

Rev. Kevin A. Karner  
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman  
School Principal

# Messenger

April 2021

Vol. 21 No. 3

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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Bristol, CT 06010  
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www.ilcs.org

## Confirmation Class of 2021



Front row, left to right: Jacqueline Phillips, Genevieve Casagni.  
Back row: Donovan Jusino, Pastor Karner, and Makayla Bloom.

## God's Mercy Has Changed Me (by Cole Krueger)

Seventh Grader at ILS

God's mercy is great and powerful. He will always have compassion for you and forgive you. He also will always forgive you if you repent to him. In the Bible it says, "For the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him" (2 Chronicles 30:9). This means that God will never turn His back on you and always forgive you.

God is merciful to me because he has given me a loving family. He has also given me nice friends. When I do stuff wrong I always turn to God and re-

pent my sins and in the end, it all turns out good. His mercy benefits me because later in life, instead of looking at the past and being filled with rage, I will be looking toward the future and preparing. God's mercy made a difference in my life recently by having me by continually giving me hope in my life. When I get sad I turn to God and I know I am not done on this earth. For example, when I get in trouble instead of being sorrowful I look into the future and bounce back. That is how God's mercy changes me.



Messenger is published monthly except in August 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.**  
 — (Live Streaming) —  
 Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month.  
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**10:45 a.m.**  
 Holy Communion on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month.  
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**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**9:30 a.m.**  
 — (Live Streaming) —



**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

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

**WNTY Radio**  
**AM 990**  
 &  
**FM 96.1**  
 and online at [KoolOldiesRadio.net](http://KoolOldiesRadio.net)

**From the Pastor's Desk**

**“Opened Eyes”**

*... And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

2 Kings 6:15b-17

Uncertainty.

That text from 2 Kings tells of Elisha’s servant who was not sure if the Lord was with them. He wasn’t the first person to feel that way. He won’t be the last.

For example, about 80 years ago, a poor, little, city boy heard his Sunday school teacher say, “Jesus is the light of the world.” Not surprisingly, he took her remark literally. After class, the boy said to his teacher, “If Jesus really is the light of the world, I wish He’d come hang out in my alley. It’s awful dark where I live.”

Another story from about the same time tells of a farm boy who was carrying the kerosene lantern for his father. The boy told his father he was concerned because the lantern didn’t show much of the path that was ahead of them. The father’s answer is worth noting. He said, “Son, you’re absolutely right. But as you keep walking you will find the light will always allow you to continue on.”

Now those boys wanted to be assured and reassured. Like Elisha’s servant, like us, those boys wanted to know they could count on the light and the blessings it brings, the security it provides.

They wanted to be sure Jesus, the Light of the world, was with them – and that He will be clear in giving them directions as to what they should do and how they should lead their lives.

If you’ve ever felt the way those boys did, I have good news for you. Jesus, the Light, is with you and He will give you what you need to move forward.

Now I can’t promise that you will, like Elisha’s servant, have your eyes opened to see the spiritual forces the Lord has sent to protect you. Nor can I guarantee you will have your eyes opened, so you may see every angel assigned to your case.

What I can promise is this: Jesus, whose life of sacrifice has moved men and women of faith from spiritual darkness into God’s gracious light, isn’t going to reverse Himself. His commitment and promise will always remain: He is with us until the very end of the age.

So, if the darkness seems to be encroaching, remember Jesus is always there to give us the light we need to live our lives, the light that’s necessary so we may move forward – but not so much that we move forward independently and without Him.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, during days and nights of darkness, help me see that You are there. Your love shown through the life, the sacrifice, the death and resurrection of Jesus will illuminate my path so I, in faith, may move forward. For this I am thankful. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Pastor Karner  
*1 Thessalonians 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*

# Young at Heart

Happy Easter and Happy Spring to all our “over age 50” members and friends!! We usually start our spring lunch programs in April, but not last year or this year.

