

Rev. Kevin A. Karner  
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman  
School Principal

# Messenger

January 2017

Vol. 17 No. 1

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

cl.church@ilcs.org  
www.ilcs.org



*Christmas . . .*



*with all our . . .*



*Immanuel Lutheran students*





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**

***“Wise Choices”***

*... choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

Joshua 24:15b

A Lutheran pastor writes: “Last summer, I had a chance to go to the local outdoor swimming pool with some of my grandchildren.

“I remember coming out of the locker room feeling just a little bit embarrassed. No, it wasn’t because of my less-than-exemplary physique. Like St. Paul, I’ve learned to be content in whatever situation I find myself.

“No, this embarrassment was based on comparing myself with the deep, dark tans of so many of the people there.

“In contrast to them, my lily whiteness was downright gleaming. The only comfort I found was in the words of the neighborhood dermatologist who warned that ‘Today’s deeply tanned beauties are tomorrow’s wrinkled prunes.’

“Isn’t that weird, I thought to myself. Tanning used to be cool, but

now it’s not. The same was once true about cigarettes ... or drinking alcohol.”

There are all kinds of things that used to be acceptable and admirable, but now are condemned. As we begin 2017, it’s enough to make a person wonder if there’s anything that’s safe.

There’s an answer to that question.

It’s always safe to follow the Lord. It doesn’t make any difference whether you look at Him at the beginning of your life, or look back after years of devotion, God can be trusted. From the beginning of time, through the life, death and resurrection of His Son and, even, right now, the Lord has shown His ongoing guidance and protection.

In truth, there aren’t any surprises for those who trust in Him for their love and day-to-day joy. I pray that joy upon every member of Immanuel Lutheran in the new year!

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 annual Christmas Potluck Supper was held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a multi-cultural buffet.

The treasurer reported our Fall Bake Sale, Fest booth, Jams and Penny Auction raised \$805. We would like to thank everyone for their financial support. Because so many donated at our events or collections, we are now able to help others.

Donations totaling \$950 were given to: Immanuel Lutheran School; Pastor Schumacher, missionary in Ghana, West Africa; ILC Radio Ministry; Mill Neck School for the Deaf; Zion Meals for the Needy; Bethesda Lutheran Home; Southbury Home; Seminary Food Bank; Orphan Grain Train; and Hands of Grace.



**LUTHERAN WOMEN  
IN MISSION**

### Helping Hands Initiative LCMS National Housing Support

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) National Housing Support Corporation (NHSC) is launching the “Helping Hand” home repair initiative in a U.S. city in the spring of 2016. This rehab initiative is focused on supporting critical home repair needs of low-income, disabled and/or elderly residents near LCMS congregations. It will give congregations a tool to care for their neighbors’ bodily needs while opening doors to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to unreached individuals and families in their community.

The \$100,000 grant will provide construction materials, tools, home repair allotment, Laborers for Christ fees and financial literacy training for ten home projects for low-income, disabled, and/or elderly residents near LCMS congregations. It provides a way for congregations to reach out to their local communities through housing repair services.

## VBS ANNOUNCEMENT

To the People of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

For the past three years, we have loved spending time with all the incredible people who have participated in Vacation Bible School. The fun themes, planning, and decorations kept us very busy, but being able to share God's Word with our amazing students made it more than worth it. However, after a great deal of deliberation, we have come to the difficult decision of stepping down as Vacation Bible School directors. It was certainly not easy, but when we thought about where our lives were moving, we did not feel like we would be able to dedicate the time and attention that Vacation Bible School deserved. With one of us preparing to spend a semester abroad, one of us planning a wedding, and other exciting opportunities that we all need to focus on, we hope and pray that there is someone else who would be willing to take on the rewarding responsibility of Vacation Bible School. If there is someone who would like to take on this leadership role and has questions or concerns, we would have no problem assisting in any way necessary or sharing information about some tips and tricks we've figured out over the past three years. If possible, we would still like to volunteer for Vacation Bible School. However, we are currently no longer in positions where we can direct this fantastic program effectively.

