

Rev. Kevin A. Karner
Pastor

Rev. Robert Beinke
Assoc. Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

July/August 2025

Vol. 25 No. 7

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



Kindergarten Graduates



PK4 Graduates

Congratulations to ALL of our Immanuel Lutheran Graduates



8th Grade Graduates

Left to Right: Blake Gorneault, Robert Rulewicz III, Nicolas Haddon, Megan Carter, Nadia Persaud Campbell, and Jilleen Sugrue





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
August 25th for September.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June – July – August

SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICE

with Holy Communion
9:00 A.M.

— (Live Streaming) —
~ ~ ~

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE
10:15 A.M.

~ ~ ~

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
10:30 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

“It’s ‘See Ya Later, NOT Goodbye’”

So, it’s come to this; my final newsletter article as Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School! As I write this the retirement countdown clock says 36 days. I’ve come to know what people mean when they say that something is “bittersweet.” It’s bitter (sad) to think about leaving friends and co-workers that we’ve come to love and hold dear. But it’s “sweet” to think about new opportunities and new adventures (and no more snow!).

Fifteen years ago, in the spring of 2010, the Holy Spirit convinced me that I was needed in Connecticut, which meant leaving behind another group of family and friends that meant a great deal to us. And over the last 40 years, from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Fayetteville, Arkansas, from Worthington, Minnesota to Muncie, Indiana, from Bristol, Connecticut to Green Valley, Arizona I’ve come to know the pain of separation all too well.

BUT, I have always been comforted by the fact that for Christians separation is never permanent, only temporary. It’s a blessed fact that I have often referred to in many of my funeral sermons – that as we leave this church we don’t say “goodbye” to our deceased loved one; instead, with Gospel joy and hope based firmly on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we say, “see ya later”!

Moving to Arizona is certainly not the equivalent of death (even though the summer temperature might feel that way!), but the point is the same: we will see all of you again – if not in this life, then most assuredly in the life to come!

There is so much more that I could say – people to thank, memories to share, etc. But I will do some of that as we gather on Sunday, July 27th, for our farewell dinner.

If you can’t attend, then let me just say this: it has been a great privilege and joy to serve as your pastor, and I truly appreciate (more than you know) the love and support that has been shown to me and the Karner family over these many years. We have celebrated together, laughed together, cried together, and worked together – all in the Name of Jesus – as brothers and sisters in Christ. And I will treasure each of those moments for however long the good Lord grants me.

God bless Immanuel Lutheran Church and School!

Pastor Karner

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24



ILS celebrated the retirement of Pastor Karner

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 the MEMORIES.



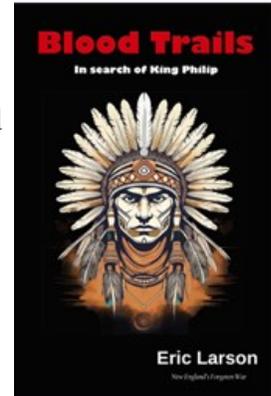
Young at Heart

Summertime greetings to all our “over age 50” members and friends.

We are planning a wonderful COOL SUMMER LUNCH for you on Thursday, August 7 at 11:30 in the Old School Basement. Like last year, it will be a COLD LUNCH and everyone should bring a COLD item for our buffet tables and donate \$2 at the door. We will only be eating what **YOU** bring at 11:30, so this will be an interesting and exciting lunch for us all. Suggestions are: Fruits, Sandwiches, Salads of all kinds, Jello, Vegetables, Tuna, Cheeses, Bread, and cool beverages (nothing hot).

Eric Larson will share his new book on the King Phillips War in New England.

In this audio-visual presentation writer and self-published author Eric Larson will guide you along King Philip’s trail of Blood with historical facts and entertaining stories. Learn how and where the battles and massacres all took place right here in New England. Discover the principle players and see first hand the effects this “forgotten war” had on our developing nation.



