

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman
School Principal

Messenger

January 2018

Vol. 18 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

December at Immanuel . . .



The ILS Christmas Pageant was presented on Thursday, December 21st.
(Photos courtesy of Julie Perry)

(See more Pageant photos on Pages 7 & 8)



(Photos by Vern Koch)

Five Metal Chemistry performed in concert
on Sunday, December 17th.



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**



**WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE**

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

WNTY Radio

990 AM

96.1 FM

and online at

KoolOldiesRadio.net

From the Pastor's Desk

“Moving On”

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
Philippians 1:21

Most of the people who know Chet Fitch agree that he has a sense of humor.

Maybe it's more accurate to say most of the people who KNEW Chet Fitch said he HAD a great sense of humor. I have to make that correction because, in the fall of 2007, Chet Fitch died at the ripe, old age of 88.

Knowing that Chet had gone to his final reward, 34 of Chet's friends were surprised when, later that year, they received a handwritten Christmas card from their departed friend.

Chet's return address was listed as "HEAVEN".

The letter read, "I asked (the) Big Guy if I could sneak back and send some cards. At first He said no; but at my insistence He finally said, 'Oh well, what the heaven, go ahead but don't (tarry) there.' Wish I could tell you about things here but words cannot explain. Better get back as Big Guy said He stretched a point to let me in the first time, so I had better not press my luck. I'll probably be seeing you (some sooner than you think). Wishing you a very Merry Christmas. Chet Fitch"

According to the lady who mailed Chet's cards, he had been working on his joke for two decades. When the postal rates went up, he gave her extra money to cover the postage. When someone passed away or lost touch he would update his mailing list.

Chet had a pretty good understanding of what St. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi: "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*"

Chet knew that heaven was a gift which he had received because of the sacrifice of his

Savior. Because of Jesus' blood shed upon Calvary's cross, Chet knew that death would be a gain.

Chet's attitude is one that, I pray, is shared by all who are reading this devotion. The truth is some of us who are celebrating this New Year will not be around to see the first day of 2019. And not all of us will become octogenarians like Chet.

Even so, all those who believe on the Savior can be confident that death is not the end and there is another life, a better life waiting for us in heaven.

With thanksgiving for the Lord's love and the heavenly home He has given us is the right way to begin the New Year... and the right way to end it, no matter when that end may come.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pastor Karner
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

New Adult Membership Class

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church? Do you have a spouse, or a friend, who might be interested? Are you a life-long Lutheran who would like to wipe away the cobwebs from your Luther's Small Catechism? If so, then we have the class for you!

On Sunday, January 14, Pastor Karner will begin a new 12-session adult membership class entitled, "God For Us: An Introduction to Lutheran Teaching." The 75-minute class will meet every Sunday night, from 6:45 – 8:00, in the Immanuel Lutheran School library. If you're interested in attending, please contact the church office. Child care (ages 2-12) can be provided.

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **Thank You** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
For our November 19th Food Drive



“MEALS FOR THE NEEDY”

Located at Zion Lutheran Church

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

November 30, 2017

Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you very much for your generous donation of non-perishable food items for MFN ~ “Meals for the Needy”. We are so very grateful and appreciative for your help and support of our mission.

On an average MFN is able to assist over 90 families each month by providing them with up to four bags of groceries and fresh produce. Here at MFN’s soup kitchen, we serve dinner Monday through Thursday evenings, serving 85 p to 120 meals per night.

“Meals for the Needy” is Bristol’s oldest soup kitchen, observing its 35th anniversary of helping those less fortunate in our Bristol community. Since its inception in 1982, MFN has served over 870,000 meals and has helped countless families.

It’s the generous support of donors like you hat make it possible for our organization to exist and continue to help those in need. I thank you again for your support.

With sincere gratitude,

Cheryl Yetke
Executive Director



Young at Heart

Blessings for a Happy, Healthy New Year 2018 to all our “over age 50” members and friends!

We held our last event of the year on December 5, at Nuchie’s Restaurant in Forestville for a wonderful group of 62 members and friends. We enjoyed the great food, fellowship, Christmas songs, door prizes and fun. Our talented Vernon Koch led the musical program and we recognized our many special lunch-time volunteers. Some photos are up on the glass enclosed bulletin board by the gym entrance and others were taken by Vern, shown here.

We do not have a monthly lunch program in the winter months due to the uncertainty of the weather and our safety concerns. Area Senior Centers have programs and activities available for you and you can always visit one of our homebound members. If you enjoy playing cards, you can join the Fellowship group on Mondays at 1pm in the Parish Center to play. Our new Planning Committee will be meeting sometime in February to plan our year’s activities. We are looking for more people to step up and volunteer this new year. Hope to see you and greet you in church!





Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

154 Meadow Street, Bristol, CT 06010 Church: 860-583-5649 School: 860-583-5361 www.ilcs.org

December 2017

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran,

It is with warm regards that we wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. Life during this time of year always seems to become a bit sweeter as we celebrate the joy and coming of our savior in Bethlehem.

