

Rev. Ben Akers
Pastor

Rev. Robert Beinke
Assoc. Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

July/August 2026

Vol. 26 No. 7

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT

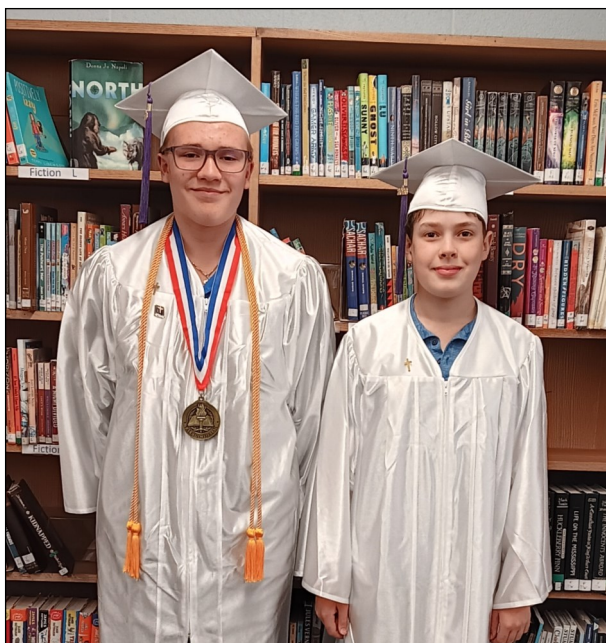


OUR MISSION

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.



8th Grade Graduates

Left to Right: Noah Edwards and Henry Darm

Immanuel Lutheran
Church and School
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, CT 06010
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Kindergarten Graduates



PK4 Graduates





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 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

There is Nothing Quite Like Music.

Martin Luther once wrote: “*Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise*” (Luther’s Works Volume 53, page 323).

Music has a way of expressing human emotions like nothing else. With it we express joy, sorrow, angst, and hope. And music is with us all the time—whether humming a song to ourselves, singing with others, or listening to our own music. In many ways, music fuels the world.

But Luther was not speaking of music’s role in secular society when he praised it as second only to the Word of God. Luther spoke of music so highly because it is a vehicle for the proclamation of the Gospel. For Christians, music and God’s Word are intimately tied together. Thus, the last of the Psalms says:

Praise the LORD!

*Praise God in His sanctuary;
Praise Him in His mighty firmament!*

*Praise Him for His mighty acts;
Praise Him according to His excellent
greatness!*

*Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;
Praise Him with the lute and harp!
Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;
Praise Him with stringed instruments
and flutes!*

*Praise Him with loud cymbals;
Praise Him with clashing cymbals!*

*Let everything that has breath praise the
LORD.*

Praise the LORD! (Psalm 150).

It is no coincidence, then, that music plays a central role in our life together as the Church. When we gather together, we sing.

Ordinary words will not do. The Almighty God meets us in His Word and Sacraments in the Divine Service. We cannot help but respond in songs of thanks and praise!

But such corporate singing requires leadership. Our church has been blessed for many decades with excellent musical leadership. The legacy of Vern Koch, organist and music director for over 60 years, is clear, even to people like me who never had the privilege of knowing him. And in recent years, we have been blessed by the musical leadership of Howard Schmelder and Dave Kisser on the organ. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to these two men for serving us every week (sometimes twice or more in a week) for a number of years. Thanks be to God for blessing us with such men!

In the month of July, we will be blessed to welcome new musical leadership. Our call for a Director of Parish Music has been answered by Mr. Oyeniran Oyedeji (pronounced oh-yen-EYE-ren oh-yeh-DAY-jee). In the calling of Oyeniran, the Voters’ Assembly agreed with Luther’s statement above that music is of the highest importance in the Church—second only to the Word of God. We will be blessed with Oyeniran’s musical leadership at Church and School. And by God’s grace, we will see a restoration of the music ministry and choirs that have largely disappeared of late.

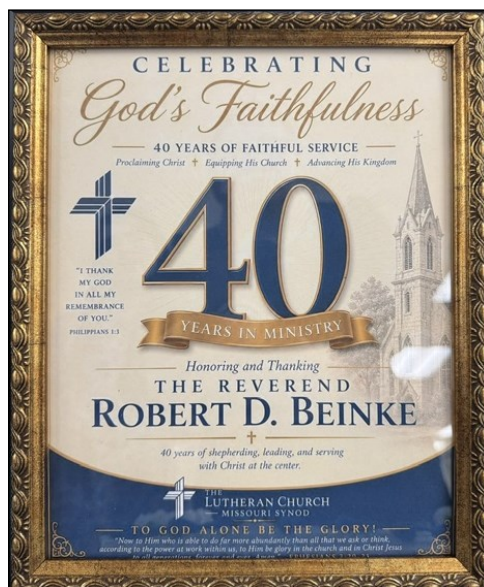
And even though Oyeniran will serve as our primary organist, we will still be blessed to hear the playing of Howard and Dave during Communion and at the occasional service. Thanks be to God that He has seen fit to continue providing us with excellent musical leadership!

