

Rev. Ben Akers
Pastor

Rev. Robert Beinke
Assoc. Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

April 2026

Vol. 26 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



“Members of our Lutherans for Life chapter and other Life-minded groups attended the CT March for Life rally at the Capitol in Hartford on March 18: we were led by Pastor Matthew Hardaway (in the black hat) from Christ Lutheran in Hebron, CT. He also led a pre-March worship service at Bethany Lutheran church in West Hartford.”

– Don Smuda



On Saint Patrick's day the middle school students of Immanuel brought food to Bristol Police and Fire Departments to say thank you for all you do.

(See ILS on Pages 6-8)



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.

~ ~ ~

WEDNESDAY DIVINE SERVICE

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion



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

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at the beginning of this month, I want to consider the question: How can we have confidence that Christ, indeed, is risen from the dead? Scripture offers a number of important answers to this question. Here are a few.

Let us begin by considering these words from 1 Corinthians 15, St. Paul's great Resurrection chapter.

I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time (1 Cor. 15:3-8).

Note the important detail—the number of witnesses of Christ's resurrection. The risen Lord appeared to Peter (Cephas is the Greek translation of the Aramaic "Peter"—both words mean "[small] rock"). He then appeared to the twelve. Then, before appearing to the other apostles, including St. Paul, we're told that our Lord appeared to over five hundred brothers at once. We know from the Gospels that when our Lord was put on trial, the false witnesses could not agree in their testimonies. That's because it's extremely difficult to coordinate a lie with a lot of people. But the truth needs no coordination. The five hundred-plus witnesses saw what they saw. The fact that their testimonies agree is proof of this.

Next, I would like to take you to Mark 16, the Gospel for Easter Sunday. We read:

Entering the tomb, [the women] saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not

here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." (Mark 16:5-7).

Note the details—the young man's robe was not only white, but it was long. Not only was he sitting, but he was on the right side. He explicitly mentions Peter by name. When a person tells a lie, they usually refrain from giving many detail—it's hard to remember who you told what. But when a person is telling the truth—something they witnessed—these kinds of details are natural to remember.

Finally, consider our Lord's appearance to the disciples in the upper room in Luke 24. First, we are told that Christ invites the disciples to touch Him: "Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (v. 39). Then, He asks for food and eats it in front of the disciples (vv. 41-42). These details, witnessed by many people, allowed the witnesses to see for sure that this man was the same Christ who was crucified and that He was, indeed, alive in the body.

Ultimately, our faith in Christ will not be a matter of sight until the Last Day. Until then, we can have confidence in the Scriptural witness of our Lord's resurrection because of the number and quality of the witnesses. And blessed are we who have not (yet) seen the resurrected Christ, and yet have believed:

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (John 20:29-31).

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers



By the time you receive the April Messenger our first Young at Heart lunch will have passed on April 2.

You can now look forward to our May 7 luncheon with Pastor Akers, "Get to Know Your Pastor". Everyone can submit a question or two, written on an index card which will be provided. This will be a great way to "Get to Know Your Pastor".

This is also our annual CHICKEN LUNCH. All age 50+ members and guests are welcome to join us at 11:30 in the OSB!

It's a \$5 donation or only \$2, if you bring food to share; call Lynda at 860-585-7004 with questions.

Save The Date
Thursday May 7
Annual Chicken Lunch
 OSB at 11:30
 with Pastor Akers
 "Get to Know Your Pastor"

Calendar

- 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.
- LUNCHEON** – Tuesday, April 14, at 12:30 at BARC. Bring a friend, all are welcomed.
- Women's Bible Study** – Watch the Sunday Bulletin for day and time.
- Proverbs 31 Women's Bible Study** – Watch the Sunday Bulletin for day and time.
- Sewing Group** – Every Thursday, at 1:00 pm. in the Parish Center.



CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN

†
Jeanette Eschner
 January 16, 1933 — March 21, 2026



Women of Immanuel

Month of April
 Can and Bottle Return

Youth Group can and bottle drive continues. Please leave your donations in the New School Kitchen.

The next meeting of our Women of Immanuel group will be on Saturday, April 11 in the OSB at 11:00. 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

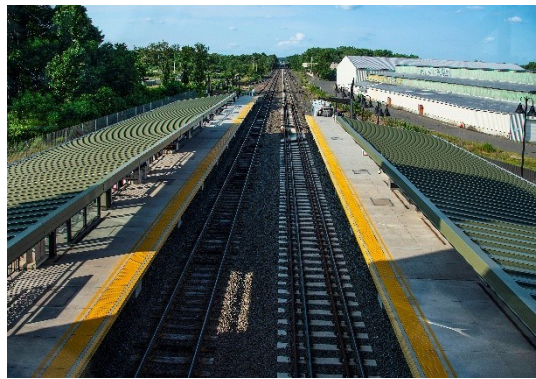
The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Inspiration ... Then What?

Put Yourself in Someone Else's Tripod Holes

Inspiration: As a photographer, when you're drawn to a photograph for whatever the reason, you owe it to yourself to take the time to understand what it is that resonates with you. Get into the photographer's head. What did he do that was just right? Is it the subject matter? Composition? Did it spark a memory? Perhaps a single, specific element such as lighting, the color palette, a mood, or its creative approach and technique.

