

Rev. Kevin A. Karner  
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman  
School Principal

# Messenger

December 2021

Vol. 21 No. 10

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



## “The Saints of Advent”

Wednesday, December 8, 7 pm  
Sunday, December 12, 8 am & 10:45 am (HC)  
Wednesday, December 15, 7 pm  
Sunday, December 19, 8 am (HC) & 10:45 am

## Christmas Services and New Year's Eve

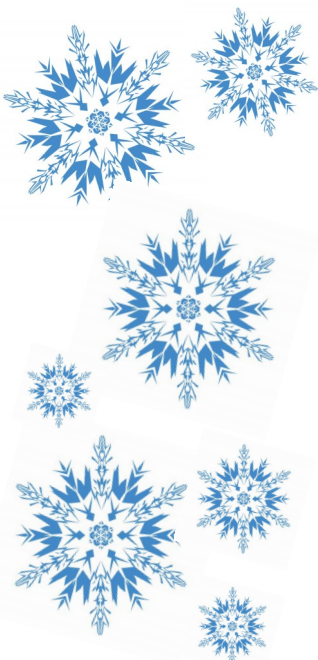
Friday, December 24, 7 pm & 11 pm (HC)  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Saturday, December 25, 9 am (HC)  
Christmas Day Service  
Sunday, December 26, 8 am & 10:45 am (HC)  
Friday, December 31, 7 pm (HC)  
New Year's Eve Service



*All special services will be Live-Streamed,  
along with our 8am Sunday services.*

**The Women of Immanuel** will hold their annual Christmas potluck on Saturday, December 11 at noon in the OSB. 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.





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 20th of the month.

**SUNDAY  
DIVINE SERVICES**

**8:00 a.m.**

Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month.

— (Live Streaming) —

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**10:45 a.m.**

Holy Communion on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month.

~ ~ ~

**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**

AND

**FM 96.1**

and online at

**From the Pastor's Desk**

**“Not Necessity, But . . .”**

*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

1 John 4:9-10

They say that “necessity is the mother of invention.”

I don't know who “they” are, and I'm not entirely sure that they're right in what they're saying. For example,

- a desire to get rich was the mother of invention for King Gillette. Having had a conversation with the inventor of pop-bottle caps, he decided to develop a throwaway product of his own: hence the safety razor with disposable blades.
- a love of frozen ice cream was the mother of invention for Ole Evinrude. Ole got angry when his ice cream melted before he could row his boat to an island picnic site. He invented the out-board motor.
- knowing there had to be a better way was the mother of invention for Leo Gerstenzang, who didn't like his wife cleaning their baby's ears with cotton wrapped around toothpicks. Leo came up with Q-tips.

The question for this devotion is what was the motivation for God deciding to send His Son into this world to save humanity?

It certainly wasn't a desire to get rich. The reality is the sacrifice of His Son's life on the cross was a terrible price He paid, so we might be saved. It wasn't a desire to find a better way to save us. Without Jesus living our lives perfectly, without Him carrying our sins, without Him dying our death, there was no way you and I could escape the fires

of hell. So, why did God send His Son to save us? John the apostle tells us in his first epistle. Here are excerpts: “... the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him ... He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Love: *that's* the reason God sent His Son.

Scripture tells us that “God is love.” But we can only begin to realize, to recognize the immensity and quality of that love, when we take a look at the Redeemer.

Look at Jesus' life of suffering, of rejection, pain, disappointment, persecution, and remember all of this He endured, so we might be saved. That was love. See Him betrayed by a friend, deserted by His disciples, unfairly tried by His own church, and crucified. These things He suffered so that we might be forgiven and have eternal life. That was love. See Him rise from the dead and instruct His disciples to share salvation's story with a sinful world. That also was love.

Love: *that's* what God has shown to us.

And how should we respond? Luther said it: God's love is the reason I should “thank and praise, serve and obey Him.” I hope that will bring you to God's House during this Advent / Christmas season!