In Christ,
Pastor Akers



We will welcome our new Director of Parish Music, Oyeniran Oyedeji, in July. His first Sunday is July 12. A special installation service will be held in the afternoon of July 26. Watch your Sunday bulletin for more information.

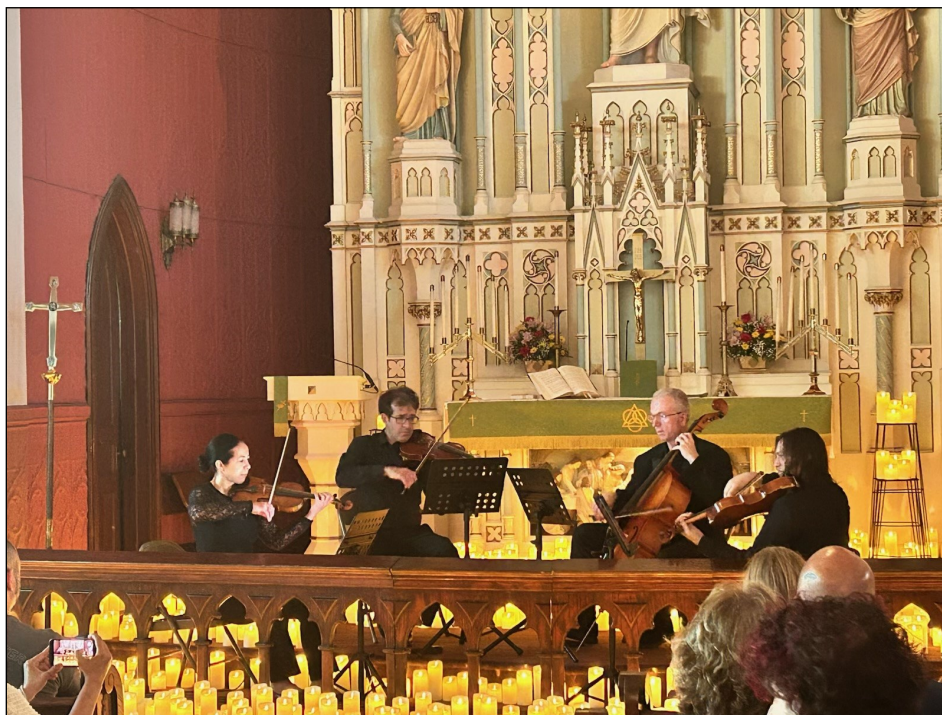
Congratulations to Pastor Beinke



Thank you to the congregation for the wonderful remembrance of the 40th anniversary of my ordination on June 21! This was a surprise to me, as I hadn't really thought about it until a couple of days before. I am so glad to be your called Associate Pastor and to be able to serve you as I am able. Lorayne and I rejoice that we are able to worship our Lord and receive His blessings in Christ together with you, and to call Immanuel our church home!

Pastor Beinke

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School hosts Candlelight Concert



Young at Heart

We are planning a wonderful COOL SUMMER LUNCH for you on Thursday, August 6 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 and Bill Wentland will share photos of their trip to the Tall Ships in Boston, part of America 2026 celebration.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Thursday, September 3 when we will gather at 11:30 am for an **INTERNATIONAL LUNCH**. Where we ask you to bring food to share from your favorite country's menu or your family's traditional ethnic dish. We'll supply the beverages and expect everyone who comes to add a dish to our buffet tables. Our program will be "Get to Know Your Pastor" and our guest will be Pastor Beinke. Work on your written questions.

Contact Lynda Hintz at 860-585-7004 with any questions about the menu.

SAIL BOSTON
JULY 11-16 ★ 2026

PRESENTED BY:

MB Meet BOSTON



Youth Group

The youth of Immanuel will once again be collecting your returnable cans and bottles during the month of JULY!

Please leave them in the kitchen near the gym. Thank you for your support!



JULY Bottle Return

Please join us weekly at the Parish Center in **JULY**.

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

Walking every Tuesday at 9:00 weather permitting, and **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, **July 21** at noon.

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

Quilting Group

No talent necessary. If you can pick up a pin... you're in!! Every Thursday, at 1 pm join us in the Parish Center.



The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Roadtrip- *The Camp Grounds*

From Tents to a National Historical Site

In 1865, a spirit of religious revitalization swept the nation. The New Haven District of the Methodist Church purchased farm land in Plainville to hold revival meeting. At first, meetings were held in a open field with people living in tents. A train station would be built. Farmers would give rides to the camp grounds. At times, over 3000 people would attend the revivals. In 1902 a covered auditorium was built. Member churches began to construct buildings around this "tabernacle". Individuals began to build cottages- miniatures in the classic architecture of the day and spent larger periods of time at the Camp grounds. In the 1950's, the revival began to fade. The Methodist church sold the property to a group of cottage owners. In 1980 the campgrounds were declared a National Historic Site.

Today 87 restored cottages remain. It's a great place to take a camera. The campgrounds are open to public during their annual tag sale – this year on August 8th.



Join us! *Our next meeting is, Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.*

Message From the Principal

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

As another school year comes to a close, we give thanks to God for His many blessings and His faithful guidance throughout the year. It has been a joy to watch our students grow in knowledge, wisdom, character, and faith as they have been nurtured each day in the truth of God's Word.

