

Rev. Ben Akers
Pastor

Rev. Robert Beinke
Assoc. Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

March 2026

Vol. 26 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
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT 06010
860-583-5649
www.ilcs.org



2026 LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

THEME: "CHRISTIAN VIRTUE & DISCIPLINE"

Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2 Peter 1:5-8

Justice & Almsgiving

February 25th – 10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Fortitude & Prayer

March 4th – 10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Prudence

March 11th – 10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Faith, Hope, & Love

March 18th – 10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

The Annunciation of Our Lord

March 25th – 10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 29TH – PALM SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

APRIL 2ND – HOLY THURSDAY

10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

APRIL 3RD – GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Vespers

APRIL 4TH – HOLY SATURDAY

7:00 p.m. Vigil of Easter

APRIL 5TH – EASTER SUNDAY

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service on Chippens Hill

Hill Street (Water Dept. Property), Bristol

9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion



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 25th of the month.

**SUNDAY
DIVINE SERVICE**
9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion
— (Live Streaming) —
~ ~ ~

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY
YOUTH SUNDAY**

SCHOOL
10:30 a.m.



**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

Online Bible Study

Join Pastor Beinke for a weekly Bible study of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday! This online study takes place on Thursdays 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

The study is on Go-To-Meeting at the following link: <https://meet.goto.com/445850965>

From the Pastor's Desk

The Catholic and Apostolic Church

Last month, we began to consider the four adjectives used in the Nicene Creed to describe the Church: one, holy, Christian (catholic), and apostolic. We considered the first two adjectives, noting particularly that the “oneness” and the “holiness” of the Church is often not a reality we can observe with our senses. The Church is filled with divisions and sin. And yet, it is by Christ’s work, not our own, that the Church is made “one” and “holy.” That is to say, the Church is “one” and “holy” by virtue of faith, not by virtue of sight. Now we turn to consider the final two adjectives: “Christian (catholic)” and “apostolic.”

The third adjective used by the Nicene Creed to describe the Church of Christ is Christian (catholic). You may be wondering why I have included the word “catholic” in parenthesis after each use of the adjective “Christian.” Our Lutheran Service Book provides a helpful answer to this question inside the back cover (and, indeed, in every place in which the Creed is listed). It gives this note regarding the word “Christian”: *“The ancient text [of the Nicene Creed] reads: ‘catholic’, meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.”*

When our fathers in the faith at the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea first penned the words of the Nicene Creed, they used the word “catholic”, which means “pertaining to the whole.” When the Nicene Creed was translated into the German language (long before Luther or the Reformation), the word “catholic” was translated as “Christian” because German possessed no such word equivalent to the Greek word “catholic.” Since the name “Christian” encompasses all in the Church who believe in Christ, it was seen as a fitting substitute. Because our congregation is primarily of German descent (as is the LCMS), we have retained the German tradition of confessing the Nicene Creed with the word “Christian.”

But to speak the Creed with the word “Christian” rather than “catholic” is not to deny the catholicity of the Church—far from it! Our Lutheran fathers in the faith always insisted that they were not starting something

new. We believe the same as all orthodox Christians who came before us, as can be attested by the substantial number of citations from the church fathers in our Book of Concord. The faith of the Church does not belong to our time in history any more than it belongs to our place in the world. As our Proper Preface says, as a part of the Church catholic, we worship “*with all the company of heaven*”, especially those faithful saints who have gone before us.

The fourth and final adjective used by the Nicene Creed to describe the Church of Christ is the word apostolic. This is to say, the Church of Jesus Christ is founded upon the teaching of the apostles in the sacred Scriptures. Christ Himself is the Lord of the Church, but our faith rests upon the words which He has given to His apostles (and prophets), as recorded in the Holy Bible. Our faith in Christ starts and stops with the words of the apostles (New Testament) and of the prophets (Old Testament) which they affirmed. Christ is the Lord of the Church, but He has ordained to speak to His Church through the apostolic and prophetic Scriptures. Any congregation whose doctrine is not solely based on the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament cannot be said to be a part of the “one, holy, Christian (catholic), and apostolic Church.”