We would like you to also mark your calendar for Thursday, September 4 when we will gather at 11:30 am for an INTERNATIONAL LUNCH. Let's fill our buffet tables with interesting foods from around the world, perhaps from Italy, Spain, Mexico, China, Sweden, Germany, etc. We'll supply the beverages and expect everyone who comes to add a dish to our buffet tables. What a fun lunch this will be on September 4.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Women of Immanuel ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



A wonderful spring potluck was held on Saturday, June 14. Claudia Bishop, our president, opened with an inspiring devotion and everyone enjoyed good food and Christian fellowship.

Through the wonderful donations people make during our monthly coffee hour we were able to donate:

- \$200 to the **Steeple Fund**
- \$100 to **Vacation Bible School**
- \$100 to **Orphan Grain Train**
- \$100 to **Hope Pregnancy Center**

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Architectural Photography

Endless Forms, Lines, Patterns & Textures

Some photographers are drawn to architecture because of its inherent complexity, beauty, and the unique opportunities it offers for creative expression. Architecture provides endless forms, lines, patterns, and textures that can be captured in compelling ways. Photographers can explore the details, the scale, and the relationship between a building and its surroundings, creating images that create a sense of place and atmosphere. **Interior Architectural Photography** aims to convey the feeling and ambiance of a space, whether its a sense of wonder in a grand public area or coziness in a smaller private space.



Join us! *Our next meeting is, Tuesday, September 2, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.*

Little Garden Choices Make a Big Impact at ILS

The students at ILS created the beginnings of a small meadow on Meadow Street, measuring 8x10 ft. It may not look like much now, but the choices and work that went into establishing it make a big impact on the creatures it supports. It provides hands-on education for our students, enjoyment for the ILS family, and beauty for neighborhood residents who live and work nearby.

Meet the Meadow Plants:

All native plants were chosen for a small, sunny area with well-drained, drier soil.

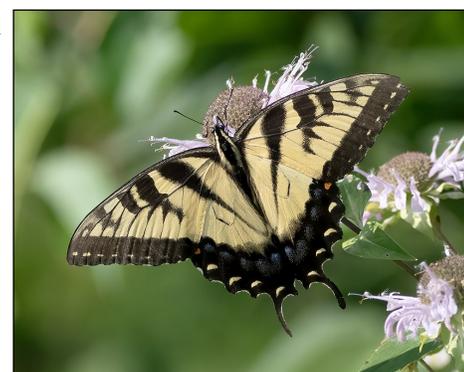
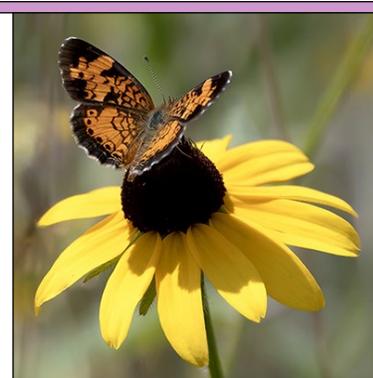
- **Big Bluestem** (*Andropogon gerardii*) grows 6 ft. tall and blooms from late August through October. It provides excellent habitat for many insects and wildlife, including the orange Delaware Skipper. Its seed head is recognized by its distinctive turkey foot shape.
- **Little Bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) grows 2–4 ft. tall and is a host plant for the black and yellow Peck's Skipper. Both bluestems turn brilliant shades of red, purple, and gold in the fall. They are clump-forming, wind-pollinated grasses that often hide green caterpillars among their blades.
- **Switchgrass** (*Panicum virgatum*) grows 3–6 ft. tall and offers both pollinator habitat and seeds for birds.
- **Smooth Blue Aster** (*Symphyotrichum laeve*) grows to 5 ft. tall, blooming from mid-August to September with daisy-like flowers. Bees can spot the nectar-filled yellow centers and avoid maroon-centered ones, where pollen has already been removed. Its also the top host plant for the Pearl Crescent butterfly, with a wingspan of about 1½ inches.
- **New England Aster** grows to 4 ft. and is an excellent late-season food source for both native and domestic honey bees.
- **Wreath (or Blue-Stemmed) Goldenrod** (*Solidago caesia*) grows 1½–3 ft. tall and prefers a little shade—unlike the taller, invasive Canadian goldenrod. Its heavy fall pollen isn't windblown, but instead sticks to the legs of visiting insects as they travel from flower to flower.
- **Golden Alexander** (*Zizia aptera*) matures at 12–18 inches, blooms yellow in early spring, and is the host plant for the large Black Swallowtail butterfly. It also supports beneficial wasps and bees that feed on other related plants in the carrot family like dill, fennel, and parsley.

Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*) grow 6–12 inches tall, with soft white flowers and leaves that feel like a cat's paw. The American Lady butterfly lays its eggs here, ensuring a food source for its hungry caterpillars.

Sources Used: Native Earth Seeds (VT), Rewild Native Plant Nursery (Canton, CT), and Earth Tones (Woodbury, CT). The beautifully written curriculum from www.fivehundredyardfieldtrip.com also provided a valuable teaching tool.

Special Thanks to the school kids whose meadow and annual gardens help make this Bristol street more beautiful, and for filling the church sign on West Street with summer color. Thanks to the CT Horticultural Society for providing the community grant that made this project possible.

Gardening News by Alice Helming
Photos by Michael Krampitz



~~~~~ School News ~~~~~

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

June was filled with many celebrations that included graduation ceremonies for Preschool, Kindergarten, and 8th Grade. We also celebrated the retirement of Pastor Karner and Sandy Butler, and wedding celebrations for Victoria Guerrero and Katie Stevens. Our students and staff are now out for the summer enjoying time with family and friends.

Our toddler and infant programs will continue throughout the summer, along with day camp for students in preschool to grade 3. Students will participate in fun theme-based activities each week, and they will continue to learn about the love of Jesus!

We are currently preparing for the 2025-2026 school year and enrollment is still underway. Please share our school information with family and friends who may be interested in attending ILS. We pray that God will continue to grow our school and bless our mission of leading students and families to a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Debbie Krueger



Victoria Guerrero



Sandy Butler



Katie Stevens

It's time to register for 2025 VBS!

Immanuel Lutheran Vacation Bible School

When: Jul 28–Aug 1
9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Where: 154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL | WWW.ILCS.ORG | 154 Meadow Street, Bristol, CT



Ages
Prek 4 - 6th grade

Register on line @
<https://www.myvbs.org/ImmanuelLutheranBristolCT>

and

Facebook event page here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1AEBn2aAkW/>



Orphan Grain Train Announces Shipment

Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, loaded a 40 foot container of needed items for Moldova on June 2.