The month of June brought many joyful celebrations. We honored our Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Eighth Grade graduates as they reached significant milestones in their educational journeys. We pray that the Lord will continue to guide each of them and strengthen their faith as they take the next steps along the path He has prepared for them.

Our Drama Club delighted audiences with a wonderful performance of *Schoolhouse Rock Jr.* The students' enthusiasm, confidence, and teamwork reflected countless hours of practice and dedication. We are thankful for our directors, volunteers, and families who invested their time and talents to make this production such a memorable experience.



Our annual Field Day was another highlight of the month, allowing students to enjoy friendly competition, teamwork, and fellowship as they celebrated a successful year together. Seeing students encourage one another and share in the joy of the day was a wonderful reminder that learning extends far beyond the classroom.



(Continued on next page)

Message From the Principal continued

Although summer has begun, learning doesn't have to stop! We invite all of our students to participate in our Summer Reading Challenge. Reading throughout the summer helps children strengthen their literacy skills, expand their imaginations, and return to school ready to learn. We encourage families to make reading together a regular part of their summer routine.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and generous support of Immanuel Lutheran School. Your partnership enables us to continue providing a loving environment of academic excellence while developing in our students and their families a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ. We also encourage you to share the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran School with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Personal recommendations are one of the greatest blessings to our school, and your invitation may help another family discover the gift of a Christ-centered education.

May God bless your summer with rest, renewal, and many opportunities to rejoice in His goodness. We look forward to welcoming our students back in the fall as we continue the important work of nurturing children in faith, wisdom, and learning.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. — Proverbs 22:6

In Christ,
Deborah Krueger



2026 Vacation Bible School



JULY 2026 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Andrew Helming	2 Leonard Maron	3 Alyssa Kirschner	4 
5 Sienna Tonn	6 Donna Hiscock	7 Lucas Anderson Dorothy Duessel Janice Eschner Elizabeth Helming Cameron Perry	8 Darrin Bodley Matthew Croze Erika Raspanti Amelia Tessier	9 Wanda Hubbard Dee Krampitz Wendy Palmisano	10 Melanie Moliengo Rocco Pesce Lee Tessman	11 Greyson Fortier
12 Meghan Carder Jessica Lundquist Lisa Tamburini	13 Bill Fabrizio Jennifer McIntyre Eric Therrien	14 Elizabeth Fitz Lynn Kisser Beth Schroeder	15 John Fitzherbert, Jr.	16 Tyler Beaudet Brooke Wells	17 Chandler Boutin Daniela Soto	18 Mary Aszklar Todd Gorneault Elizabeth Moliengo Staci Morel-Poole Shannon Richards Rebecca Runk Grace Stevens
19 Donald Smuda Beckett Swicklas Jared Tessman	20 Kevin Daly Debbie Krueger Rhoda Lange	21 Benjamin Akers Gregory Croze Amelia Schuler	22 Marvin Heidorn Albert Houle, IV Nathaniel Milano Katie Tessman	23 Megan Swicklas	24	25 Jennifer DeAngelo Jacqueline Phillips
26 Lorene Berrian Adam Houle Elizabeth Houle Sarah Williams	27 Nicholas Madigan	28 Susan Bodick Rebecca Turley	29 Makenzie Jankowski	30 Matthew Dennis Jack Gohsler Keith Hogan Whitney Massaro Joseph Reed Mason Roy Tyler Thormahlen Doris Wegner	31	

AUGUST 2026 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Laurie Grekula Holly Tonn
2 Rosemary Badenhop Amy Richmond Cindy Schuler	3	4 Stephanie Bennett Louise Winter	5 Peter Tonn	6 Alexis Fitzherbert Ryan Hill Jordan Kuharski Alicia Michelson Madison Turley	7 Seth Michelson Eric Velasco Robert Wells	8 Amy Sonstroem
9 Mark Blank Kimberly Debaise Michael Killian Rachel Shields	10 Aaron Desjardins Sage Galindo Caitlyn Pacitto Clara Stevens	11 Carissa Darm Deborah Swicklas	12 Eric Larson Norman Stone, Jr.	13 Kenneth Michelson	14 James Fitzgerald Maggie Theriault	15 Abigail Deloge Sierra Reed
16 Armin Hauer Joyce Marion Breeann Sherman Ryan Tessman	17	18 Madison Charles- Durham Anthony Santilli	19 Ryan Hamelin DeGregory Molly Tower	20 Brody Fabrizio David Kisser	21 Jackson Violet	22 Paula Bunce Scott Eschner John Fitzherbert Gabriel Plaskett Cooper Therrien
23 Craig Stange Jonah Tonn	24 Michael Behrendt Janet Desrosiers Lauren Simard	25 Wayne Kuharski Daniel Tonn	26 Jamie Laforge Marilyn Schmelder Linda Wall	27	28 Mikaela Bennett	29 Barbara Wallick
30 Danielle Pion	31 Alexandra Dubois Jon Sonstroem					



Messenger
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
154 MEADOW STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
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