We hope you are doing well and getting your vaccine shots, so we could possibly gather together for a lunch program later this year. The Senior Centers in our area may start opening up on a limited basis

soon, so check out what is available to you there. Remember to phone a friend and visit with them that way to brighten the day for both of you.

Hope we might see you in person, perhaps on April 4 Easter Sunday, as we worship together in church. Sending Easter blessings to our home-bound members: *Happy Easter !!*



## CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN



Ruth Pickhardt

March 19, 1937 — March 15, 2021



Emil O. Jabs

March 21, 1926 — March 27, 2021



**Altar Guild Meeting**  
Sunday, April 11

**in the Parish Center following the 8 am service.**  
*Please note change in location! See you there!*



**Immanuel welcomes**  
**through the rite of Holy Baptism**

***Levi Dash Fortier***

**Baptized on March 7, 2021**

**Son of Brett Fortier and Megan Swicklas**

~ ~ ~

***Donovan Gregory Jusino***

**Baptized on March 21, 2021**

**Son of Angel and Hilda Jusino**

## THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN FOUNDATION Call for Grant and Scholarship Applications

Thanks to a generous gift, the Immanuel Lutheran Foundation has been serving diverse needs of the Immanuel Lutheran Church since 1997. This “General Fund” has provided financial support through a Grant Application Process to do those important “non-budgeted” things “for which we never seemed to have the money.”



While the Foundation’s General Fund earnings are directed to the support of *non-budgeted items*, the earnings of the Westfall Endowment Funds established some years later are directed to specific needs. These include; local expenses, school expenses, and the maintenance and upkeep of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Provisions have also been made to award five scholarships each year. One is offered to an Immanuel member entering “Preaching and Teaching” ministries of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Four are available to members of Immanuel and/or graduates of the Immanuel Lutheran School enrolled in an accredited College or University with a preference given to applicants aspiring to enter the ministry, or a career in medicine, law, or engineering.

### *It’s Time!*

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.*

2021 Grant Applications are being accepted now for review beginning in April. Forms are available thru the Church Office and returned there when complete. Westfall Scholarship Applications are also available in the office and must be completed and returned to the office no later than June 13, 2021.

The Directors begin the Grant Review Process in April and continue throughout the year as funding remains available.

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

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Applications are available in the church office:

We are accepting applications for Immanuel Lutheran Church Scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded to members of Immanuel Lutheran Church or graduates of Immanuel Lutheran School.

Applications are due on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, in the church office.

These scholarships  
will be awarded in August.

“Given  
for  
you.”



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

**Thank you all for your food and monetary donations.**  
 We raised \$300.00 and supported the following with many boxes of food.

- Zion Lutheran Church’s Meals for the Needy,
- St. Vincent DePaul’s Shelter,
- Necessities Cupboard, and
- Brian’s Angels.

Also a Big thank you for all our helpers.



**Parking for Parish Center meetings!**

Whenever you are hosting a meeting in the Parish Center please instruct those who are attending to please park either in the West Street parking area or in the school back parking lot.

Please **DO NOT PARK** in back of the Parish Center rear parking or the Sonstrom House parking area – *these are reserved parking spots for our tenants.*

Thank you,  
*Howard Schmelder,*  
 President

**Youth Group Savers Fundraiser (updated on March 30)**

We are thankful for all who already donated. We still need 88 more bags of clothing or soft goods. We are continuing to ask for these items, also, blankets, curtains, bedding and shoes are all acceptable. We are also accepting small appliances that work. Even if you have a small amount it will help. Please leave bags under the lower level stairs in the lobby.

We are gearing up for the 2022 Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, on July 9 -13. Please contact Brenda at 860-584-0364 for more information.

*Thank you for supporting our youth!*

Once again we will be starting up **Walk and Talk on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 am at the Parish Center. We will meet weekly. Everyone – men and women – are welcome to join us!!!

*Please note, when entering the Parish Center we are asked to enter through the front door.*

Hope to see all of you there!!!!

