

Rev. Ben Akers
Pastor

Rev. Robert Beinke
Assoc. Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

June 2026

Vol. 26 No. 6

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.

The Value of a Lutheran School Education Immanuel Lutheran School has been in operation for over 100 years. This is not by accident. The Lord continues to bless our ministry by coming up with creative ways to keep the School funded. First and foremost, this is one of the primary missions of Immanuel Lutheran Church. When our ancestors settled in Bristol many years ago, they wanted their children to grow up with the customs and values that they brought with them from Europe. This included speaking the German language and practicing our Lutheran religion. Though things have changed over the last several decades, there is one thing that remains...God. God is ever-present in our School and permeates everything that we teach. Our Teachers and Administrators come to School every day spreading the good word and teaching and loving our children. Over the next several years our focus is to bring the Church-School connection back. We want to see our School families active in our Church, and we want to see our Church families sending their children to our School. If you are a member of our Church and have children or grandchildren that are school age, look into our School and all that we offer. The blessings that they receive from a God centered education will be present with them all of their lives.

Jason Krueger
Congregation President

To our readers:

With summertime typically being a slow time news wise, the next issue of the **Messenger** will be a combined **July/August issue**. Please keep this in mind when submitting items for publication.

– Ed & Dee Krampitz, Editors

Messenger



Join us for Vacation Bible School (VBS)

July 6th – 10th, 2026

Time: 9:00am – 12:30pm

Completely FREE!

Ages: Pre-K (potty trained)
through 6th Grade

We welcome donations and are currently looking for volunteers!

Please keep VBS in your prayers as we help kids grow in a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus.



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



From the Pastor's Desk

Anointing the Sick

When Christians think of anointing with oil, we typically think of the Old Testament practice of a king being anointed for his office. The cases of Kings Saul and David, in particular, come to mind (see 1 Samuel 9:27 and 16:1-13). One might also think of the Roman Catholic practice of anointing the sick, or “Extreme Unction”, as it used to be called. And so, in the minds of many Christians, anointing with oil is an antiquated and/or Roman Catholic practice which has no bearing for twenty-first century Lutherans. However, such thinking fails to take into account the New Testament prescription of anointing the sick with oil.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:14-16).

The first thing to notice in this passage is the explicit instruction to “call for the elders of the church” when one is sick. The word translated here as “elders” is the Greek word *presbyter*, which is one of the traditional terms for what we think of today as “pastors.” (As a side note, the use of the term “Elders” to refer to laymen who assist the pastor is a modern concept. When the New Testament speaks of “elders”, it is always referring to “pastors.”) And so, the apostle James instructs Christians that when they are sick, they should call their pastor (!). There was a time when this was common practice in LCMS congregations. But sadly, these days your pastor is often one of the last people to know when someone in the congregation is sick or hospitalized.

If your pastor does not know that you are sick or hospitalized, he cannot pray with and for you, nor can he comfort you with the Word of God — which is part of his job! Many people feel bad asking the pastor for a visit — “He’s so busy; I don’t want to bother him.” Let me

be clear: It is not a bother for me to visit you when you are sick or hospitalized. Please let me know when you are scheduled for surgery, if you are hospitalized, or if you have a sickness which prevents you from coming to church for a while. I am always glad to visit you, pray, share God’s Word, and bring Communion, as the situation dictates.

But back to the James 5 passage. This passage particularly highlights three things that your pastor can do for you when you are sick.

1. Your pastor can pray with you. Prayer for the sick is not merely a well-wish or a vague hope for healing. “*The prayer of faith will save the sick*” (James 5:15a). Prayer is powerful. Don’t underestimate its value.
2. Your pastor can anoint you with oil. Notice that James does not say that anointing with oil will heal or save someone. It is the prayer which accompanies the anointing that is powerful. And yet, St. James prescribes the pastor anointing the sick Christian with oil. It is a reminder of our anointing with the Holy Spirit at Baptism and of the power of the Holy Spirit to heal and save. In the pastor’s rite for anointing the sick, the following blessing accompanies the anointing (note that this is the same blessing used in the Baptismal rite):

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.
3. Your pastor can offer private absolution. In the above passage, St. James ties confession of sins to healing. What the exact relationship is between confession of sins and physical healing cannot be said dogmatically. But if the apostles exhort us to it, it’s probably worthwhile!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

LWML

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the world. The Vision Statement: The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

LWML Mid-Valley Spring Rally

Immanuel ladies hosted the Spring Rally on Saturday, May 16. We had over 35 ladies and guests, from St. John's, Westfield MA, First Lutheran, Holyoke MA, Holy Trinity, Terryville and St. Paul's New Hartford. New England District, LWML President June Merwin welcomed everyone, along with our Mid-Zone President Linda Slozak. Immanuel Lutheran Church's Pastor Benjamin Akers did the opening prayer. St. John's Lutheran Church's Senior Pastor David Riley spoke on Isaiah and Associate Pastor Jeffery Windoloski spoke on "Here I am Lord". A collection for "Hands of Grace" were given to Immanuel Lutheran School.



