

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Dr. Anne Stuhlman
School Principal

Messenger

January 2022

Vol. 22 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

www.ilcs.org

Police Appreciation Luncheon



The Bristol Police Department would like to thank Immanuel Lutheran Church & School for inviting us to lunch on December 28th. We valued our time with our neighbors. Happy and safe Holidays to all!

Young-At-Heart Christmas Party



(See Young-At-Heart on Page 4)



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 20th 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.

~ ~ ~

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

From the Pastor's Desk

“What’s New about the New Year?”

THIS year, I’m gonna lose weight....I’m gonna quit smoking....I’m gonna make more time for my family....I’m gonna get more involved at church....I’m gonna...?

Every year it’s the same: promises made, and promises broken. Of course, once in a while we might actually be successful in taking better care of ourselves and our loved ones. But that’s what makes January 1st so appealing: we haven’t failed at anything yet! At least, not in the new year. It’s a fresh start, a clean slate, a “do over” (as we use to say on the school playground).

Unfortunately, old habits are hard to break, and it’s so easy to climb back into the comfortable recliner of our usual ways – physically and spiritually. That’s why anyone who has ever dealt with an addiction (i.e. – alcohol, food, drugs, etc.) will tell you how important it is to have someone else share in the struggle with them; preferably, someone who has already “walked a mile in our shoes” before us.

“Therefore he (Jesus) had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God....For we do not have a high priest who is una-

ble to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
(Heb. 2 & 4)

Jesus was, and is, a real human being who has shared in every aspect of human life, including the temptation to sin. And now, Jesus is able to bring our needs to the Father because He knows the reality of human weakness. What does this mean for us in 2022 and beyond? It means that no matter how many times we might fail in life, Jesus will never fail to be gracious and merciful toward us.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lam. 3)

So this year, whenever someone asks you, “What’s new with you?” instead of saying, “Well, you know, same ol’ same ol’ ” why not say something like “God’s grace and mercy – it’s new every morning!” But be careful – it may just start a discussion about things that REALLY matter!

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 9, 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 old school basement. If you’re interested in attending, please contact the church office.

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** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



We held our Christmas Potluck Dinner on December 13. We would like to thank everyone who has donated to Women of Immanuel through our bake sales and donations. This Christmas we were able to give gifts totaling \$800 from our treasury. Gifts went to Radio Ministry, Orphan Grain Train, Zion “Meals for Neighbors”, Seminary Food Bank, Parish Nurse Ministry, and to *Forward in Faith* for our Archives Room. The archives room needs a temperature unit to keep the room cool in the summer and warm in the winter; Immanuel's history is important to us! This is only a part of what is needed.

Remember, all women of Immanuel are welcome. Our next meeting will be in April; watch for news in the Sunday bulletin.



Young at Heart



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

We held our last event of 2021 on Thursday, December 2 at Marilyn’s Pub Restaurant on Broad St. It was our Christmas Party with over 50 of you in attendance, including a few new faces for our group which was wonderful. We enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship, food, and lots of singing and door prizes.

We do not hold our monthly lunch program in the winter months due to the uncertainty of the weather and our safety concerns. Our area Senior Centers

have programs and activities available for you and you could join our Adult Fellowship group on Mondays at 1 pm to play cards in the Parish Center. Our new planning committee for the year will be meeting this month to hopefully plan a whole year of lunches. We are always looking for more people to step up and volunteer as they could bring new ideas and we need to find more leaders for our group. Hope to see you in person in church; be sure to greet one another Happy New Year!

The Immanuel Lutheran Digital Photography Club

For some 10 or 12 years now, members of the Photo Club have been sharing a common interest in photography and getting better at it. We meet monthly except July and August. A “theme” is assigned for each month – January is **ORANGE!** At meetings, photos illustrating the theme or topic of the month are shown and discussed. There’s no judging. It’s a casual evening.

It’s always interesting how diverse photos can be for the same theme. Each of us see things differently and photograph things in different ways. We all learn from that. Changing topics keeps it all new and interesting. So then, we enjoy the photography, we enjoy the opportunity to learn, and we enjoy each other. We have fun!

