

Rev. Ben Akers
Pastor

Rev. Robert Beinke
Assoc. Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

May 2026

Vol. 26 No. 5

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

154 Meadow Street, Bristol, CT 06010 Church: 860-583-5649 School: 860-583-5631 www.ilcs.org

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is with mixed emotions that I share this final message as President of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School. It has been a true honor and blessing to serve the Lord and this congregation over the years. Together, we have walked through seasons of joy and times of challenge, and through it all, our faith has grown stronger.

I step down from this role with deep gratitude, proud of where we have been and even more encouraged by where we are today. By God's grace, we continue to grow as we share the Gospel of our Savior.

We are especially blessed that God has called Pastor Akers to serve as our shepherd. I am confident that Immanuel's leadership is strong, faithful, and well-prepared as we move forward in faith.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

In His service,
Howard



with Holy Communion
Thursday, May 14 at
10:45 am and 7 pm

Women of Immanuel

We will be hosting the LWML Spring Zone Rally here at Immanuel on May 16 in the OSB. **"Hands of Grace"** Please plan on joining us for this important event. We ask everyone who is planning on attending to please register by contacting Jan Krampitz at 860-283-4806. This event will be catered. **"Hands of Grace"** is for Immanuel Lutheran school, and we are asking for cleaning supplies for the teachers to help to keep their classrooms clean during the day. Examples, paper towels, wipes, tissues, and gift cards. All women of Immanuel are invited to join us. Check the Sunday bulletin for start time.



– Claudia Bishop



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) —
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**ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
YOUTH SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**

10:30 a.m.

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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

From the Pastor's Desk

People of Prayer

Prayer is a central part of the Christian life. This should be especially true for Lutherans, though our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod churches don't typically have reputations of being churches of prayer. This is unfortunate because we should know better. Luther's Small Catechism emphasizes the importance of prayer over and over again. In fact, if we trace the theme of prayer through Luther's Small Catechism, we see exactly what the Christian life of prayer ought to look like.

The Ten Commandments begin with the First Table of the Law, which is, at its core, a call to faith. The First Commandment instructs us to worship the one, true God alone. The Second and Third Commandments instruct us how we are to do this – by using His name rightly and by honoring preaching and His Word. Luther points out in his explanation to the Second Commandment that using God's name rightly means to “pray, praise, and give thanks.” The Second Commandment, then, establishes the expectation for Christians to pray.

After the Ten Commandments and the Creed, Luther devotes a significant amount of space to the Lord's Prayer. In fact, Luther's explanation of the Lord's Prayer is the longest section of all the so-called “Six Chief Parts”, filling a full four pages in the 2017 edition of the Catechism. The seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer, along with Luther's explanation of them, not only instructs us how to pray, but it teaches us for what to pray. We should pray for the work of God to be accomplished on earth (petitions 1-3), for our own bodily needs (petition 4), and for deliverance from sin and evil (petitions 5-7). We should not lose sight, however, of Luther's teaching on the introduction and conclusion of the Lord's Prayer. On the introduction, Luther explains:

What does [Our Father who art in heaven] mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

Not only do Christians pray because God commands it in the Second Commandment. We pray because God is our Father. He wants nothing more than for us to ask Him for what we need and want, for He loves us as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier (cf. the Creed). On the conclusion of the prayer, Luther writes:

What does [Amen] mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

This is the other reason why Christians pray – because God hears us. It's easy to lose sight of the power of prayer and to believe that there's no point to it. We might be tempted to think that God will do what He wants regardless of what I say or ask. But the Scriptures teach repeatedly that God wants to hear the requests of His people. He even acts because of our prayers (cf. James 5:16).

The final significant place where Luther discusses prayer in the Small Catechism is the oft-ignored “Daily Prayers” section. In this important section of the Catechism, Luther teaches us to develop a habit of prayer. While the gospel of God's love for us in Christ should motivate us to pray to our heavenly Father, the fact of the matter is our sinful nature remains. Even on the best of days, we can get caught up with life and forget to pray. This is why Luther instructs us to develop a habit and routine of prayer: 1) First thing in the morning, 2) Last thing at night, and 3) At mealtime. Waking, sleeping, and eating are events we participate in nearly every day. By grounding our routine of prayer in these events, we will greatly reduce the chance of forgetting to pray. If you are not already in the habit of doing so, I would encourage you to take Luther's advice and develop this routine of prayer.

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

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

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, May 12, at 12:30 at BARC. Bring a friend, all are welcomed.

Women’s Bible Study – on Tuesday May 5 and 19 at 12:00 pm. All are welcomed. Bring a lunch, coffee provided. Please join us.