The newly formed Building on Faith Committee has conducted two meetings with the intent to both create a revenue stream that supports the mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, and also to collaborate and offer suggestions on ways to improve upon the organization's current financial situation.

As you may already know, Immanuel Lutheran Church and School ended the 2017 fiscal year with a \$110,000.00 deficit. That being said, the Congregation has recently voted to pass this year's 2018 budget, creating an additional deficit of \$120,000.00. At the congregation's current level of giving, this will create an additional deficit of \$10,000.00 per month.

The committee's immediate goal is to raise a total of \$150,000.00. This will allow us to allocate \$110,000 to cover the 2017 deficit while also allocating \$40,000 to create a financial buffer for the church and school.

The Committee is currently developing strategies and ideas on how to support the mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School; a mission dear to our hearts that has been in existence since 1892. If you have any questions or would like to share some of your ideas with the Committee, we are at your service as brothers and sisters in Christ. We know that there is a bright future ahead for the mission of Immanuel Lutheran and we are looking forward to helping to create it.

Happy Holidays,

The Building on Faith Committee:

- Charlie Radcliff Bob Wollenberg
- Bill Wentland Rob Redman
- Howard Schmelder Roberta Kuhr
- Alyssa Kirschner

.....
Tear along the dotted line. Detach and return with your contribution.

Name

Address

Envelope Number

Donation Amount

.....
Updated balances for the January Messenger:

Current Deficit Balance For 2016-2017:	\$36,473.92
Current Deficit Balance For 2017-2018:	<u>\$44,482.35</u>
Total Deficit as of 12/31/2017:	\$80,956.27

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

Thank You!

Thank you to the Immanuel Lutheran Church Foundation for providing the **Five Metal Chemistry Concert** on Sunday, December 17th. The music was truly wonderful and the fellowship and food in the gym were great! Thank you to Mike Krampitz for being our Concert Usher. Thank you for all the donations of food and help for setup, serving and cleanup. Thank you especially to Kevin & Diane Read and Andy Helming.



On December 3 we welcomed three new members through **The Rite of Adult Confirmation**. Shown with Pastor Karner are Arnold Tonn, JoAnn Raspanti, and Norman Stone.

A memorial Service for John Dunn will take place on Saturday, February 3, at 11 am here at Immanuel. Visitation with the family will be from 10 to 11 am.

New Adult Membership Class
starting Sunday, January 14.
See Page 2 for more information.



CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN

✠
 Arlean M. Jensen
 December 22, 1932 — December 10, 2017

✠
 Edward A. Bohn
 July 3, 1946 — December 25, 2017



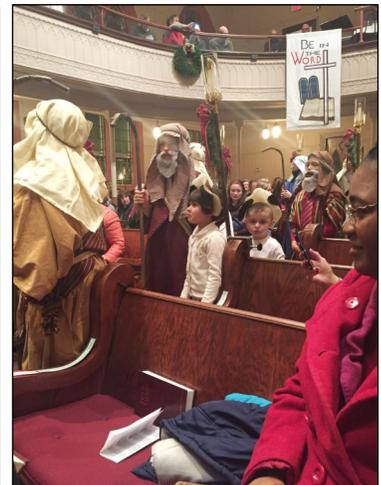
ALTAR FLOWER CHART FOR 2018

There is a new flower chart for 2018 in the hallway across from the coat rack. If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion, just put your name on that date with your phone number or call **Pat Wollenberg, 860-584-0587** with any questions or requests.



Thank you, Pat Wollenberg

~ ~ ~ ILS Christmas Pageant ~ ~ ~



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

Our PK-8 student body happily told the story of Christ's birth on Thursday, December 21, to a full church. It was standing room only! The students used verse and song to share what they had learned in Isaiah 9 and Luke 2. Angels (girls in grades 1-6) sang praises from the balcony. Shepherds (boys in grades 1-6) sang from the center aisle and herded their sheep (PK and K children) to the manger to meet the new king. Narrators (grades 7 and 8) shared the verses. Beautiful solos were performed in addition to singing songs we all know that help tell the story. Mary (Gabriella Buonafede) sang the first verse of *My Soul Rejoices* after the Angel Gabrielle (Daniel Kozman) came to her. And, Simeon (Cole Krueger) sang *The Song of Solomon* upon recognizing the infant Jesus as the Christ Child in the temple. The children who participated in the pageant will look back, remember, and smile. They may even be inclined to tell the story again because it was such a wonderful and positive experience! The Christmas Pageant was truly a celebration of Christ's birth.

The weather has not cooperated with our school events so far this school year. Hopefully in 2018 that will change! The Gingerbread House fundraiser associated with the Winter Wonderland was canceled due to weather. It became a Gingerbread House making event for the children at school on December 21 and 22. Children were able to make gingerbread houses and take them home before the break.

Our Boys JV Basketball Team won their first game on December 27 against St. Matthew Catholic School. The final score was 18 to 10, although there was a much wider spread until the very end when St. Matt rallied. And, we won this game without a bench! Our five players gave their very best effort and it paid off. Logan Jackson, Anthony Santilli, Sam Cudjoe, Cole Krueger, and Myles Matthews made up the winning team. Way to go, boys! Michelle Matthews coaches the team. More games are scheduled in January and we plan to host a tournament toward the end of February. Dates will be in the bulletin and on the website.