**The Immanuel Lutheran Digital Photo Club meets on the
First Tuesday of Each Month at
7:00pm in the Parish Center.**

— *We have room for more. Join us!* —

Church News



CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN



Martha H. Pond

November 19, 1922 — December 12, 2021





**Immanuel Welcomes
our newest members!**

Lorene Berrian
Lisa Catanzaro
Katja Niemand-Evans
Cassandra Scarpati

**Welcome
to Our
Church
Family**

ALTAR FLOWER CHART FOR 2022



There is a new flower chart for 2022 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*

Stewardship

January is Stewardship Month at Immanuel Lutheran!

This year, Pledge Sunday will be held on January 10th. We ask you to pray with your family about how you can be good stewards in 2022. Whether it is in the offering plate, serving on a board, or, one of the many other ways you can give of your time and talents – every moment spent is pleasing to God! As we continue to navigate life amid covid, we will making pledge cards available in a number of ways this month:

- 1. In the mail** – All our members will receive a pledge card in the mail in January. You can either bring the card to the church on January 30th, mail it in, or email it to spoolle@ilcs.org
- 2. Online** – On Immanuel Lutheran’s website home page www.ilcs.org – just click the link “2022 pledge card”, print it and fill it in, then mail it to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 154 Meadow Street, Bristol, CT 06010
- 3. From the ushers** – The ushers will have pledge cards to hand out with bulletins each Sunday, beginning January 16-January 30, 2022.

We encourage you to attend church on January 30th (8 AM or 10:45 AM service) to join fellow members in bringing their annual pledges to the altar – as a symbol of your annual support of the church in our new year, 2022. Note: If your pledge comes in after January 30th, we will continue to receive your pledges into February. And, if you have any questions about how to offer your pledge, feel free to contact the church office.

Stewardship Month Coin Drive

Have loose change hanging around? In honor of Stewardship month, The Board of Christian Stewardship will be holding a coin drive throughout the month of January to benefit the Forward In Faith fund at Immanuel Lutheran. You will find a collection point in the church lobby each Sunday. Every penny glorifies our Lord!

\$5.00 More

Have you ever thought about how you can increase your weekly tithe? The Board of Christian Stewardship is asking you to think about it. Most of us have a little extra sitting in our wallet, others may be able to dedicate an extra \$5 just by going for one less "cup o’ joe" at Dunkin or Starbucks? At times, it is easy to forget just how blessed we are and how easy it can be to share a little more of those blessings from God for His Good. Just think about it.

FELLOWSHIP REMEMBERED – Chapter 9

by Vern Koch

During **1992** Immanuel celebrated its **100th Anniversary** with a series of special events.

In May of **1992** Immanuel sponsored a **Bavarian Polka Fest** featuring the Marv Herzog Band direct from Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Because there might be some **dancing** involved, the Fest was moved to the Bristol Polish American Citizens Club.

The annual **Christmas Party** was held at Sebastian's Restaurant. We were entertained by members of the Central Connecticut Barber Shop Harmony Society.

On May 15 we traveled by bus to Newport, RI, to tour the homes and make a stop at the **Belcourt Castle** for lunch. **Vern** was given permission to play on the house pipe organ before we had a lunch fit for Prince Belfort himself.

1994 saw the introduction of the **Silly Supper** during which you were given food, dishes, desserts and eating utensils each having a strange name. If things didn't go well, you could get your dessert 1st, your fork 2nd, your main course 5th, your salad 6th, your bread 7th and your glass of water or cup of coffee last. A great time was had by all in attendance.

In the Spring of **1995** Bristol and Immanuel sponsored the German Team for Special Olympics. We greeted them, spoke to them in German, followed them as they got ready to compete, and went to the Yale Bowl to watch the actual games. For the first time in our memories, it was made clear it really didn't matter to them if you won or lost; each team member cheered for each participant.

Between **1996 and 2006** activities slowed down as long trips became difficult and activities centered around an occasional trip to the Stonewell Restaurant and the annual Christmas Party.

