

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

April 2024

Vol. 25 No. 4

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



SONrise Service 2024



Members of Immanuel, along with other LCMS churches and NED staff, attended the 3rd annual CT March for Life at the State Capitol in Hartford on March 20th. Our trip to the march was preceded by a breakfast and worship service at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Terryville. The service was led by Pastor Kotila and NED District President Beinke. We look forward to attending the march again next year, and hope more members will join us.

– Don Smuda



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 19th 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

“Atheists and Agnostics”

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.*
Proverbs 3:5

As we're still “basking” in the resurrection “glow” of our Savior Jesus Christ, allow me to make a comment. One of the things I know about unbelievers is this: an atheist says he knows there's no God, while an agnostic isn't quite so sure.

There are two other things which I've learned about agnostics and atheists:

1. None of them are saved.
2. There are more of them today than there used to be.

That last statement isn't based on any personal observation but comes from the Barna Group's study on the state of atheism in America. After consulting with more than 20,000 unchurched people, Barna found that 25 percent considered themselves to be agnostic or atheist.

Barna also found out some other interesting things. For example, they discovered young people were more frequent doubters than the elderly; Barna found out folks with college degrees were more likely to be skeptics of the faith, and one-third of the intellectual unbelievers had never attended a Christian church service.

Perhaps the most pertinent discovery Barna learned from our unsaved brothers and sisters was the two greatest reasons given as to why they don't believe. Those reasons are

1. rejection of the Bible, which they consider to be a regular book filled with interesting stories, and
2. lack of confidence in the church as an institution.

Take those two reasons, put them on the

stove, boil them down, and you'll find the heart and soul of the unbelievers' problem is they don't trust.

That's not too surprising, is it? People don't trust the president, Congress, or the Supreme Court. Many folks no longer trust the police, and they never trusted advertisers.

But it's sad when they don't trust the Lord or His Holy Word. It's even more sad that they usually do so without having given either a chance. They meet a grumpy Christian and they write off Christ; they hear about a pastor or priest who sinned, and they write off the church. They hear some scholar take a shot at the truth of God's Word and they disregard Holy Scripture.

It would be far better for them if they trusted the Lord and His Word over their own wisdom and understanding.

In God's Word they will find the exception to life's falsehoods. In God's Word they will be given God's truth, which cannot be changed. In the Holy Scriptures they will find how God has loved them and made it possible that – with faith in His crucified and risen Son – their sins will be forgiven, and they will always have something and *Someone* to hold on to.

Alleluia! Christ IS risen! He IS risen, indeed! Alleluia!

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, we give thanks the Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel. Now we ask that the doubters of the world may be given a foundation built on faith and trust in You and the Savior. In His 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



On April 4 we had a wonderful turnout for our Pizza Lunch. Special thanks to Julie Follo for filling in for Carol, and to Don Smuda for filling in for Pastor Karner, who was on vacation. We welcomed Pat Stebbins, founder of “Brian’s Angels Homeless Outreach”. This mission right nearby helps Bristol’s homeless and underserved, is run entirely by volunteers.



Pat Stebbins’ founder of “Brian’s Angels Homeless Outreach”



Immanuel’s **Young at Heart** group recently enjoyed an informative presentation by Pat Stebbins from Brian’s Angels Homeless Outreach. To assist with their mission of helping Bristol’s homeless individuals, we will be collecting items for the shelter during the month of April. The following nonperishable items may be dropped off in the Brian’s Angels box in the church lobby, or brought to the next Young at Heart meeting on May 2:

- ◆ Bottled water
- ◆ Powdered drink mixes
- ◆ Individual snack bags of potato chips or other snacks
- ◆ Fruit cups
- ◆ Pudding cups that do not need refrigeration
- ◆ Pop tarts
- ◆ Tuna pouches
- ◆ Peanut butter crackers
- ◆ Individual packets of cookies
- ◆ Clothing items for summer such as shorts, sneakers or sandals - men’s or women’s, all sizes, new or gently used
- ◆ Men’s boxer briefs (new)
- ◆ \$10 gift cards to MacDonald’s, Burger King or Subway.

Thank you for your generous donations to support those in town who are homeless and in need of a "hand up, not a handout".

Save The Date

Greer’s Chicken on May 2, will be with guest speaker Julia Weston of Thrivent. She will be presenting “**Legacy Living: Financial Planning for Later Life**” and will include information about getting your affairs in order and making your wishes known to your family.

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

To Pastor Karner on his ordination 35 years ago on A Palm Sunday. Well done thou good and faithful Servant and Shepard of our Immanuel Lutheran Church and School! Congratulations for your 35 years of dedication as a Servant of Christ!

