kyleigh Boney Cole Krueger Carol Moge	19 Marcia Lopisi	20 Hans Bayer Cheyenne Blaschke James Raspanti	21 Rebecca Croce Jonathan Follo Maria Santilli	22 Arlean Jensen	23 Myrna Gamache Jason Krueger	24 Ingebor Harrington Janice Sonstroem
25 Merry Christmas	26 Kristen Hill Maggie Moliengo	27 Rosie Fernandez David Follo	28 Brenda Buonafede Edwin Gillette	29 Alan Blank Albert C. Smith	30 Madison Curry Sheri Lejeune Jacob Stringer Edward Young	31 Sal Buonafede Victoria Casa



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