Women's Bible Study will also start up once again; masks and social distancing will be followed. It will be nice to see everyone again. Blessings, Roberta Kuhr, Parish Nurse

**Women’s Bible Study**  
 Tuesday, April 6 at 12:30.

Bring a lunch, and join us for a Bible Study in the Parish Center.



# FELLOWSHIP REMEMBERED – Chapter 1

by Vern Koch

Sometime ago in the far distant past, Wil Kisser talked to me and suggested that since we were not meeting as a group for the time of the pandemic, perhaps a brief history of the Adult Fellowship at Immanuel might serve as a catalyst for memories so many of us enjoyed over the years.

For the next several months, the *Messenger* will include an anecdotal history of the fellowship happenings over the past 60+ years at Immanuel.

This would not have been possible without the meticulous records kept by my wife Lois, Secretary of the Adult Fellowship for many years, and Carol Maron, President of the Young-at-Heart for our most recent history.

We begin this journey with a picture of a group that attended a Christmas Party in 1956 (five years before my arrival). How many of the people do you recognize in this shot? A list will appear in next month's chapter.

If you have any photos from outings or happenings from years past, please leave them in the Church office. The more the merrier.



## ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ School News ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

When I speak with our new parents, they tell me their children love the school and love learning about Jesus the most. When I speak with new students, Chapel and religion class continue to be the favorites. Three of our five eighth graders were confirmed on Palm Sunday, and one was here baptized the week before. We have a fifth-grade child, new to Immanuel, planning to be baptized soon as well. I can't stop smiling. When children ask their parents if they can get baptized, I know we've done our jobs well. The work we do really does make a difference for these children. We appreciate the parents who bring their children to church as well. They are our partners in education and in the spiritual growth of their children. Thank you, member families, for bringing your children to church!

The children write occasionally during religion class to prompts that really make them think. It is interesting, and sometimes moving, to read their thoughts about their own faith. Written pieces from our current 7<sup>th</sup> grade class are featured here in The Messenger.

Plans are coming to fruition on the Little Lambs program space. Furniture has been ordered through a grant, and a new play area is soon to emerge. The new Little Lambs Pasture will be the grassy area in front of the current playscape area. The space devoted to toddler play will include raised beds, a mud kitchen, a sandbox, an outdoor painting area, a built-in asphalt car track, and picnic tables. This is coming just in time for spring and more outdoor activity. Most of the items are being acquired through grants.

The Book Fair was very successful with nearly \$3,000 in sales. This translates to Scholastic Dollars that can be spent in our library and for classroom libraries. Thanks to Barbara Radcliff for all she does for our library.

The PTO has concluded the spring Butter Braids Fundraiser and is planning a new Calendar Fundraiser for Tuition Assistance. PTO has scheduled a guest author to visit on April 16. The author will share her children's book with the younger children and give details about how to become a published author to the older children. Our PTO parents work hard to help the school.

We have now been in school for seven months of the school year without closing the school due to covid. Everyone follows the safety protocol and is encouraging of others to do so as well. I am very proud of our staff, students and parents for putting safety first. The majority of our staff will have their second covid vaccines over spring break, which is April 5-9.

Current enrollment is 106 students. There are 85 pre-enrolled for the next school year and we have tours for new families weekly. We plan to continue feeding these little sheep daily and guiding them toward Jesus, their Lord and Savior. Thank you for supporting our mission!

Blessings!