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, there is no logical reason why You would love us enough to send Your Son into this world. Thankfully, Your love is neither based on, nor empowered by logic. For Your grace and mercy shown to us in the Person of Jesus, we give thanks. May our lives show that thanks. 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*

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



**CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN**



Joel B. Wulff

June 23, 1942 — November 5, 2021



Alice Cunningham

August 11, 1929 — November 11, 2021



Lt. Charles H. McIntyre

January 9, 1949 — November 26, 2021



Saturday, November 13, 2021  
 — Wedding of —  
*Laura Marie Hamelin*  
 and  
*Matthew James DeGregory*

**Parish Nurse** **Parish Nurse Corner**  
 Please join us every **Tuesday** morning at Walk and Talk. Starts at 9:30am in the Parish Center. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.  
 Women’s Bible study following our Wednesday morning Advent service on **December 15**. Bring a lunch and join us in the Parish Center.  
**December 28** — Police Appreciation Luncheon, in the school gym at noon.  
 Blessings,  
 Roberta

*Young at Heart*

Christmas Blessings to all our members and friends! Our last event of the year was our Christmas Party Lunch at Marilyn’s Pub Restaurant.

Last month about 35 of us enjoyed celebrating that these lunches have gone on for over 25 years with a traditional menu and cake. We enjoyed the Webster Bank staff who informed all about Scams and how to

protect ourselves and our finances. Remember, we do not hold these lunches during the winter months for your safety during bad weather.

Remember, Advent church services have begun on Wednesdays at 10:45 am and 7 pm., so be sure to greet one other in church and on Sundays. Share your Christmas Joy!!



Thank you all so much for the very generous donations for Warm a Child. We were able to provide many children with warm coats and clothing for this cold season. Your donations were very much appreciated!  
 May God bless you all,  
 Christy



## LCMS 2022 National Youth Gathering

### Attention all youth, ages 14-19:

Houston we DON'T have a problem....

Yep, no astronauts calling Houston NASA with spacecraft issues this time!

In fact, Houston happens to be the location for the LCMS National Youth Gathering 2022.

As in previous gatherings, up to 35,000 youth and leaders will gather for a week of inspirational teaching, servant events, fellowship, fun, and worship, most of which will take place in or around the Houston Astro-dome.

Experienced leaders from ILC will be chaperoning, planning and guiding this trip.

Youth and leaders will be placed in hotels in various parts of the city.

We are being assured that all possible safety precautions are being taken in light of the pandemic and things are being assessed on a daily basis.

Some key points:

### Gathering theme: "In all things"

Gathering dates are July 9-13.



Registration period has begun (Nov. 1) and the cost is \$395 per participant. This can be secured with a \$150 deposit now, with completion of payment before May 1, 2022.

In the past we have only asked parents to cover the registration fee.

Final opt out date is May 1, 2022.

This gathering we may ask for some more than the basic registration fee to help with air travel and hotel costs. Sadly, we have not been able to have the fundraisers this past year which normally allow us to cover expenses above and beyond registration (thanks Covid...)

You can find more info at [www.lcms.org/youth](http://www.lcms.org/youth) ("In all things")

Please contact the church office at 860-583-5631 if you are interested and they will contact us (youth leadership) and we will return your call and help to answer any questions.

ILC Youth leadership

Brenda Buonafede

David Kisser

Kevin Read

### Cookbooks Are Arriving!

The **German Heritage Cookbooks** will be arriving from the printer on Monday, December 6th. If you pre-paid for your cookbooks, they will be immediately available to pick up at the church office beginning Tuesday, December 7th.

If you still need to pay for your cookbook order, we will be available on Wednesday morning, December 8th (half hour before and after the morning Advent service) and (one hour before and after the evening Advent service). If you can't make it on Wednesday, we will be open on Sundays, for pickup. If you have ordered a cookbook as a gift, gift wrapping is available for free when you pick up your cookbook order! Thank you all for your generous support!