Lutheran Schools Week will take place January 28-February 3. The week preceding, we are sending two teachers, Linda Beaudoin and Sandy Butler, to Orlando for a teacher's technology conference (FETC.org). Each Immanuel teacher chose sessions for Linda and Sandy to attend on their behalf on topics that will help them in their classrooms. The conference fees are provided through our school's Title IIA federal funding. This funding is specifically for teacher development and training and cannot be used for anything else. We are excited to have Linda and Sandy return and share new technology strategies with each staff member. Each requester is expected to become a champion of their topics as they learn, implement, and perfect the strategies they requested. Champions will then expertly share their strategies or skills with the other teachers.

We thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school.

Yours in Christ,
Dr. Anne Stuhlman, Principal





Orphan Grain Train Ships to Moldova

On the Moldova shipment were medical equipment (hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, crutches, canes, etc.), bicycles, sewing machines, blankets and quilts, hygiene kits, school supplies, clothing and church pews with an estimated weight of over 18,000 pounds and a value in excess of \$275,000. The organization is an Outreach Ministry and a recognized service organization of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. OGT is supported locally by Holy Trinity Lutheran in Terryville and Immanuel Lutheran in Bristol and is open to all who want to help others.

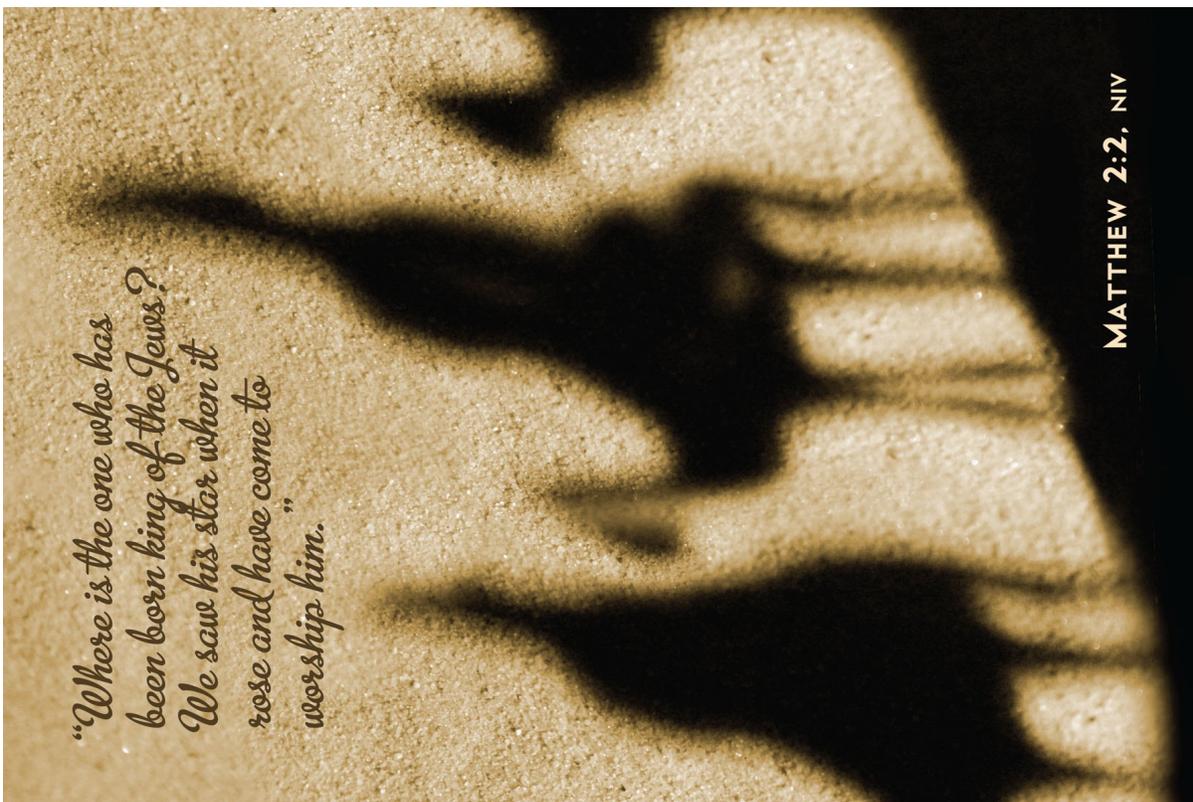
Volunteers began loading the container for Moldova at 2pm on Dec. 15 and finished about 5pm. The full container was then trailered to a port for sea transport to the destination. All items have been donated by individuals or organizations and all funds used to support these efforts are donated as well, as is the time of the volunteers. Mr. Bill Allread has made space available in his warehouse at 33 S. Main St. in Terryville to support these efforts. For more information, please call Holy Trinity at 860-582-0723 and/or check out the national website at OGT.org.

Brenda L. Bacon
 Business Manager / LCEF Assistant Vice President
 New England District LCMS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