Howard Schmelder, Congregation President



**Thursday, May 9, at
10:45 and 7 pm**



We welcome to our Immanuel Family **Victoria Lynn Violet**, through the Rite of Holy Baptism. Daughter of Robert and Kelly Violet.

From your **Parish Nurse**

CARDS – Every Monday at 1:00 pm. in the Parish Center. Open to all adults. Please join us for an afternoon of laughs.

WALK AND TALK – Every Tuesday, at 9:30 am. in the Parish Center. Open to all adults. Please join us.

LADIES LUNCHEON – Tuesday, April 9, at 12:30 at BARC. Bring a friend, men are welcomed.

Women’s Bible Study – Tuesday, April 16 and 30, at 12:00 in the Parish Center.

Blood Pressure if requested after 8 am service in the church office.

Roberta Kuhr,
Parish Nurse, home #860-621-0230



With you in His service,



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. The “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.

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.

It's Time!

2024 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 **Sunday, June 16, 2024.**

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

Questions? Contact one of the Directors; Bill Wentland, Andy Helming, Bob Wollenberg, and Diane Read.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Applications are available in the church office:

We are accepting applications for Immanuel Lutheran Church Scholarships.

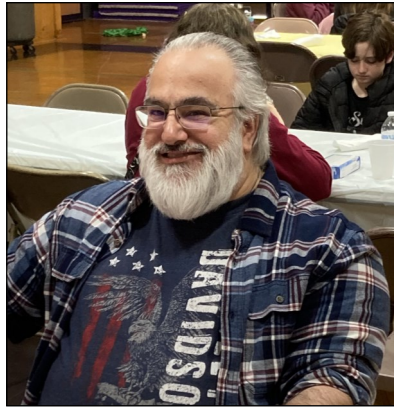
Scholarships are awarded to members of Immanuel Lutheran Church or graduates of Immanuel Lutheran School.

Applications are due on **Sunday, June 16, 2024** in the church office.

These scholarships will be awarded in August.



Photos from our Spring Potluck, on Sunday, March 3

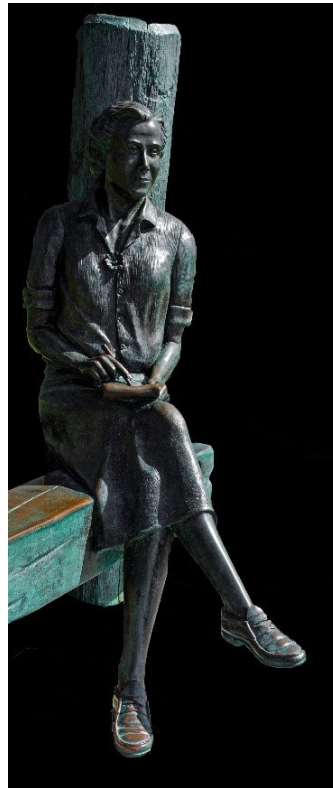
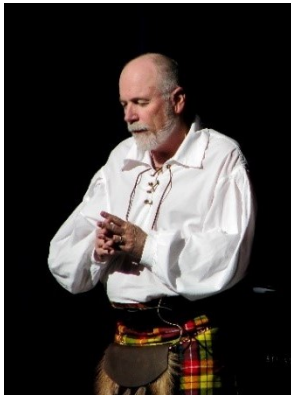


The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Tricks of the Trade: *Cut-Out Pictures*

A *Cut-Out picture* is a photograph or graphic where the *subject* has been isolated from its original background. This is done by removing the background from the image leaving only the photographer's intended subject. Then replacing it with a solid black background.

Image Cut-Out is not just a technical skill. It is an Art Form that helps the photographer dramatically communicate his intent *by putting the spotlight directly on his subject*.



Join us!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 7, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ School / Church News ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

March began with our students singing "The Lamb" at the first Sunday service of the month, and that was followed by a luncheon organized by our stewardship and evangelism committees. This was a nice time for our school and church families to fellowship together.

Nerf Night was a fun night out for boys and their moms, and our annual book fair was also a great success!

President Beinke came to visit us and led one of our chapel services, and Brenda Bacon accompanied him from our district office to provide our staff with a wonderful lunch. The district has also been very generous and gave us a monetary donation to help with our school expenses.

Classes have been planning field trips, and we are preparing for our end of the year concerts and programs. We are also giving tours to prospective families and enrolling students for the next school year.

May God continue to bless us and help us grow, according to His good and gracious will!

Yours in Christ,
Debbie Krueger

We Are Hiring!