The shipment was sent to a Mission organization in Moldova that OGT partners with and they receive the items and distribute them to those in need. Medical equipment on this shipment included 10 hospital beds with mattresses and side rails, 35 pairs of crutches, 50 canes, 80 walkers, 16 IV stands, 25 commodes and toilet risers, 8 rollators, 5 wheelchairs and 4 shower chairs. Also included were 162 boxes of blankets, linens and quilts, about 700 boxes of men, women and children clothing, 50 boxes of hygiene supplies and diapers, and 11 boxes of layette kits. 10 bicycles were also included. The container was sent to a port in Staten Island to be loaded onto a ship for transport.

Other shipments have gone to missions in a number of countries e.g. Liberia, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Nepal, the Philippines, Trinidad, Panama, Ghana, Venezuela and the Republic of Georgia, as well as Appalachia and hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, Florida and North Carolina. The Branch also helps those locally in New England, giving medical items that have been donated to individuals in need and thru the visiting nurse and hospice care organizations of the area. It has also helped with a shipment to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

The effort is an Outreach Ministry of the Lutheran Church, and OGT is a 501(3)(C) charity affiliated with the church and supported locally by Holy Trinity Lutheran in Terryville and Immanuel Lutheran in Bristol and is open to all who want to help others. For more information, please call Holy Trinity at 860-582-0723 and/or check out the OGT.org website.



Orphan Grain Train Announces Appalachian Shipment

Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, loaded a 53 foot Trailer of needed items for Appalachia on June 16, 2025, to help the people there deal with the poverty resulting from the closing of the coal mines and massive flooding.

The Appalachian shipment was sent to Manna from Heaven, a local Mission in Myra, Kentucky that provides food, clothing, medical items and other needed supplies to families in need. Included were over 7,000 pounds of food to help with their meal program to feed hungry families. Also on the shipment were 18 mattress pieces along with bed frames, appliances, and many pieces of furniture like dressers, tables, cribs, and chairs, and loveseats. Many boxes of household and medical supplies, wheelchairs, shower chairs, nebulizers and sewing machines, hand tools, books, toys and children items were also packed on the shipment. These types of items had been requested by the Mission to assist the families there.