Proverbs 31 Women’s Bible Study – Watch the Sunday Bulletin for day and time.

Quilters Sewing Group – Every Thursday, at 1:00 pm. in the Parish Center.



Holy Baptism

We welcome to our Immanuel Family
Cooper Therrien through the Rite of Holy Baptism.
 Son of Eric and Meaghan Therrian.



Immanuel Welcomes our newest members thru
 The Rite of Adult Confirmation
Jacob Newton and Taylor Cavalier

Young at Heart

May Chicken Lunch

On **Thursday, May 7** is our 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.

June Picnic Lunch

Next month, on June 4 we will be having a picnic lunch menu with Deutschmacher hot dogs. All age 50+ members and guests are welcome to join us at 11:30 in the OSB.

"Come join us for a session on the Mediterranean Diet & Heart Healthy Eating! Isabella Pratt, Registered Dietitian at Bristol Health, will go over the key features of the Mediterranean diet- Healthy Fats, High Fiber, and Daily Movement for Longevity. We will also discuss tips for Heart Healthy Eating including what to look for at the grocery store and on a nutrition label, as well as cooking tips for one person and easy simple recipes. Handouts & recipes will be provided!"



THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN QUILTERS

A little less than a year ago someone floated the idea of rekindling the sewing group at Immanuel.

With donated fabric and notions from Brian Winter that he had inherited from his sister Gail Roberts, a new group of ladies started making quilts to be donated to charity organizations.

The Immanuel Lutheran Quilters meet every Thursday afternoon in the Parish Center to create warm, comforting quilts for donation. Each individual brings something fun and unique to every quilt made.

Recently quilts were donated to “The Hole in the Wall Camp” in Ashford, CT., “The Bristol Cancer Center”, and to a local neonatal unit.

Quilters of all abilities are welcome to joins us for fun, fabric and fellowship. Bring your creative abilities and stitch with us on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the Parish Center.



THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN QUILTERS

Back Row: RoseMarie Pavlik, Andrea Jabs, Elaine Larson, Pat Wollenberg

Front Row: Mary Sylvia, Jackie Tessman, Sue Wentland

Not in the Photo: Alice Helming, Claudia Bishop, Lois Koch, and Gladys Lagace



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

WEDNESDAY DIVINE SERVICES

Weekly Divine Services with Holy Communion are held on Wed. at 10:45 a.m. The service lasts about 45 minutes and has a different set of Scripture readings and sermon from Sunday, making the service either a great supplement or alternative to the Sunday service. We hope to see you there!

NOTE: There will be no Wednesday service on May 6 because Pastor Akers will be out of town at a pastors' conference.



ASCENSION DAY

We will observe the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday, May 14 with Divine Services at 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: There will be no Wednesday service on May 13th.



Orphan Grain Train Announces Shipments

Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct.

We had a successful shipment Thursday, April 16 to the Manna from Heaven mission in Appalachia's Kentucky area. We loaded about 32,000 pounds consisting of 24 full pallets of items like household, bedding, toys, furniture, rugs, stuffed animals, medical equipment (wheel chairs, walkers, commodes, canes, etc.), 2 washers and 2 dryers, 8 sewing machines, 2 craftmatic beds and a futon. The load included an estimated 6,000 pounds of food and over 1500 Harvest Pack Meals. The truck arrived at Manna on Friday and was offloaded. They thanked everyone involved in supplying items that they can use to help the disadvantaged there.

On Monday, April 20, Gene and Sebastian delivered a shipment in our box truck to the Rhode Island warehouse used for the Gbarnga mission to be loaded on their container for shipment to Liberia. The shipment included 55 boxes of harvest pack meals, enough to make almost 12,000 meals, 2 more Treadle sewing machines and 9 foldable school desks. The school, started 11 years ago, now has 230 students in 8 grades and keeps expanding supplying a Christian education to the children in the area.

Thanks to the Lord for the provision of the items we can send.

– Paul Arbesman

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.



The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

The Vignette

Not to be confused with the Minuet

A vignette in photography is the reduction or increase of an image's brightness or saturation at the edges and corners creating a darkened or lightened framed effect. It is used to focus viewer attention on the subject, add artistic feel, or create a moody or vintage look. Vignetting is a technique that dates back to the early days of photography.

Initially, it was not a deliberate artistic decision. Early lenses could not evenly distribute light across the entire image frame, resulting in lighter corners in the black & white images.