Job Title: General Laborer

Job Description: We are looking for someone to help out during the school day from 6:30am-2:30pm. Applicants must be comfortable doing light maintenance, light cleaning and lifting, cooking and serving hot lunch, and other tasks as needed within a school setting.

If you are interested, please call the office at 860-583-5631 to speak with the principal, Debbie Krueger, or send an email to dkrueger@ilcs.org

Women of Immanuel

The next meeting of our Women of Immanuel group will be on Saturday, April 20 in the OSB (Original School Basement) at **our new time: 10:30 am.**

We welcome all women of Immanuel to join us.
Light refreshments will be provided.

Proverbs 31 Women's Bible Study

We are back at it! The next Proverbs 31 Women's Bible study will be **Thursday, April 18** at 7pm in the Parish Center! Bring your Bible and let's go deep with God.
— Brenda Buonafede

Cheshire Lutheran Church

660 West Main St.

Presents

**Acoustic Blend - Crossing Musical Boundaries
with
Mandolin & Guitar Duo Handler & Levesque**



Saturday, April 27, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 PM

No admission charge

Enjoy passionate music with an international flair for guitars and mandolin. Connecticut based husband and wife duo Judy Handler and Mark Levesque blend swing, Brazilian, Classical, Latin, 60's & 70's, jazz, gypsy, and folk music influences to create their unique, expressive arrangements.

*We welcome the community to come and enjoy this concert.
Light refreshments following the performance.*



SYMBOLS IN THE SANCTUARY

Cross and Keys

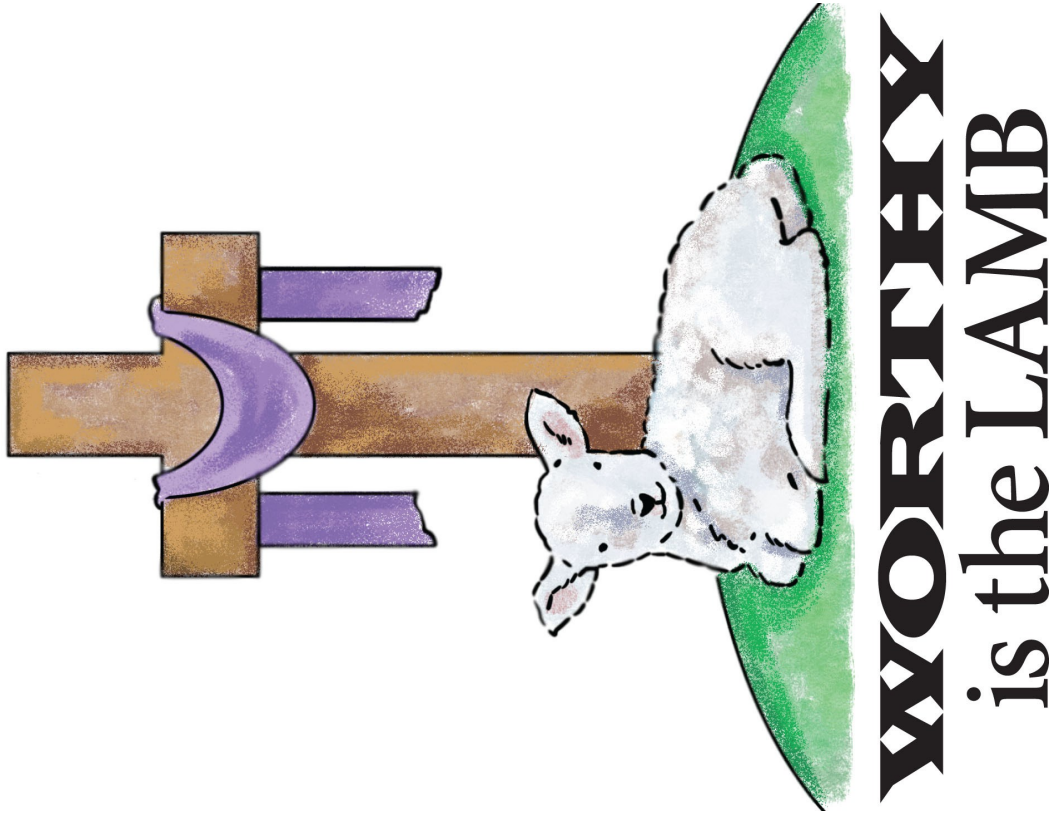
The crossed keys represent the keys that Jesus promised to St. Peter, empowering him to take binding actions in leading the institution of the Church




APRIL 2024 BIRTHDAYS

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





Messenger 

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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 BRISTOL, CT 06010
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