

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman
School Principal

Messenger

February 2017

Vol. 17 No. 2

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
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LCMS Life Conference and March For Life

Several hundred participants from LCMS congregations across the United States attended the 2017 LCMS Life Conference in Washington D.C. from January 27th-29th. The conference theme was "Life 360°." Life is a gift from God beginning from conception and continues to natural death and then, unto eternity, *through Jesus Christ our Lord*. Therefore, "Life 360°." Day number one of the conference featured the annual March For Life at the national mall. An estimated several hundred LCMS marchers participated — standing up FOR LIFE. The conference featured excellent worship and preachers, as well as a number of sessions with gifted presenters.



Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the LCMS leads us in pre-march worship.

Pastor Joel Kotila attended the events, sponsored by and representing the Central CT Lutherans For Life Chapter, of which he serves as the pastoral advisor. What struck him the most about the March and the Life Conference was the increasing number of youth participating. Today's Christian youth are more and more coming out in num-

(See **Life** on Page 9)

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN NEWS

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania graciously thanks us for the pews that Immanuel donated to them this past summer. While we may have wondered why these old pews sat in our church basement for so many years, we now know that God had a plan for them, we just didn't know it!

Here is a photo of our pews in a chapel in Lithuania providing seating for our fellow Lutherans to worship there.

Please remember OGT in your prayers and with your clothing donations.

Don Kalwat





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

“This Is Love”

(Jesus said) “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.”
John 15:12-13

You probably don't know John Baca.

Even so, for many he's a poster boy for this month's Valentine's Day.

Born in January of 1949, Baca grew up in San Diego. I'd love to say he was always a good kid, but the truth is he was in and out of juvenile hall numerous times. Eventually, he fulfilled the conditions of his parole and was drafted into the military.

On February 10, 1970, Baca led his unit through intense fire to rescue a platoon, which was pinned down. Successful in setting up a protected firing position, Baca and his pals started to fight back. That was when a fragmentation grenade was thrown into the middle of him and his pals. Without hesitation, Baca covered the grenade with his helmet and covered his helmet with his body.

On top of his helmet – that's where Baca was when the grenade exploded.

That was love. No, that's not the smoochy-smoochy kind of love most people celebrate this month. It's not the candy or the flowers or the candlelight dinner kind of love most will share.

It's the kind of love, which on June 15, 1971, had the Medal of Honor bestowed on John Baca.

It's also the kind of love the Lord spoke about in John, chapter 15 – the kind of love that's willing to die for a friend.

That's the kind of love John Baca had. It's certainly the love that Jesus has.

No, that's not quite right. Jesus has a love that's far greater than that of John Baca. You see, while Baca was ready to die for his friends, he was also willing to shoot at his enemies. Jesus was crucified for those who loved Him, but also for those who hated Him, who mocked Him, spit on Him, whipped Him and beat Him.

He also died to save sinners like you and me.

This is why even as we celebrate God's blessed gift of earthly love, we also give thanks for the fact God so loved the sinful world He gave His only Son.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, today I give thanks for the many people who have loved me. I also wish to express gratitude for the opportunity of showing love to others. Most of all I am moved by the love of the Savior who gave His life so I might be forgiven and live forever. May I reflect such a selfless, giving love to others. In Jesus' Name I pray it. Amen.

****THE REST OF THE STORY:** John Baca survived that day and is alive and currently involved in helping the homeless and Vietnam veterans.

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 spring meeting of the Women of Immanuel will be Thursday, April 20, 2017 in the Old School Basement.

Stay warm and safe this winter.



Mission Grant Story

“In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts” — Lutheran Bible Translators, Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Namibia \$50,000

To fund the printing and distribution of scripture in mother tongue languages where Lutheran Bible Translator supported translation projects are ongoing or have recently been completed in Botswana, Ethiopia, and Angola/Namibia Africa.

Understanding and acceptance of the gospel message is the door to Christian faith. The unique mission of Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) is to make scripture accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. This LWML Mission Grant will provide God’s Word in print and media production in Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, and Namibia and help in accelerating the accessibility of Scripture.