Or, to say it differently, it is the apostolic nature of the Church which assures her catholicity, sanctity (holiness), and unity (oneness), as Saint Paul attests: *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”* (Ephesians 2:19-22). Thanks be to God that He makes His Christian (catholic) Church One and Holy through the apostolic witness of sacred Scripture!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

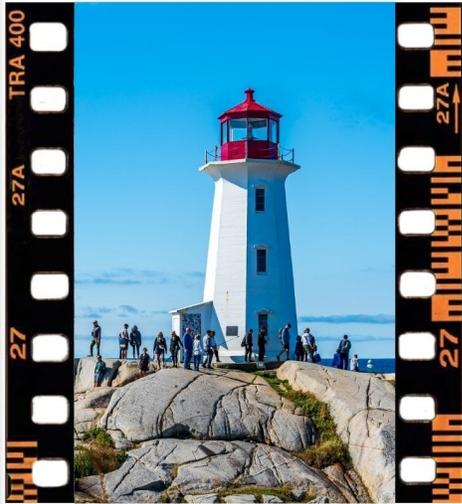
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **Church News** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Young at Heart

The Planning Committee met on February 13 and decided to continue our lunches as we have the past years. We encourage anyone over 50 to join us for these different lunches on the first Thursdays of the months in the OSB at 11:30 am. (We do not meet in July.) We always have an interesting program after lunch for \$5 or only \$2 if you add to our buffets. Our first lunch date is April 2 and this our annual Pizza Party when we will enjoy all kinds of Pizzas,



salad, desserts and beverages. Our program is "A Multi-Media Presentation" based on a recent cruise of the Saint Lawrence River, by our talented photographer, David Hintz. Come and invite a friend to enjoy this program on April 2. Mark your calendar for May 7 for our Chicken Lunch. The program will be "Get to Know Your Pastor" Pastor Akers will join us for a Q&A. Remember to greet one another in church at our Wed. Lenten services and Sundays!

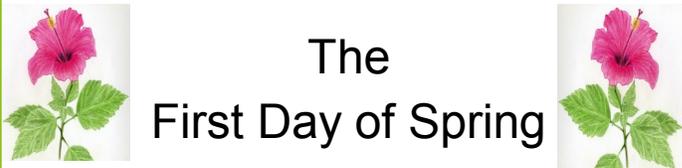


Canada Adventure
 (A Multi - Media Presentation)
 Based On A Recent Cruise Of The
 Saint Lawrence River
 From The Basilica Of Montreal
 To A Fishing Village Of Nova Scotia.
 To Be Shown At **"Young At Heart"**
 Presented By:
 David C. Hintz - Photographer

Daylight-Saving Time Begins



Daylight-Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8th
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour the night before!



The
First Day of Spring
 March 20

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

Women of Immanuel

We will be holding a planning meeting on **Saturday, April 11** at 10 am. in the OSB. We will be hosting the Spring Zone Rally here at Immanuel in May. Please plan on joining us for this important meeting, with light refreshments. All women of Immanuel are invited to join us.

— Claudia Bishop

Reminder about Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice dollars from 2025 must be directed by March 31.

If you need assistance, go to www.thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836.

Winter Outreach: Helping Our Neighbors in Need



As winter winds down and spring leads us into a new season, we remain committed to helping those who need extra support during the cold/cooler months. Our winter outreach will continue throughout March.

We are still collecting **\$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 gift cards** for places like Dunkin', McDonald's, Subway, KFC, Burger King, and other local establishments to help provide a warm meal or drink when shelters and soup kitchens are not open or short on meals. These gift cards will be distributed to Agape House and Brian's Angels to help fill the gap when needed.

If you prefer, you may also donate cash or checks (made payable to the church, memo: Winter Outreach). Please place gift cards, cash, or checks in the collection box in the lobby—look for the box with the red heart! Be sure to clearly mark the value on any gift cards. Thank you for continuing to share warmth and compassion as we move toward Easter.

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 15, 2026** in the church office.