JULY 2025 BIRTHDAYS

Sun

6
Donna Hiscock

13
Bill Fabrizio
Jennifer McIntyre
Eric Therrien

20
Kevin Daly
Debbie Krueger
Rhoda Lange

27
Kevin Karner
Nicholas Madigan

Mon

7
Dorothy Duessel
Janice Eschner
Elizabeth Helming
Cameron Perry

14
Elizabeth Fitz
Lynn Kisser
Beth Schroeder

21
Gregory Croze
Amelia Schuler

28
Susan Bodick
Rebecca Turley

Tue

1
Andrew Helming

8
Darrin Bodley
Matthew Croze
Erika Raspanti
Amelia Tessier

15
John Fitzherbert, Jr.

22
Marvin Heidom
Albert Houle, IV
Nathaniel Milano
Katie Tessman

29
Makenzie Jankowski

Wed

2
Leonard Maron

9
Wanda Hubbard
Dee Krampitz
Carol Maron
Wendy Palmisano

16
Tyler Beaudet
Brooke Wells

23
Megan Swicklas

30 Matthew Dennis
Jack Gohsler
Keith Hogan
Whitney Massaro
Joseph Reed
Mason Roy
Tyler Thormahlen
Doris Wegner

Thu

3
Alyssa Kirschner

10
Melanie Moliengo
Rocco Pesce

17
Chandler Boutin

24

31

Fri

4
Happy Fourth of July!

11
Greyson Fortier

18 Mary Aszklar
Todd Gorneault
Elizabeth Moliengo
Staci Morel-Poole
Shannon Richards
Rebecca Runk
Grace Stevens

25
Jennifer DeAngelo
Jacqueline Phillips

Sat

5
Sienna Tonn

12
Meghan Carder
Jessica Lundquist
Lisa Tamburini

19
Donald Smuda
Beckett Swicklas
Jared Tessman

26
Lorene Berrian
Adam Houle
Elizabeth Houle
Sarah Williams

AUGUST 2025 BIRTHDAYS

Sun

3

10
Aaron Desjardins
Sage Galindo
Caitlyn Pacitto
Clara Stevens

17

24 Michael Behrendt
Janet Desrosiers
Lauren Simard
31
Alexandra Dubois
Jon Sonstroem

Mon

4
Stephanie Bennett
Louise Winter

11
Carissa Darm
Deborah Swicklas

18
Madison Charles-Durham
Anthony Santilli

25
Wayne Kuharski
Daniel Tonn

Tue

5
Peter Tonn

12
Eric Larson
Norman Stone, Jr.

19
Ryan Hamelin
DeGregory
Molly Tower

26
Jamie Laforge
Marilyn Schmelder
Linda Wall

Wed

6
Alexis Fitzherbert
Ryan Hill
Jordan Kuharski
Alicia Michelson
Madison Turley

13
Kenneth Michelson

20
Brody Fabrizio
David Kisser

27

Thu

7
Seth Michelson
Eric Velasco
Robert Wells

14
James Fitzgerald
Maggie Theriault

21
Jackson Violet

28
Mikaela Bennett

Fri

1
Laurie Grekula
Holly Tonn

8
Amy Sonstroem

15
Abigail Deloge
Sierra Reed

22
Paula Bunce
Scott Eschner
John Fitzherbert
Gabriel Plaskett

29
Barbara Wallick

Sat

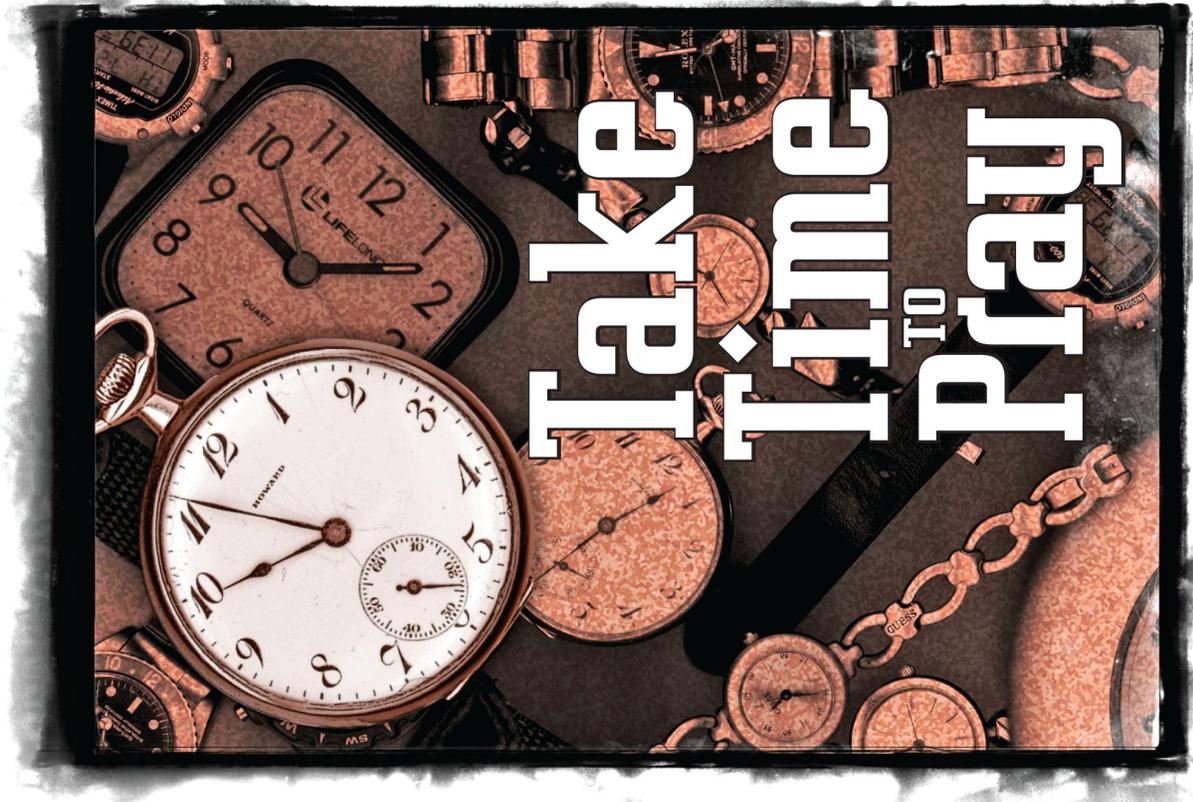
2
Rosemary Badenhop
Amy Richmond
Cindy Schuler

9
Mark Blank
Kimberly Debaise
Michael Killian
Rachel Shields

16
Armin Hauer
Joanne Kinosh
Joyce Marion
Breeann Sherman
Ryan Tessman

23
Craig Stange
Jonah Tonn

30
Danielle Pion



Messenger



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN HURCH
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