LWML Mid-Valley Zone

The LWML Spring Rally will be held Sunday, April 2, 2017 at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 20 North Street, Enfield, CT. Eileen Nelson, a recipient



of an LWML – NED short term mission scholarship, will present a program about her trip to Romania with Thrivent Builds World-wide. The meeting begins at 3:00; registration begins at 2:30.

LWML Convention Registration

Details on the upcoming LWML Convention can be found on the LWML website at:

www.lwml.org/2017-convention

Open the Convention information and Registration, *LWQ* insert PDF for details on:

- Early discounted registration for the 2017 Albuquerque LWML Convention starting Wednesday, February 1, 2017.
- Hotel registration which opens Monday, January 2, 2017.
- Special events, dates, and times taking place during convention.
- Convention personalities including worship leaders, keynote speaker, Bible study leader, Mites in Action speakers, and more!



Parish Nurse Corner

February 12th — following the 8:00 am service, Blood Pressures will be done if requested.

February 14th — Walk and Talk. Starts at 9:30am in the Parish Center. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

February 28th — Last Tuesday of the month. Wom-

en’s Bible Study at 4:30pm. Sandwiches and coffee provided. Bring a friend. Hope to see you there.

Watch the Sunday bulletin, we are hoping to add a second night for our Women’s Bible Study.

Blessings,
Roberta

Young at Heart

Winter Greetings and Blessings to all our “over age 50” members and friends.

Our group does not hold any regular monthly lunches during the winter months due to the weather and driving concerns. We will be holding our annual Planning Meeting for 2017 on Tuesday, February 21 at 10:30 in the library or office area. This meeting is for our planning committee, but also is open to anyone who wishes to join us. If you have program ideas, trip planning ideas, and volunteers who want to step up and do more this year, we hope you will join us; newly retired members will be warmly welcomed. Mark your calendar! We are all volunteers helping

each other to enjoy a mature Christian life.

Did you see that our glass enclosed bulletin boards are now down near the gym entrance? Here we post photos from earlier events, notices, and ideas for trips that Senior Center groups have available to you. Remember that your visit to a homebound member would be really appreciated on a sunny winter day; just call ahead to let them know you’re coming. On Mondays, the Adult Fellowship group plays cards at 1 pm in the Parish Center and always welcomes newcomers.

Stay happy and healthy in 2017 – hope to greet you in church!



December 30, 2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT 06010



Dear Roberta and the Blood Drive Team,
Thank you for coordinating the Thursday, December 29, 2016 blood drive. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life saving gift.

The efforts of Immanuel Lutheran Church have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives.

In addition, we very much appreciate your efforts during this crucial time. You may be interested to know that 26 donors registered and 22 units were collected! We also registered 6 first time donors!

Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program. I look forward to working with you again on an upcoming blood drive.

Happy New Year.
Sincerely,
Olivia

Olivia Davis|Account Manager|Donor Recruitment



American Red Cross

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



“MEALS FOR THE NEEDY”

Located at Zion Lutheran Church

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

Immanuel now has a team of servers for Zion Meals for the Needy.

We will cook and serve on the following dates:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| January 31 | March 9 | May 11 & 30 | July 13 |
| August 29 | September 14 | October 31 | November 9 |

If you can't cook or serve but would like to help, goodies are needed for dessert. Our first time is January 31, anytime between 3 and 7pm. I will be starting to cook at 3 pm. Sign up sheet in the office or contact Linda Beaudoin at 860-589-6431.

Our immediate needs are spices, drink mixes, such as lemonade, iced tea, etc.

**A message from Jason Kruger,
our congregation President.**

We are putting together a committee to plan our 125th Anniversary of our Church this year and we are looking for people who are interested in being a part of that committee. Anyone interested can contact Pastor Karner or myself.

**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
through the rite of Holy Baptism
James Brady Fitzgerald
Baptized on January 8, 2017**



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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **Girl Scouts** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Great Day Ice Fishing



Our Bridge Ceremony on January 18th

Bridging ceremonies mark a girl's move from one level of Girl Scouting to another.

**Immanuel Lutheran School
Girl Scout Troop #66072**



Mark your calendar: Girl Scouts cookies booth March 12 in the hallway by the gym.