Dr. Anne Stuhlman, Principal



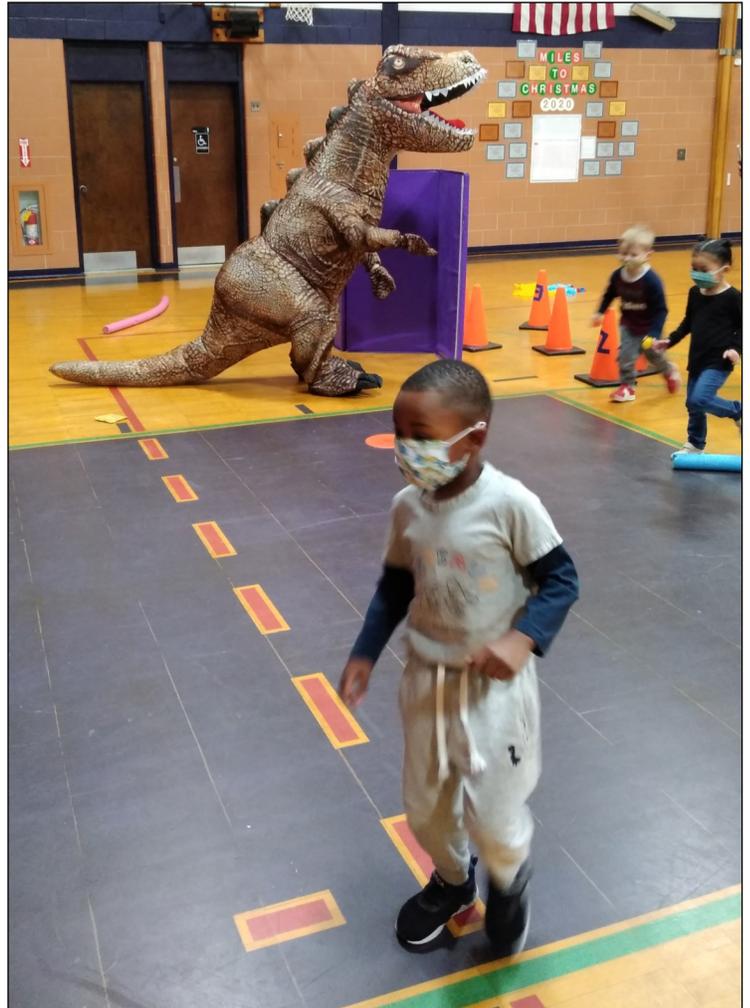
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **School News** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**God's Mercy** (by Gretchen Radcliff)

Seventh Grader at ILS

Mercy is a wonderful gift that God has given us. The definition of mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm. The Bible's definition of mercy is God's love for sinners. The Bible says, "You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place." This quote shows that God thinks that mercy is very important. God forgives our sins and cleanses our hearts. When we go to church or read the Bible we are be-

ing forgiven by God's words. When the pastor does the confession, that is another version of forgiveness and mercy. God is merciful to all of us because he loves and wants the best for us. One example of God giving me mercy was a few days ago when my brother and I were arguing. God gave me and my brother the power in us to show mercy and forgive each other. God is very generous and caring to show mercy to all of us and we shouldn't take it for granted.



7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders made colored Easter eggs in Art class.

On April Fools' Day the dinosaurs came for a visit.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION DAY!**



**DO YOU KNOW?**

Are you aware of what the Christian Church considers to be the highest church festival after Easter (#1) and Christmas (#2)? Is it Pentecost? No. Is it Epiphany? No. What about any of the services of Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday? Nope.

The answer is – **Ascension Day!** After His resurrection, Jesus appeared several times to His disciples and others. During this time, He spoke to them about the kingdom of God and the coming of the Holy Spirit, for whom they were to wait. After 40 days of these appearances, He was taken up to heaven for the last time. As the disciples watched Him go, two angels appeared and declared to them that, just as He ascended, Jesus would return in glory.