Thank You for your continuous support and God Bless,

Sarah Bugryn, Ryan Bodley, and Alex Rindfleisch



# Young at Heart

Blessings for a Happy, Healthy New Year 2017 to all our "over age 50" members and friends!

We held our last event of the year on December 6, at Nuchie's Restaurant in Forestville. It was our annual Christmas Party and we sold 58 tickets and enjoyed a wonderful time of food, fellowship and fun. We sang many Christmas Carols, had photos taken in front of the tree, enjoyed visiting time and wonderful door prizes. Our talented Vernon Koch lead our musical program and we recognized our many great lunchtime volunteers. Photos can be viewed in the glass case

down by the entry door from the main parking lot and we are sharing some here.

We do not have a monthly lunch program in the winter months, but our new Planning Committee will be meeting next month to plan our 2017 year of activities. If you enjoy playing cards, join the Fellowship group that meets on Mondays at 1pm in the Parish Center. We also suggest trying to visit a homebound member when the weather is agreeable. Hope to see and greet you in church!



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **Thank You** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**The Helping Ministry** would like to thank our Congregation and school community for their support of the annual Warm-A-Child Holiday Mitten project. Because of your generosity, many area children received outfits, jackets, and other clothing to keep them warm. The Crisis Pregnancy Center also welcomed the boxes of infant clothes, diapers and items that were delivered well before Christmas to bring joy to the little ones. Your generous contributions were received with pleasure and much appreciation.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
MaryAnn Kalwat



**Hope Pregnancy Center**

110 Main Street • Cheshire, CT 06410  
203-271-2703 • hopepcct@att.net  
www.hopepregnancycenterct.org

December 12, 2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
154 Meadow Street  
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

Dear Beverly:

I wanted to write and thank you for your exceedingly generous donation of \$800.00 to Hope Pregnancy Center on 12/12/16. I can assure you that this money will be used to provide free and confidential services to pregnant women throughout the area.

We're very appreciative of the fact that you took the time to think of us, write out a special check and then mail it to our office. Thanks for your extra consideration on our behalf.

We're deeply grateful for this contribution to Hope Pregnancy Center. We've been in existence for thirty one years and this is one of the largest church gifts we have ever received. I will meet with the Board of Directors concerning the best use of your gracious donation. If there is ever an opportunity for us to be of service to you, your family or Lutherans For Life, please don't hesitate to contact us. No goods or services were provided in connection with this gift.

In His Service,  
**Keith J. Brilliant**  
Church Rel. Dir.

P.S. Merry Christmas!



*THANK YOU to everyone who helped set up for this year's Carol Sing!*

*THANK YOU also to the wonderful souls who forged through the snow and joined us in singing Christmas Carols! This year's Carol Sing was the most enjoyable Carol Sing ever! We were all nice and warm singing in the church and sharing snacks and stories in the gym.*

*ILC Evangelism Committee*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **Thank You** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



**“MEALS FOR THE NEEDY”**

*Located at Zion Lutheran Church*

27 Judd Street • Bristol, CT 06010  
(860) 589-7744

December 7, 2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
154 Meadow Street  
Bristol, CT 06010

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued generous donation of non-perishable food and turkeys for “Meals for the Needy”. Our clients are very grateful and appreciate all your help and support!

On an average we are able to help over 90 families with 3 - 4 bags of groceries per month. Our Soup Kitchen serves dinner Monday - Thursday and on an average we serve 55-120 per night.

Thanks to your commitment to the cause, “Meals for the Needy” is Bristol’s oldest soup kitchen, observing its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to those of need in greater Bristol. Since its inception in 1982 over 870,000 meals have been served and countless families have been helped. Your continued support is very much appreciated!

Thank you again for your help and support!