Immanuel Pre-School News



Immanuel Lutheran Pre-School: Its History and Future

Janet Zurell had a passion to teach and a vision to open a Lutheran Nursery School. She began this adventure in 1969, serving our church and school for 25 years, retiring in 1994. She taught an average of 40 children, while developing in them love for our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Kathy Hartford followed Mrs. Zurell from 1994 to 1998 when I became Director and presently hold that position. In the year 2000, Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School officially became Immanuel Lutheran Pre-School.

The staff and I would like to thank the contributors that have – and continue to – support our school with donations. Some of those donations allowed us to replace our original red doors, hang our beautiful Pre-School sign, and professionally paint our gorgeous ceilings. We also thank all the families who sent their children to our Pre-School.

By the time you read this, our Pre-School will have moved from the Old School building to the main building, bringing all of Immanuel's students, from Pre-K through Grade 8, under one roof. As we end this chapter of Immanuel History, we, with the Grace of God, look forward to what the next chapter will bring.

Holly Tonn,
Pre-School Director



~ School News ~

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Members and Friends,

Exciting change is occurring on a daily basis in the school. Our enrollment is up to 60 and we have more enrollments pending for February. As we plan for next year we are planning for more growth.

Our Pre-Kindergarten classes have now moved into the main building. A lot went into this move. Hard work, a lot of time, and willing, positive attitudes were all part of the mix. Second and Third Grade were the first to move as they moved from the first floor to the second floor. Art moved from the second floor to the old school. The new empty rooms on the first floor were prepared by stripped and waxing the floors, cleaning the walls, moving white-

boards and smartboards, and altering restrooms. A lot of time was spent setting up all of the relocated classrooms. It was a lot of work, but worth it. I have heard very positive comments about this change from parents, students, and staff.

Pastor is initiating Pre-Chapel for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1, which will take place in the sanctuary at 10:15 each Wednesday. A typical Pre-Chapel will include a Bible story, a song, and a verse of five words or less. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will serve as the Big Buddies to the Pre-Kindergarteners. These students know what Big Buddies do from their partnership with the middle school students to this point in the year. They have had great teachers. The regular chapel services will remain at 10:45 and now includes grades 2-8.

Our students enjoyed themed days for National Lutheran Schools Week. They competed in a Penny War to benefit the American Cancer Society and a beachball rally in the gym. Everyone was a winner!

The five ILS Odyssey of the Mind teams are preparing for the upcoming state meet on March 18 at Connecticut Southern University. We are looking forward to the event.

Our PTO hosted a Family Science Night on January 26. It was well attended and a lot was learned by all. The event took place in the old school basement where the Connecticut Science Center set up eighteen stations of activities. We appreciate all that the PTO does to provide these enrichment opportunities for the students, and in this case, the families as well!

Please be patient as we make changes to the school to improve and grow.

In His service,
Dr. Anne Stuhlman, Principal



The heart says it all: *"We are one in God's family!"* Immanuel school children welcomed the pre-K students with a bulletin board of specially designed hearts on January 30th, their first day in their new rooms.



Life (Continued from Page 1)

bers and standing solidly on Holy Scripture and declaring: “Here I stand!” — standing FOR LIFE. Pastor Kotila, on behalf of the Central CT Lutherans For Life Chapter encourages LCMS members to attend future Marches — even the next LCMS Life Conference in January 2019. Pastor Kotila hopes to assemble a bus trip to the March For Life next January.

(Story and photos courtesy of Pastor Kotila)



We're marching!



A familiar face marks two of our Eyes of Life banners.