In December of **2007** the following entry was made into the Adult Fellowship minutes:

"On Sunday, December 2, 2007, 18 'veteran' members of the Adult Fellowship gathered at the Capri Restaurant in Plainville, for the annual Christmas party. At the end of the afternoon it was sadly agreed that after 45 years of socializing, picnics, traveling and service to Immanuel, the organization would cease all of its traditional activities such as: monthly coffee hours, day trips, sponsorship of the LLL, sauerkraut suppers, spending monies for church and school needs, and Christmas parties.

President (for life) Wil Kisser and part-time president Mike Killian, suggested the group consider informal activities with less preparation.

WITH SADNESS, THE ADULT FELLOWSHIP IS DISBANDED.

Lois Koch (Secretary for life)



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

Our annual Christmas Pageant was a virtual event this year. Greg Flower, our music teacher, did a fine job of creating the video, which was pieced together from many video clips. You may view it on our Facebook page, or at the following link: <https://fb.watch/a9Xh5pFLil/> There is a lot of talent in our student population. They were all very excited to share the story of our Savior's birth.

The week before Christmas break was a fun-filled spirit week. On the final day, which was pajama day, the students and staff had a carol sing in the sanctuary. This was the highlight of the week!

Christmas Camp was offered for our Immanuel Lutheran School children during the nine days of the Christmas Break. Camp was coordinated and run by Caitlyn Pacito and was housed in the cafeteria, our new Extended Care space.

In the past month there have been several improvements to the school facility which help with the functionality and usage of our space. These improvements involve raising floors, altering a stairwell, converting the "blue room", moving Extended care, doubling the art room, and assigning parking spaces.

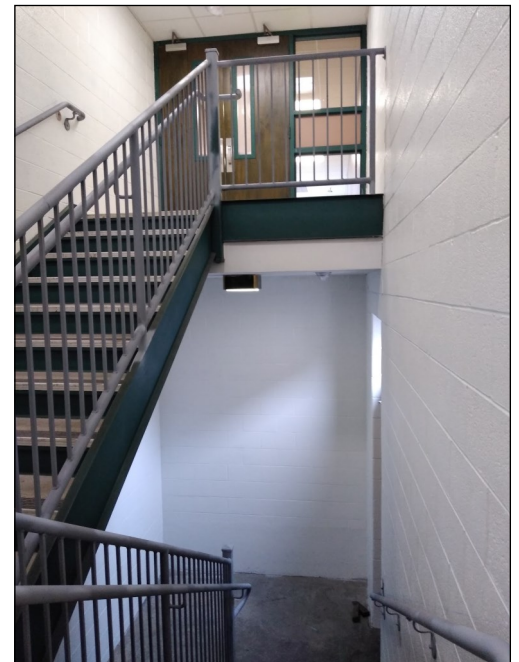
RAISING THE FLOOR

We have added new raised floor platforms in front of the sinks in both the girls' and boys' restrooms on the lower floor of the main building. Thanks to Rod Grekula for making the boxes. This will make hand-washing for our 3 to 5 year olds much safer.



STAIRWELL ALTERATION

The fire escape stairwell that runs down from "around the corner from the science lab" on the top floor, to "around the corner from the gym entrance door," outside facing between the buildings, is now a two-way entrance and exit. This change eliminates the bottleneck outside the Kindergarten door at lunch, class changes, and dismissal. It allows students in the upstairs classrooms to enter the stairwell from outside to go directly upstairs without passing through the lower hallways. The stairwell alterations included raising the banister to the current fire code and changing the hardware to make the stairwell accessible from outside. This change helps maintain separation of cohorts as the upstairs classes and the downstairs classes will not come in contact with each other throughout the school day. We are very thankful for the funding of this project. All of the 1st through 8th grade students benefit from this change. Thank you so very much to our generous donor! These alterations were very costly, but greatly improved the flow of the students moving from the top floor to lunch, specials, and dismissal.



MOVING EXTENDED CARE

Now that the blue room is a toddler room, Extended Care needed to relocate. Restrooms have been an issue with Extended Care, as there were never enough, and sharing with the potty-training toddlers is not a good option. Moving the Extended Care to the cafeteria (the old school basement) has been a nice solution. The

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 7)

big space makes staffing more efficient. Older students have tables available to get their homework done, and younger children have a space to play as well. Parents picking up can pull up to the door, and if the group is outside, they can see them. Best of all, there are girl and boy restrooms aplenty! As we now average 25 or more students every afternoon, this was a very positive move.