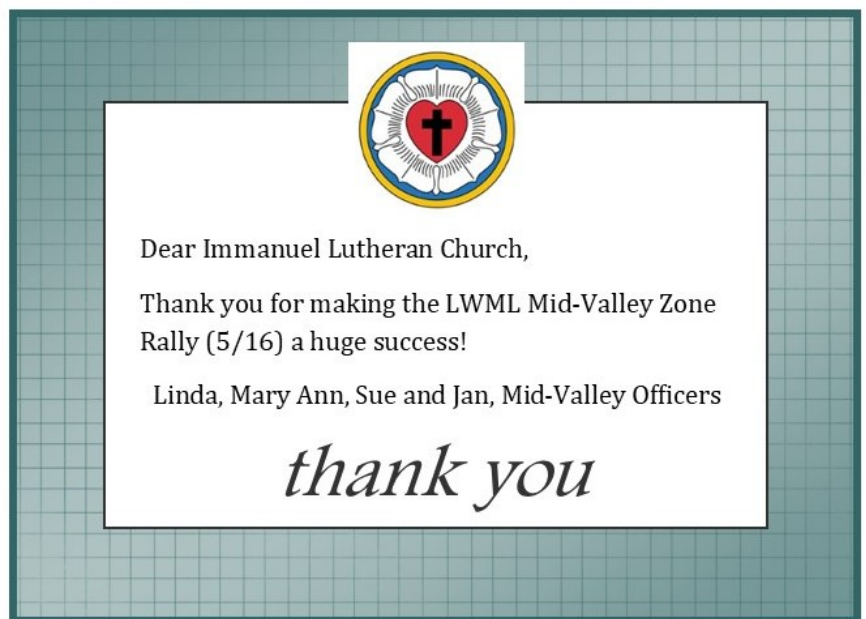
Pastor David Riley



Mid-Zone President, Linda Slozak



Pastor Jeffery Windoloski



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

Women of Immanuel

Did you know that the Women of Immanuel are all about community, service, and making a difference? We support local and global projects and the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) through Mites for Mission Grants and so much more. As Lutheran women we are on a mission to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and empower all women to honor God by serving others.



Join us on Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 am in the OSB for our Annual Potluck luncheon.

We invite all women of Immanuel to attend. Bring a friend and your favorite dish.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Claudia Bishop, or Dee Krampitz for more information.

See you there with your mites and your favorite dish for our buffet tables

Immanuel welcomes through the rite of Holy Baptism

Charlie and Cole

Baptized on May 17, 2026

Daughter of Eric and Megan Lockshare



2026 Confirmation Class

Congratulations to
Carley and Julia Klemyk

Young at Heart

Watch for more information for our upcoming luncheons in the July/August Messenger.

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

Walk and Talk at 9:30 am All are welcomed. We are a fun group – we even laugh! Snacks and coffee provided. Please join us, we’d love to see you.

Women’s Bible Study

Tuesday, **June 16** at noon.

Bring a lunch, and join us for a Bible Study in the Parish Center.



We will be having a **Lunch at BARC** on Tuesday, June 9, at 12:30 pm.

We are encouraging men to please join us.

Appalachia School Supply Drive: June & July

This summer, we are collecting school supplies to support students in Appalachia. As the school year wraps up, it’s the perfect time to clear out the old and clear a path for another student’s future!

Items Needed:

- 1-subject notebooks
- Pencils & pens
- Erasers
- Boxes of 24-count Crayola crayons
- New or gently used backpacks (consider donating your child’s backpack at the end of the school year!)
Smart Shopping Tip: Many of these items can be purchased in bulk on Amazon for great prices.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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, 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.

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.

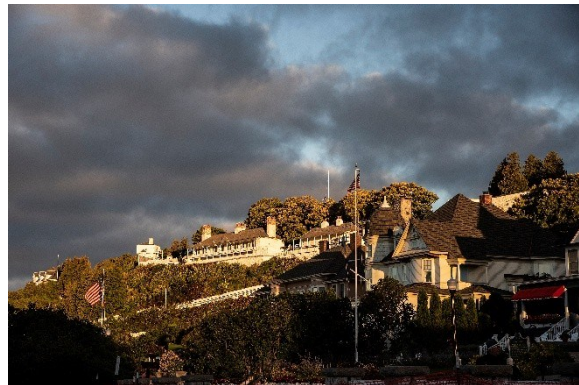


The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Roadtrip-*Mackinac Island*

Better yet, think *Bus trip!*

Michigan's Mackinac Island is a time capsule destination famous for banning motor vehicles. Transportation is limited to horse-drawn carriages, bicycles, and walking. Steeped in history, the island served as a strategic military outpost during the War of 1812. You can explore beautifully restored Fort Mackinac and take in Victorian-era architecture that spans the entire island. 80% of the 4.3-square-mile island is Mackinac Island State Park, which was established in 1875 as America's second national park. It features 70 miles of trails and towering limestone formations. Opened in 1887, The Grand Hotel historic resort features a massive 660-foot porch - the longest in the world, and overlooks the Straits of Mackinac. The island is a photographer's dream.