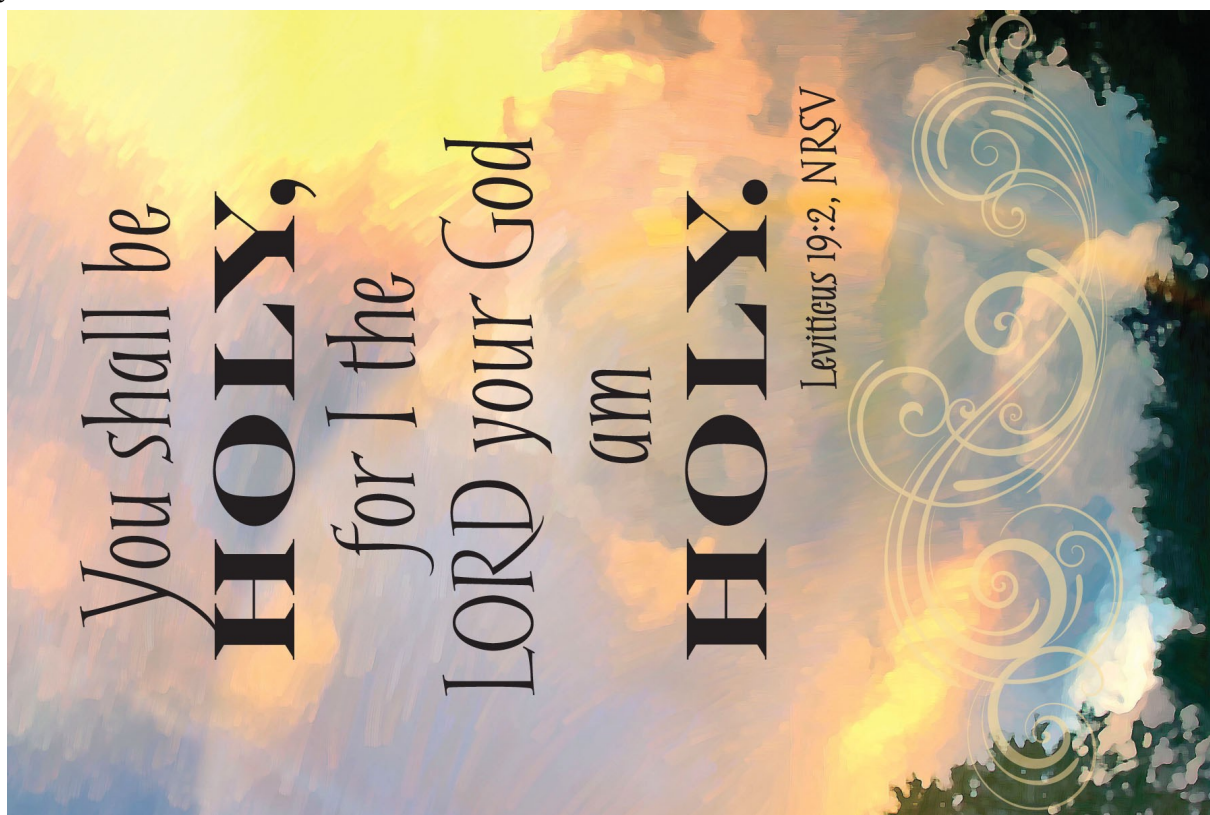


The March ends at the Supreme Court.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Nicole Tessman	2 Nancy Pease Logan Williams	3 Kristin Laforge Edward Phillips Kurt Radcliff	4 Dorothy Johnson Aiza Nazir Ayan Nazir
5	6 Jared Jankowski Tamara Lindstrom Robert Neumann Jessica Triplett Ella Woike	7 Kristen Boutin	8 Michael Phillips Kevin Read Tammy Thormahlen	9 Rollin Lee David Newman Ava Werner Brooke Werner	10 Gertrude Jensen David Peplau	11 Celine Kissler Joshua Mitchell Sydney Therrien
12 Susan Rich Judith Rodgers Sandra Tonn	13 Karin Hauer	14 Paula Helming Ashley Romaniello Haley Romaniello	15 Caroline Bayer Julie Follo Randy Neumann Jessica Romaniello Irma Schaffrick	16 Cynthia Dell'Aera Jill Therrien Kenneth Tonn	17	18 Jon Heidorn Amanda Wolfe
19 Kurt McCorrison	20 Jeffrey Bergeron Linda Neumann Evelyn Palmisano	21 Donna Hamelin Linda Hogan Jonathan Kane	22 Jan Blaschke Mary Sylvia	23 Michael Girard	24	25 Lorrin Jackson Catherine Kane
26	37	28 Joan Hermann				





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