Technique: It can be helpful to consider the relationship between inspiration and technique. If we think about inspiration as mainly something that happens in your mind, it is technique that turns your ideas into action and, ultimately, a creative output. Understanding your camera and postprocessing software you may be using will help make possible the results you envision for your photographs.



Join us! Tuesday,
April 7, at 7:00pm in the
Parish Center.



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, Kisser, Behrendt, Gudegast, 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.



To the Altar Guild members, I'd like to thank the Altar Guild members for their caring and dedication to our Lord and Savior.

We would like to invite others from the congregation to join the Altar Guild. Our April meeting will be on the 19 following the service. Hopefully this is a convenient time for everyone.

— Dee Krampitz and Beth Schroeder

Altar Guild Meeting
Sunday, April 19
 following the Service

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.

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

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

During the month of March, we held another professional development day for our staff, serving students from infants through grade 8. Our team engaged in meaningful training focused on curriculum mapping, literacy, supporting the social and emotional needs of students, and CPR certification. It was truly a blessing for our staff to come together as a community, growing in both knowledge and purpose, as we continue to develop the skills needed to provide a high-quality, Christ-centered education at Immanuel Lutheran School.

We also enjoyed a week full of fun and fellowship during Lutheran Schools Week! Students and staff celebrated with themed days such as Sports Day, Career Day, and School Spirit Day, while families joined in activities like Dads and Dodgeball and Making with Moms.

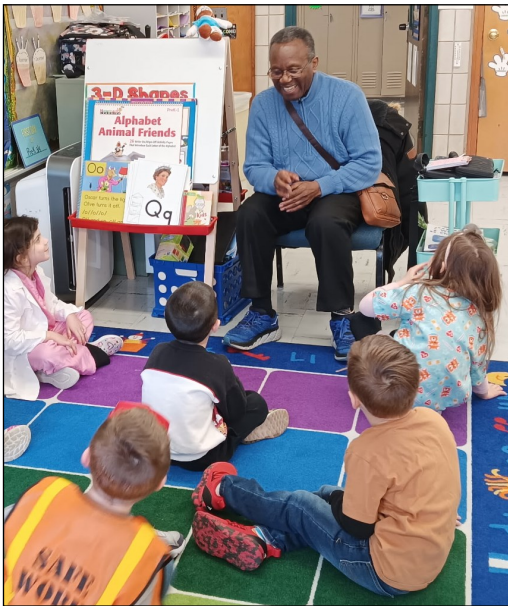
Students in grades 1–8 shared their learning at our German Heritage Fair, exploring German culture and traditions, the life of Martin Luther, and our church history. During Career Day, family members visited classrooms to talk about their professions, and students also learned about the many careers and church-work opportunities within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Our middle school students also participated in a special service project, preparing sandwiches and snacks to show appreciation for our local police officers and firefighters. We took a walking field trip to deliver the food, and both facilities graciously gave us a tour. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to serve others and show gratitude for those who work tirelessly to care for our community.

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

Lutheran Schools Week

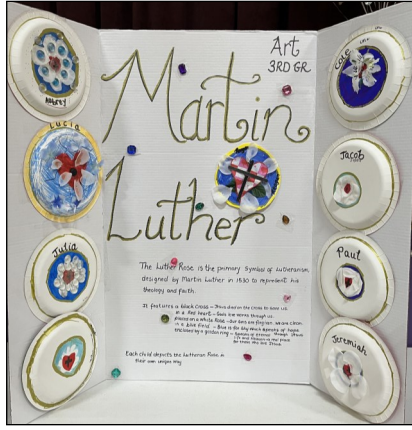




GRADE 1 GERMAN FOOD



GRADE 2 GERMAN CLOTHING AND DANCES



GRADE 3 THE LUTHERAN ROSE



GRADE 5 MARTIN LUTHER THE MAN



MIDDLE SCHOOL OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL HISTORY





Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train’s (OGT) New England Branch , a charity located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct., loaded a 40 foot container of needed items for Ghana, Africa on

March 3 . OGT has the use of a warehouse in Terryville that is owned by Mr. Bill Allread, who has made space available for this charitable work.

The shipment was sent to a Mission organization supplying Clinics, Rural Hospitals, Schools and Community Outreach programs in Ghana that OGT partners with and they receive the items and distribute them to those in need. Items on this shipment included 25 Hospital Beds with mattresses and side rails, 50 canes, 40 commodes, 50 pair of crutches, 95 Walkers, 23 shower chairs, 5 manual and 2 electric wheelchairs, 10 IV stands, 81 boxes or pieces of medical supplies, and 25 other pieces of medical equipment. Also included were 150 boxes of men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, 41 boxes of blankets and linens, 80 boxes of Hygiene diapers, 77 boxes of hygiene supplies and Kits, 19 boxes of Layette Kits and 23 boxes of School Kits and supplies. Additionally 10 boxes of Bibles and 13 Boxes of Christian resources were included. All these items were requested by the Organization. The container will go to a Port and be loaded on a ship for transport



After the Ghana shipment, we were able to make a donation of 13 bicycles to the Bristol Boys and Girls club. Three were brand new donated by one of our prior volunteers and the other used bikes were refurbished by our fix it crew! Thanks guys. There will be smiles on some children's faces! Blessings.

APRIL 2026 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 Gabriella Buonafede	10 Matthew Akers 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
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 Leary Joanne Tanasi	29 Gladys Lagace	30 Ryan Hislop		



*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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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 382

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