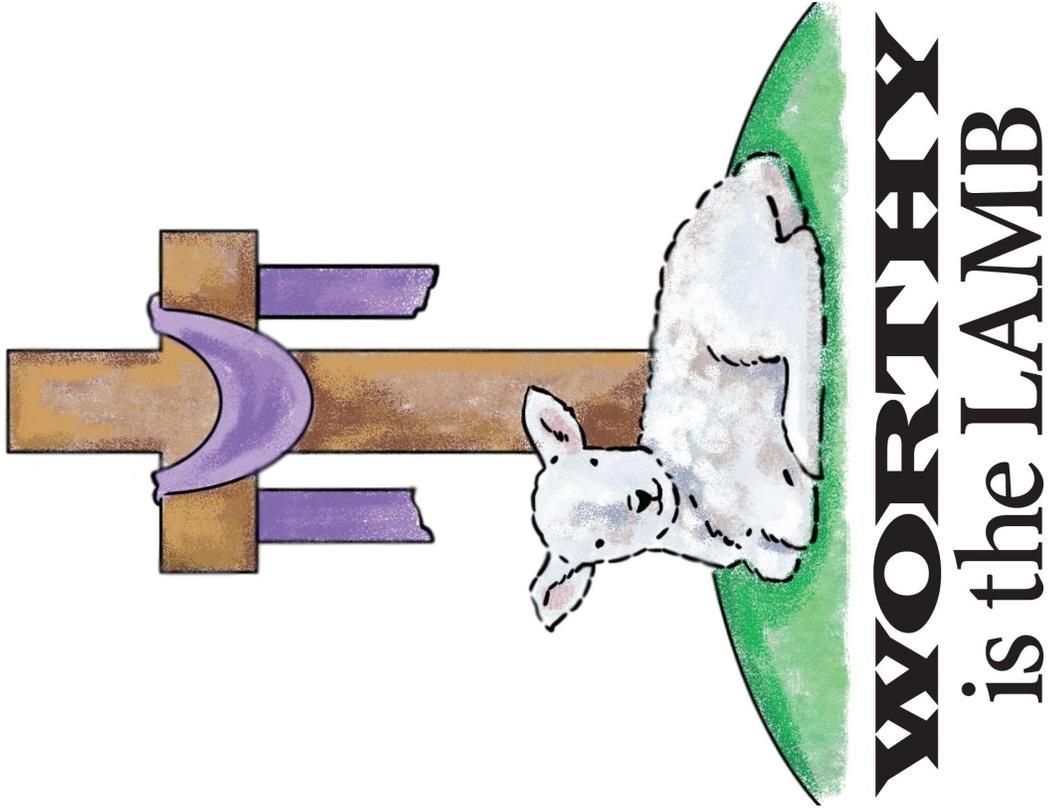
According to one of the early church fathers, Augustine of Hippo, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. It may be one of the oldest feasts practiced by the Church, possibly going as far back as AD 68. There is no written evidence, however, of the church honoring Ascension Day until Augustine’s time in the fourth century. Churches around the world have observed Ascension Day Feasts for centuries.

*Thursday, May 13, at 7 pm*

time in the fourth century. Churches around the world have observed Ascension Day Feasts for centuries.

**APRIL 2021 BIRTHDAYS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Margaret Cassala Noreen Kirschner	<b>2</b> Timothy Sonstroem Kristy Wolfe	<b>3</b> David Grossmann
<b>4</b> Michael Triplett	<b>5</b> Albert May Jacob Wolfe	<b>6</b> Judith Buonafede Mary Kuharski Kendall Raymond	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Benjamin Schuler	<b>9</b> Gabriella Buonafede	<b>10</b> Morgan Bielert William Palmisano, Jr. Ann Winters
<b>11</b> Maliki Matthews	<b>12</b> Brandon Kohl Danish Nazir Sylva Voisine	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> William Emmert	<b>15</b> Jennifer Phillips Dawn Raymond	<b>16</b> Jared Harrington Irene Kraus Barbara Nye	<b>17</b> Janet Hackett
<b>18</b> Jessica Divinere	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Dillon Kohl Aliza Redman Alyson Schaffrick Rick Simons	<b>21</b> Preston Fitzgerald Charles McIntyre	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Daniel Bielert, II
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Jacob Holcomb Janice Monzillo RoseMarie Pavlik David Ryskowski	<b>27</b> Julie Perry	<b>28</b> Randolf Jabs Amanda Neumann Joanne Tanasi	<b>29</b> Magda Jabs Gladys Lagace	<b>30</b> Ryan Hislop Becky Wells	



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
154 MEADOW STREET  
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Messenger 

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