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



Orphan Grain Train Announces Response Assistance Shipment

Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct. loaded a 53 foot container of needed items on May 18 to help with poverty and storm damage recovery in a multi state area including North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, West Virginia and Virginia. 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 the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP), one of our mission partners, which aids those less fortunate over this multi state area and is headquartered in Kentucky. They will forward the items sent to the affected state organizations for distribution. This shipment included an estimated 30,000 pounds of supplies including Blankets, Bedding, Clothing, Shoes, Coats, some 22,000 Harvest Pack meals as well as 21 Walkers, 11 Rollators, 6 Sewing machines and supplies, Household and medical items, 7 folding tables, 54 boxes of Toys and 7 Boxes of Bibles. Also included were Two complete Queen bed sets and a cot. The Harvest Pack meals were provided by the Ministry run by Pastor Dick Dill of Plymouth, which works with local organizations to supply them. The shipment is scheduled to arrive on May 19 for offloading at the CAP warehouse.



Orphan Grain Train Announces Assistance to the Gbarnga Mission in Liberia

On May 28, Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct. delivered a Box truck load of items to a warehouse in Providence RI to go on a shipment to the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission in Liberia. St. Paul's Lutheran church of Providence started this Mission for children in Liberia to provide education, food, hygiene and medical assistance. From constructing a building about 10 years ago, the School now has 230 students through the 8th grade and has added a full medical clinic.

On the shipment were 44 boxes of Harvest Pack Meals, a dehydrated, rice based and fortified food in sealed plastic bags that can last up to 3 years requiring only water for preparation. Each box contains 216 meals. The school has installed its own wells so clean water is not a problem. This is enough of a supply to make over 9500 meals and can be used to supplement the schools own gardening program when droughts or other weather events occur. In addition, one Treadle sewing machine was sent which they use because there is not a reliable power supply. OGT has supplied treadle sewing machines in the past to help with their learn to sew program and this past year saw some 35 graduates who now can sew on their own for their families or sell to make some income. Also included were 12 folding school desks and 9 folding chairs to help with expansion. 2 computer screens were added to help outfit a recent donation of computers to the school.



Jon Rossman Executive Director of the Mission, and Kevin Read from OGT

In the past, OGT has also sent hospital beds, medical supplies, clothing and other school desks. Other shipments have gone to missions in countries on 4 continents as well as Appalachia and hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, Florida, Kentucky 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. 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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **School News** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

There was a lot of activity in May, and now there are only a couple of weeks left in the school year. As we enter this final stretch, our students are continuing to work hard, complete important assessments, and participate in end-of-year events.

Teacher Appreciation was this month, and our PTO did an amazing job providing a duty-free lunch for our teachers. This thoughtful gesture was a wonderful way to show gratitude for all the hard work, dedication, and care our teachers pour into their students each day.

On May 7th, David Werner was inducted into the ILS Jr. Honor Society, joining current member Noah Edwards. Noah was also named Valedictorian of the Class of 2026. We are incredibly proud of both students and congratulate them on these outstanding achievements. Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence are worthy of celebration, and we look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the future.

The Drama Club presented *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.* on May 29 and 30. Their hard work, dedication, and talent were on full display, and they did an outstanding job! Thank you to everyone who came out to support this talented group of students and help make the performances such a success. We are proud of all they accomplished and grateful for the enthusiasm and encouragement shown by our school community.

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





JUNE 2026 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Evan Foley Jack Lusic Paul Ryskowski Joel Sonstroem	2 Daniel Wall	3	4 Jaime Ryskowski	5 Linda Kuharski	6 Lynn Donahue Richard Lutz Bethany Swicklas Sloane Tonn
7 Lois Koch	8 Ruth Stewart	9 Claudia Bishop Abigail Bourgoin	10 Andrew Dubois Haylee Kissler	11	12 Aubrey Bennett Alexa Bugryn Rickard Darm Jacqueline Holcomb Peter Koch Pamela Mockler Gabriel Scarpati	13 Mavis Charles-Durham Linda Sonstroem
14 Patricia Kahle	15	16 Christopher Pacitto	17 Amber Akers	18 Irelynn Plaskett Mel Schab Bev Zahnke	19 Pat Wollenberg	20 Walter Riemer
21 Liliana Delaney Carley Klemyk Julia Klemyk Barry Sonstroem Nancy Tower	22 Leslie Foley	23 Henry Kuharski, Jr.	24 James Buden IV	25 Marcus Lopisi Doreen Tessier	26 Connie Bielby Benjamin Jabs	27
28 Lisa Bugryn	29 Lisa Catanzaro Sandra Cleveland Shawn Dennis Connie Glidden Laura Hamelin Karen Hebert	30 Tami Benvenuto Gianna Fabrizio Carrie Palmisano Kacie Therrien				



Happy
**FATHER'S
DAY**
JUNE 14



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 ORGANIZATION
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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 154 MEADOW STREET
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 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Messenger 