This effect can be subtle or very pronounced, depending on its application. The result? A pleasing, focus-driven frame that drives the viewer's eye towards the center of the image. This characteristic has made vignetting a popular technique.



Join us! Our next meeting is, Tuesday, May 7th, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.
We meet on the First Tuesday of every month except July and August.

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".

Investment earnings allocated to the *Westfall I and Westfall II Funds, Handbells, Kisses, Behrendt, Guddegast, 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.

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.

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 14, 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.

Questions? Pick up a Foundation Brochure in the Church/School Lobby or contact one of the Directors; Bill Wentland, Andy Helming, Bob Wollenberg, Diane Read, Warren Kirschner.

**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 14, 2026** in the church office.

These scholarships
will be awarded in August.



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

We are in the final stretch of the school year, and students are working hard to finish strong. We thank God for their growth and pray He continues to guide them in using their gifts.

The ILS track and field team had a meet on April 11th in Danbury. We are so proud of our athletes and all that they have accomplished! The team is made up of Ryan Phelan, Sophia Phelan, Paul Tessier, Abigail Eckert, Jacob Kreibel, Jeremiah Rojas, and Ben Scarpati. We also extend our sincere thanks to Coach Jon Tessier for dedicating his time and effort to preparing the team for competition. Here are some of the highlights from the meet!

Boys 1-3 grade 4x50 meter relay: second place Jacob Kriebel, Jeremiah Rojas, Paul Tessier, Benjamin Scarpati

Boys 1-3 grade 400- meter dash: third place (tie) Paul Tessier

Boys 1-3 grade 50-meter dash: third place, Jeremiah Rojas

Boys 1-3 grade 200-meter dash: third place (tie), Paul Tessier

Boys 1-3 grade long jump: third place, Paul Tessier

Boys 1-3 grade javelin throw: first place Jeremiah Rojas

The PTO held a “Spring Fling” on Saturday, April 25th. It was a fun-filled evening where students and their families gathered to dance and spend time together. Events like this provide a meaningful opportunity to strengthen connections within our school community.

The Drama Club has been working hard in preparation for their performance of *Schoolhouse Rock*, set for May 29th and 30th. Tickets are \$5, and all are welcome to attend! You are also invited to our tag sale on May 2nd—proceeds will support our after-school arts programs.

Over the past two months, our chapel offerings were collected to support individuals preparing for or currently serving in ministry. These faithful men and women are answering God’s call to share the Gospel as pastors, teachers, missionaries, and other church workers. We are grateful to have contributed \$200 to this mission, helping ensure that the message of Christ continues to be shared with future generations.

Below is the list of grade 5–8 students who have earned Honor Roll recognition for Term 2. We are so proud of their hard work, dedication to learning, and commitment to doing their best.

HIGH HONORS (90% or higher in each subject area)

GRADE 5 - **Beau Bergeron, Olivia Miller**

GRADE 6 - **Carrie Carter**

HONORS (80% or higher in each subject area)

GRADE 6 - **Elizabeth Akers**

GRADE 7 - **Matthew Akers, David Werner**

GRADE 8 - **Noah Edwards**

Enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open. 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 through the link on our website at ilcs.org.

We are thankful for the opportunity to continue the mission of Immanuel Lutheran School and to share Christ-centered education with our community.

In Christ,
Deborah Krueger



(Continued on next page)

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“Spring Fling”

Saturday, April 25th

MAY 2026 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Victoria Holcomb Kaitlyn Thormahlen	2
3 Gregory Blaschke, Jr. Henry Darm Hedwig Maretzki	4 Sue Lutz	5 Aaron Boutin David Thormahlen	6 Kenadee Boney	7	8 Peg Higgins	9 Morgan Boucher Thomas Huntley
10 Rudy Finger John Mora Matthew Raspanti Cassandra Scarpati	11 Robert Boutin Morgan Moliengo	12 James Christopher, III Kimberly Martin Ellen Rizzo	13 Elaine Blank Meadow Wells	14 Amelie Hutton	15 Kelly Lejeune Victoria Violet	16 Jackson Esteves Casey McIntyre Nate Poole
17 Carol Young	18	19 Adam Beaudet Madison Bloom Roberta Kuhr	20 Kevin Badenhop Nancy Mitchell	21 John Bohn Seth Foley	22 Nate Kisser Matthew Tonn	23 Michael DeAngelo Annabelle Kirschner
24 Tyler Bodley Eva Zebrowski	25 Mark Brasche Sophia Reid	26 Savannah Duval	27 Bryan Pavlik	28	29 Christy Hislop	30 Isla Kirschner
31 Oscar Jobs						



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