THIRD LITTLE LAMBS CLASSROOM

The third classroom for our Little Lambs toddler program is now open! We have four Little Lambs on our waitlist who can now start the program on January 3. Teacher Marybeth Plourd and teaching assistant Kelly Burrell will lead the new class. Both women are excited to be a part of Immanuel Lutheran School and work in a Christian environment and have already had meet and greets for their new students.

DOUBLING THE ART ROOM

The art room has been expanded and is now double in size! Some of our members may remember when the space on the top floor of the old school was one large room. We have taken the room back to its original configuration. The wall between the “boy scout room” and the adjoining room has been removed to reveal the original large space. The art room cabinets have been moved from the main school building as well. This new multi-use space will be a showplace focusing on visual arts and creativity. The school needs a large space for special programs, in-house field trips, specials classes, and older Extended Care groups. The room will serve as the Art Room and Maker Space as well. Thanks to Kevin Daly and friends for taking out the wall. Thanks also to John Hebert for his assistance in the demolition. A special open house for the new space will be announced in January when it is complete and ready for use.

ASSIGNING PARKING

You may notice signage on the fence of the parking lot. Staff and those renting spaces now have assigned spots. This change helps with drop off and pick up safety as parents with small children cross through the lot every morning and afternoon. The parents can now park in the middle of the lot, walk their children to the gym door on Meadow Street, in a safer manner.

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year will open January 15, 2022. We are looking forward to meeting new students in the upcoming year. We are very blessed as the Lord continues to send us these new families.

Blessings!

Anne Stuhlman



Left to Right: Teaching assistant Kelly Burrell and Teacher Marybeth Plourd.



From the Pastor's Desk

Epiphany: The Season

In the Old Testament, God chose one people, the children of Israel, to receive His covenant. The Gentiles (non-Israelites) could not enter the inner courts of the temple to worship God because they were outsiders. Yet from the very beginning God had said Abraham would be a blessing to all nations, not just to Israel: *“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* (Gen. 12:3)

This is the message of **Epiphany** (revealing). When the Magi, who were Gentiles, came to worship Jesus, they showed that now all people have access to God because Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh.

Like Christmas, the Epiphany of Our Lord (Jan. 6) and the Baptism of our Lord (Jan. 9) are **feast** days of Jesus. The color for these feast days is white, the color of divinity, purity, and joy. The Sundays after the Epiphany focus on the growth of Jesus’ ministry, and the color green is used to symbolize that growth.


On the first Sunday after the Epiphany, the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. John the Baptist was confused when Jesus came to be baptized. Jesus had no sin, so why had He come to be baptized by John with a Baptism that was *“for repentance”* (Matt. 3:11)? Jesus is baptized into our sins so that our Baptism might be into His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

The Gospel readings appointed for the Sundays after the Epiphany focus on Jesus’ miracles, especially His miracles of healing that proclaim that Jesus has come to make all things new. The Epiphany season reminds us to grow in the Word of the Lord just as Jesus grew *“in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”* (Luke 2:52)

JANUARY 2022 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 Madelynn Parenteau Tami Raspanti	5 Lynda Hintz Howard Schmelder	6 Edith Frechette	7 Edward Bodick Hannah McIntyre Todd Romaniello	8 Ethan Dubois
9 Judy Eichorn George Rindfleisch	10 Tallulah Madore	11 Jill Croce	12 Rhianna Schab	13 Jason Lindstrom	14 Mark Simonides	15 Edward Krampitz, Jr. Charles Radcliff Adam Swicklas Jacqueline Tessman
16 Jeanette Eschner Emily Palmisano	17 Vernon Koch Clifford McCorriston	18 Tracy Bielert Joseph Ravita Heather Tessman	19 Caleb Beaudoin Doug Fitz Sandra McIntyre Donna Ptak Doreen Reed Naomi Skinner	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 Milton Kissler
30 Gary Eschner	31 Amanda Dennis Beverly Werner					



Messenger 

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