Joint Board of Christian Stewardship & Board of Evangelism

The next meeting of the Joint Board of Christian Stewardship & Board of Evangelism will be held on **Tuesday, March 10 in the Parish Center.** All board members, please mark your calendars!



Connecticut MARCH for LIFE

March 18, 2026

PRE-RALLY CONCERT 10:30 AM
RALLY 11:30 AM | MARCH 12:30 PM
 CONNECTICUT STATE CAPITOL
 210 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106



The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Does it Really Make a Difference?

Hope you can see this in color!

Color Saturation controls the intensity and purity of colors in a photograph, making them appear more vivid and intense (high saturation) or muted and washed-out (low saturation). It acts on all colors simultaneously, increasing vibrancy for a lively feel or reducing them to create a calm, dramatic, or nostalgic mood. Does it really make a difference for you?

The home below was built by Miles Lewis Peck at 220 Summer Street in 1881. A Bristol Savings bank president for 71 years.

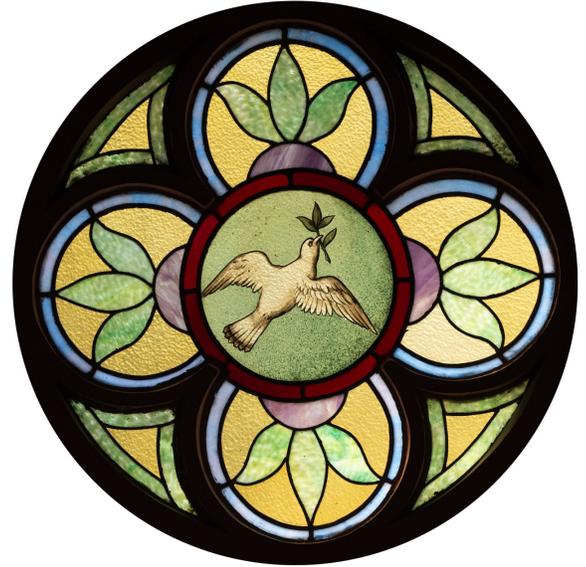


Join us! *We meet on the First Tuesday of every month except July and August at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.*

SYMBOLS IN THE SANCTUARY

Dove with an Olive Branch

The olive branch signifies the universal symbol of peace. The Biblical story of Noah and the flood tells of a dove returning to the Ark with a freshly picked olive leaf. The leaf reveals proof of the end of the flood, and for Christians, the parallel of baptism. The dove returns to Jesus at His Baptism.



The Pelican and her Young

Legend tells of the mother pelican tearing flesh from her own breast to feed her young, thus saving their lives. Jesus gave his flesh and blood as a sacrifice for us.

The Sword of the Spirit on the Word

symbolizes the power of God to defeat the forces of evil and also the remembrance of St. Paul being beheaded. The Book reminds us of the Scriptures in which God speaks to His people.



With you in His service,

THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN FOUNDATION Call for Grant and Scholarship Applications

The Immanuel Lutheran Foundation has been serving diverse needs of the Immanuel Lutheran Church since 1997. The *Demske* “General Fund investment earnings provide financial support through a *Grant Application Process* with awards given to those important “non-budgeted” things “for which we never seemed to have the money”.

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.

Investment earnings allocated to the *Westfall I and Westfall II Funds, Handbells, Kissler, Behrendt, Gudergast, and the ILF Endowment Fund* distributions to Immanuel are predefined in the terms of the bequest or gift. They include support for Trustees, the School, Evangelism, the Broadcast Ministry, and “Unrestricted” to Immanuel.



The distributions of Westfall I and II Endowment Funds contain provisions to award five scholarships each year. One scholarship is offered to an Immanuel member entering “Preaching and Teaching” ministries of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Four scholarships are offered 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!

2026 Grant Applications for the Demske General Fund are being accepted now. Application Forms are available in the Church Office and returned there when complete.

2026 Westfall Scholarship Applications are also available in the office and must be completed and returned to the Church Office no later than Sunday, June 15, 2026.

The Directors begin the Grant Review Process in March and continue throughout the year as funding remains available. Scholarship Applications are reviewed at the June 16th Foundation Directors meeting.