Yours sincerely,

**Cheryl Yetke**

Director Meals for the Needy

Food Drive



December 19, 2016

Helping Ministry  
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School  
154 Meadow Street  
Bristol, CT 06010

Dear Friends of MFN:

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$750. to Meals For The Needy. We are very grateful to folks like you who help us carry out our mission of feeding the hungry in Bristol.

As you know, community involvement is key to a successful outreach program. We are so blessed to have your support.

Have a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

**Cheryl Yetke**

Director



“Millions of fish begging to be caught, and we only brought two worms.”

**Church News**



**CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN**



**Deborah O. Schmelder**  
February 20, 1945 — December 14, 2016



**Reinhardt "Rhiney" Schultz**  
April 6, 1928 — December 21, 2016



**Robert H. Bayer**  
February 11, 1943 — December 25, 2016



**Genevieve P. Wentland**  
January 14, 1924 — December 28, 2016



**Catherine D. Sonstroem**  
November 12, 1924 — December 30, 2016



*My Dear Immanuel "family",*

*Since the beginning of my Debbie's illness until the day she was called home to her Lord and Savior the acts of mercy shown to her and to me by my Church family were overwhelming. Acts of prayers, prayer shawls, hugs, kind words, phone calls, cards, food, visits, were so uplifting and comforting to her and to me during this most difficult time of our 46 years of marriage.*

*Words fail me on how to acknowledge your love and thoughtfulness other than to say thank you to all and I thank God for all of you. The Lord truly has blessed Debbie and me with the outpouring of your compassion and concern.*

*Howard Schmelder*

**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!





**Immanuel Welcomes our newest member thru The Rite of Adult Confirmation**  
**Julie Perry**

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.

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

Dear Friends of Immanuel,

We have a lot planned for the new year, including two Fun Runs to involve the community and give them a friendly nudge. The Reformation's Quincenary, and our own Quasquicentennial give us much cause for celebration! We are turning a corner in 2017. It will be a time of growth for Immanuel Lutheran School.

We are very thankful for member donations that provided the school and church with a wide format printer. This will enable us to produce our own print material to advertise and enhance the school for years to come. We have also had several member donations for material to print on, such as rolls of canvas and backlit material. Canvas prints of our students will soon be displayed in the hallway above the lockers. We are very appreciative to Rod Grekula for offering to make the frames for these prints. The windows of the school will soon tell our message with backlit material. These things will go a long way in improving the appearance of the school and making it more inviting. As we continue to evolve throughout the coming months, please know that every change is for the betterment of the school. Immanuel's online appearance is taking shape as well. Our website-developer will have our new website completed and up in January.

We have increased our technology in the past month and will continue to do so in January. We are thankful for several donations of iPads and iPad minis for use in the classrooms. Teachers have selected programs for the devices that compliment what we teach. These new devices will be used as instructional tools in classroom centers and stations to enrich or reinforce the concepts taught. Students will begin using them in January. Because these are touch

screen devices, they are perfect for the lower grade levels. We have also ordered chrome books for the classrooms. The new chrome books are "extra-rugged." They have dry-erase covers and built-in handles. All chrome books have keyboards, but these are also touch screen, so they can also be easily used in the lower grades. These devices will allow teachers to integrate technology into their lessons more readily and bring a new level of expectation to the curriculum.

In January our Pre-Kindergarten classes will transition from their current Old School location to the Kindergarten Room in our main hallway. This will be their new home. In the 2017-18 school year our Kindergarten classroom will be across the hall from Pre-K in the current third grade room. There are several reasons for this move, but school readiness, safety, and a sense of belonging are at the top of the list. To start the new year we have nine Pre-K 4 year olds and four Pre-K 3-year olds. We want all of these children and their parents to feel welcome at Immanuel. Efforts to establish Buddy Partnerships is underway. The schedule is being altered to give them scheduled classes in PE, Art, Music, and Theater Arts. A "mini-chapel" is being considered as well. We are making a special effort in welcoming our PK parents. We want them to know they are a welcome and important part of Immanuel.