*The Christian Mart Team*

### Deck The Halls!

If you haven't already done so, please visit the hallway between the lobby and the library where the Christian Mart has literally **Decked The Halls** for the Christmas season! First, write on the "JOY" board to share **What Brings YOU Joy?** And, while you're there on Sundays, you can also do a little Christmas shopping... the Christian Mart is open every Sunday from 8:30 am - 11:00 am and now has new inventory for the holidays including jewelry, soft goods to keep you warm this Winter, scented beeswax candles, boxed Christian Christmas cards, Christian books for kids and adults and a variety of other fun holiday and everyday items available for purchase. As always your purchase is tax-free and benefits Immanuel Lutheran. A gift wrapper will be available every Sunday throughout the holidays to wrap any gifts you purchase from the Christian Mart. Thank you!

*~ The Christian Mart Team*

# FELLOWSHIP REMEMBERED – Chapter 8

by Vern Koch

From 1980 – 1987 the Adult Fellowship donated the following funds for projects at Immanuel and other worthy causes: Thanks to God for such generosity.

<b>1980 - 1982</b>	\$ 8,500	Building Fund
<b>1982 - 1984</b>	\$ 4,078.17	10 burner stove; Serving cart; 2 steam tables' 200 cup Coffee warmer; large pots
	\$ 1,000	School Computers
	\$ 1,000	Korean Lutheran Church
<b>1985</b>	\$ 900	School computers
	\$ 800	Choir Robes
	\$ 450	Fuel Bank
	\$ 450	Olthoff Lutheran Bible Translators
<b>1986</b>	\$1,000	Classroom desks and chairs
	\$ 500	Fuel Bank (matched by AAL, now Thrivent Financial)
	\$ 500	LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) Missions
	\$ 500	Ladies Aid – Local use
	\$ 332	Chairs for counting and workshop rooms
<b>1987</b>	\$ 500	School – Math Resource Set (matched by Lutheran Brotherhood) now Thrivent Financial
	\$ 500	PTO for school projects
	\$ 500	Fuel Bank
	\$ 500	Emergency Shelter
	\$ 500	LWML for missions
	\$ 250	Ladies Aid – Local use
	\$ 250	Immanuel Archives

**Total \$23,010.17**

The 1986 Christmas Party was held at the Trinity in Terryville.

On Sunday, March 8, **1988**, Immanuel sponsored the Concert Choir of Concordia College, Bronxville, NY., Dr. Ralph Schulz conductor.

Traditionally, one of Concordia's concerts during the year was held at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



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

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

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be a virtual event available for all to see on our Facebook page, Thursday, December 16. The students are eager to tell the story of Jesus's birth.

Our Little Lambs toddler program has now outgrown the original two classrooms and are in need of a third. There are currently 22 Little Lambs. We will be converting the current Extended Care room into a third toddler room. Extended Care will be relocated. Because we are a ministry, the opportunity to invite these young families into our church and school community is a priority. Mrs. Katja Evans is doing a great job of welcoming all of these toddler families and providing opportunities for them to be involved.

The Art Room will soon be expanded and will double in size. The upper floor of the old school once had a double sized room that overlooks the play area. We are removing the wall that currently divides that space and bringing the room back to its original double-sized space. The Art Room will be a show-place! The space will also include our Maker Space. We are excited about this opportunity to focus on the arts and creativity while having a large multi-use space.

Special days leading up to Christmas are planned for the staff and students. Monday, December 13, is Red and Green Day. Tuesday, December 14, is Ugly Sweater Day. Wednesday, December 15, is Dress Your Best Day. Thursday, December 16, is Crazy Hair and Dress Day. Friday, December 17, is Pajama Day. While our students are celebrating the advent of our Savior's birth in unconventional ways, they are very aware of the reason for the Christmas season.