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

School News

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

February has been an eventful month, highlighted by our 100th Day of School celebration. To mark the milestone, students engaged in a variety of thematic projects centered on the number 100, while many embraced the spirit of the day by dressing as their 100-year-old selves. It was a delightful way to reflect on our academic progress and foster a sense of community across the school.

Our 5th-8th grade students participated in the STEP program (Student Tools for Emergency Planning) put on by the Bristol CERT team (Community Emergency Response Team). Our students learned valuable information on ways to be prepared in the event of a disaster (fires, hurricanes, floods, tornados, etc.)

Our entire staff, from infants to grade 8, also had a chance to come together for a professional development day. Pastor Akers began the day with an opening devotion, and then Christina Meline, our guest speaker, led a presentation on *“Starting with Strengths: Leading with a Strengths-Based Mindset”*. It was such a blessing for everyone to be able to come together, collaborate, and build stronger connections as a team.

We also had a visit this month by our dental hygienist who did presentations in PreK-grade 3 classrooms, teaching students about proper oral hygiene and how to care for their teeth.

As part of Lutheran Schools Week in March, we are planning a German Heritage Fair on Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 1:00-2:00pm in the gym. Students in grades 1-8 will share information about German culture and traditions, the life of Martin Luther, and our church history from 1:00-1:30 PM, and then their projects will be on display until 2:00. Light refreshments will also be served and we warmly invite all church members and school families to join us for this special event.

Our enrollment for next year has begun and if you know of anyone who may be interested in attending Immanuel Lutheran School, please encourage them to contact the office at 860-583-5631, or apply using the link on our website at ilcs.org. We are excited to continue the mission of Immanuel Lutheran School and share Christ-centered education with our community.

In Christ,
Deborah Krueger



Easter Flowers

| Quantity | | | Totals |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------|
| # _____ | 6" Lily | @ \$14.00 | |
| Make checks out to: | Immanuel Altar Guild | Total Amount | \$ |



In Memory of: _____

Given by (*print name*) _____

I will pick up after the service. I will help deliver this flower to a shut-in.

If you would like to order an Easter Lily for the altar for Easter, please fill out the order form and attach cash or check (made out to Altar Guild) and leave it in the Altar Guild mailbox in the office. **Last day to order is Sunday, March 29.**

Altar Guild Flower Fund

I prefer not to order a lily but would like to contribute to the Altar Guild flower fund. This fund will guarantee that flowers are provided for the altar on Sundays when no one has specially ordered arrangements.

Name _____ Donations \$ _____

MARCH 2026 BIRTHDAYS

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 David Hintz William Jabs Sue Simons | 2 Michele Dubois Andrew Massaro Julie Stringer Jonathan Wegner | 3 Zachary Schab | 4 | 5 Elaine Larson | 6 Justin Behrendt Nate DeAngelo Aaron Gorneault Marilyn Stone | 7 |
| 8 Angelina Croce Tammy Croze Sheilah Newcity | 9 Amanda Doncet Justin Kirschner Chris Schab | 10 Linda Beck Myles Matthews William Niemand-Evans | 11 Samantha Buden Diane Ruffino | 12 Nathan Bentivengo Rob Redman, Jr. | 13 | 14 Christina Curry Jackson Mitchell Kevin Reich |
| 15 Donna Bell Sienna Galindo | 16 Nathan Desjardins | 17 Jordan Boucher Scott DeAngelo | 18 David Werner | 19 Alexandria Segal Michele Tavernier | 20 Deborah Martin Dominick Ruffino | 21 John Helming Michael Krampitz |
| 22 Stephen Helming | 23 Andreia DeAngelo Gregory Newcity | 24 Craig Lejeune | 25 Zachary Bodick | 26 | 27 Katie Boucher Philip Wells | 28 Emilee Mowatt |
| 29 | 30 Ryan Bodley Hannah Mora Terri Pesce | 31 | | | | |



*God proves his
love for us in
that while we
still were sinners
Christ died for us.*

ROMANS 5:8, NRSV

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