January 22-29 is Lutheran Schools Week. Special themed activities are being planned for the week for the students to enjoy. Our PTO is also hosting a Family Science Night that week, which will give our PK-8 families the opportunity to experience fun science activities together.

Thank you all for your support of our wonderful school.

Yours in Christ,  
Anne Stuhlman

### **Immanuel Lutheran School Scholarships**

*Presented on November 20, 2016*

**Atkins Scholarship** - Amber Aurigemma, Ethan Aurigemma, Nicholas Madigan and Thomas Madigan-Scheidel

**Aszklar Scholarship** - Samuel Chukwu, Grace Chukwu, Amialyce Davis and Lindsey Donahue

**Bridges Scholarship** - Emily Correa, Isabella Correa, Zachary Cudjoe, Zola Cudjoe and Logan Jackson

**ILS Tuition Assistance** - 23 students



# New Year's Word Search Puzzle

B P M Q N U I T Z I H V P N N  
 E A B Q O E N I W V V W I O O  
 Y M E T I Q I O U T I R G I B  
 E B G H T U T N S L I A T T B  
 D D I G A M I A O S M L I C I  
 B U N I R N O I T U L O S E R  
 K R N N B T X E N D W M U L F  
 W A I D E E N E W T C K G F M  
 O D N I L D H X M M I P L E J  
 N N G M E S N X U I B U A R H  
 S E C X C S D R A C X N S Q M  
 J L M R A C F X P U Y J S O D  
 V A S K R O W E R I F Y E M L  
 B C P S I T T E F N O C S S O  
 C W D L O S G N I T E E R G C

BEGINNING REFLECTION  
 CALENDAR RESOLUTION  
 CARDS RIBBON  
 CELEBRATION SNOW  
 COLD TOAST  
 CONFETTI WINE  
 END  
 FIREWORKS  
 GLASSES  
 GREETINGS  
 IN  
 MIDNIGHT  
 NEW  
 OLD  
 OUT

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Joyce Jacy Tanya Sakowski Kelly Tower	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Ella McIntyre Paul Neumann Tami Raspanti	<b>5</b> Lynda Hintz Howard Schmelder	<b>6</b> Edith Frechette	<b>7</b> Edward Bodick Hannah McIntyre Todd Romaniello Arlene Tonn
<b>8</b> Ethan Dubois	<b>9</b> Judy Eichorn Charles McIntyre George Rindfleisch	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Jill Croce	<b>12</b> Rhianna Schab	<b>13</b> Eleonora Erling Jason Lindstrom	<b>14</b> Mark Simonides
<b>15</b> Edward Krampitz, Jr. Charles Radcliff Adam Swicklas Jacqueline Tessman	<b>16</b> Jeanette Eschner Emily Palmisano	<b>17</b> Vernon Koch Clifford McCorrison	<b>18</b> Tracy Bielert Joseph Ravita Heather Tessman	<b>19</b> Caleb Beaudoin Doug Fitz Sandra McIntyre Donna Ptak Doreen Reed	<b>20</b> Cynthia Jackson	<b>21</b> Dawn Milano Bram Pesce
<b>22</b> Jill Tonn Matthew Zurell	<b>23</b> Gregory Croze	<b>24</b> Rodney Grekula William Mazzaccaro Ralph Milano Gail Roberts John Tessman	<b>25</b> Robert Jankowski Jeffrey Maron Brad Schaffrick	<b>26</b> Logan Jackson	<b>27</b> Derek Werner	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Arthur Beger Kristen Cabello Milton Kisser	<b>30</b> Gary Eschner	<b>31</b> Amanda Dennis Beverly Werner				





*"Where is the one who has  
 been born king of the Jews?  
 We saw his star when it  
 rose and have come to  
 worship him."*

MATTHEW 2:2, NIV

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