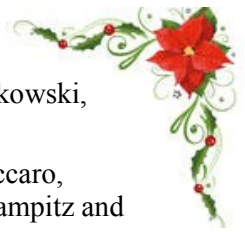
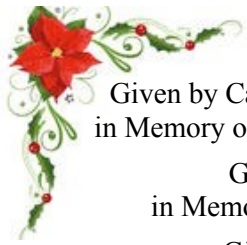
We are offering a Christmas Camp for our Immanuel Lutheran School children. This is helpful for parents who work throughout the break. Camp will be housed in the old school basement also known as the cafeteria.

Christmas Break is a full two weeks this year. The two weeks are welcome to be able to deep clean the building once again and have everyone away from the germs of one another. We are hopeful that next year will look different. We miss seeing the children's smiles, which can't be seen through the masks.

School enrollment is now at 149, which includes the Little Lambs. Please tell everyone who is looking for toddler care about our program. Now that we have a third Lambs classroom, we have room for more children. Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year will open in January. More new families have already reached out for enrollment information.

Blessings to you all this Christmas Season!  
Anne Stuhlman, Principal





## Poinsettias – 2021

Given by Carol Maron, Alan Blank, Julie Follo,  
in Memory of Our Parents, William & Elsie Blank

Given by John & Pat Bohn,  
in Memory of Our Departed Loved Ones

Given by Michael Krampitz,  
in Memory of Kathleen Mahrt

Given by Cordelia, Michael, KaiNee, Justin & Max Behrendt,  
in Memory of David, Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Behrendt,  
and Bev Gillette

Given by Howard Schmelder,  
in Memory of my wife, Debbie

Given by Gladys Lagace,  
in Memory of My Family & Friends that have gone on before me

Given by Felix Vasilaitis,  
in Loving Memory of my wife Wanda

Given by Janet Riemer,  
in Memory of Walter Riemer

Given by Pam Prindle,  
in Memory of Richard, Elaine Prindle & Paul Tessier

Given by Ed & Dee Krampitz,  
in Memory of All Our Loved Ones

Given by Robin Bodley,  
in Memory of my parents, Arthur & Lorraine Malsheske

Given by Dorothy Johnson,  
in Memory of my husband, Gerald

Given by Quinn & Amelia Tessier,  
in Memory of Richard & Elaine Prindle

Given by Norman & Marilyn Stone,  
in Memory of Bud & Iva Thompson,  
and LT. J.C. Stone, SF-US Army

Given by Ray & Rosemary Ryskowski,  
to God Be the Glory

Given by Bill & Beth Mazzaccaro,  
in Memory of Herman & Edna Krampitz and  
Leo & Margaret Boutin

Given by Randy & Linda Neumann,  
in Memory of All Our Loved Ones

Given by David Peplau, in Memory of  
Bernard & Martha Peplau

Given by Rodney, & Laurie Grekula,  
in Memory of All Our Loved Ones

Given by Mary Sylvia,  
in Memory of Tricia Jankowski, Anthony & Shirley Carrara

Given by Brian & Louise Winter,  
in Memory of Our Parents

Given by Magda, Edy & Randy Jabs,  
in Memory of Waldemar and Wally Jabs

### Flower Fund Donations

Gladys Lagace

Lorraine Sonstrom

Amelia Tessier

Randy & Linda Neumann

Reich & Sammito Families, in Memory of  
Our Loved Ones

Jeanette Eschner, in Loving Memory of  
my husband Robert

Anne Gudegast, in Memory of My Parents

Magda Jabs, in Memory of All our Loved Ones

Thank you to everyone for your very generous  
poinsettia donations and your donations to our flower fund.

### New Building Fund Announcement

We have officially closed out the Raise The Roof campaign. After having reached a goal of more than \$150,000 raised, we were able to complete all the projects that the Raise The Roof funds were earmarked for including: the new gymnasium roof, a new elevator lift, much needed new kitchen equipment, and also, overdue computer upgrades. With your faith and support, Immanuel Lutheran has accomplished a great deal to sustain our facilities over the years, and, we need to continue to do so by planning ahead for the long term. For this reason, a new permanent fund named **Forward In Faith** has been established. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks, however, you can make contributions to this new fund beginning im-

mediately ~ just note your contribution with “Forward In Faith” (or “FIF”).

We always move *forward in faith* even through the difficult times.

We can move *forward in faith* knowing God is guiding our steps.

We must move *forward in faith* to fulfill our mission.

We know moving *forward in faith* works!

Your ongoing support serves your Lord, your church, our school and the mission we are all called to. May your year’s end and your new year both be blessed! Merry Christmas!

~ *The Board of Christian Stewardship*

## **A SPECIAL YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

At this time of year we often get questions from our members and alumni regarding year-end giving and estate planning. This is for good reason... there are many ways for people to amplify their gifts to Immanuel Lutheran beyond the offering plate, and, we would like to take this opportunity to share information about a few of these options with you.

### **Required Minimum Distributions (Contributing using an Individual Retirement Account/IRA)**

Under federal law, individuals age 70½ or 72 (depending on your date of birth) or older who own traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are required to take an annual, minimum distribution. Are you aware that you may redirect some or all of that required minimum distribution (RMD), up to \$100,000 annually, and possibly enhance your standard deduction while preserving more liquid assets for other, equally important uses? More specifically, this would direct the IRA distribution directly to Immanuel Lutheran so the distribution is not included in your income, however, you would also then not be able to deduct the contribution as a charitable donation. This is a popular option for many, however, please do work directly with your tax advisor in choosing options that are right for you.

Immanuel Lutheran Church joyfully receives IRA gifts that can carry out our Lord's mission. To learn more about making an IRA charitable distribution to support Immanuel Lutheran Church, contact us today.

### **Planned Giving**

Planned giving benefits are numerous when creating your gift plan. Above all is the opportunity to practice true generosity and Christian stewardship. This is done in joyful response to what the Lord has done for you. Also, it allows you to make the very best gifts to family and ministry. You can rest assured knowing that your wishes will be honored and that your earthly assets will be passed on in a way that makes sense and is helpful to those people and organizations you hold most dear.

Through a planned gift to the Immanuel Lutheran Church or the Immanuel Lutheran Church Foundation, you may:

- Eliminate capital gains tax on assets
- Gift the most appropriate/favorable assets to heirs and to the ministry you love
- Receive a significant tax deduction
- Lower your potential estate tax
- Assure the transfer of your fullest possible estate value to heirs
- Increase possible gifts to heirs and grandchildren

### **Designating Immanuel Lutheran Church or the Immanuel Lutheran Church Foundation as a beneficiary**

Perhaps the easiest way to share the Gospel and leave your legacy is by including the Immanuel Lutheran Church or the Immanuel Lutheran Church Foundation as a designated beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of your:

- Life insurance policy
- IRA, TSA or other deferred plan
- LCEF Certificate
- Certificate of Deposit (CD)
- Other equity asset

### **Bequests**

A bequest is also an easy way to make planned gifts and is usually a component of your will.

**A simple will using a statement like the following is almost always sufficient:**

*I bequeath (dollar amount) (percentage of my estate) to The Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bristol Foundation, Inc. OR Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc.*

If you would like to speak with someone at Immanuel Lutheran to discuss giving options available to you, please contact the church office today at (860) 583-5649 – May the Good Lord bless you all as we enter the final months, weeks and days of 2021! – The Board of Christian Stewardship



Food Drive



# THANK YOU

Thank you to all who made the food drive a success by donating and volunteering. With your help we were able to provide food and monetary donations to Meal for Neighbors, St. Vincent de Paul, Necessities Cupboard and Brian's Angels.

*Board of Evangelism*



Three of our younger helpers taking a well-deserved donut break.



## DECEMBER 2021 BIRTHDAYS

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



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