

Rev. Ben Akers
Pastor

Rev. Robert Beinke
Assoc. Pastor

Deborah Krueger
School Principal

Messenger

September 2026

Vol. 26 No. 8

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

BAKERS! BAKERS! GERMAN CAKE BAKERS NEEDED!!



At our German Festival on September 18 & 19, we will need about 60 Cakes in our Dessert area in the old school basement. We slice and package the cakes, hopefully made from authentic German recipes, that we will sell on Friday evening and Saturday. Actually, many different apple cakes and chocolate cakes come in for a wonderful assortment from Black Forest cakes to Apple strudel. Please **sign up** on Sundays near the table at the bottom of the stairs or during the week. Recipes are available.

Thank you in advance for helping!

Women of Immanuel Bakers needed for our Bake Sale!



At our German Festival on Friday and Saturday, September 18 & 19, we need baked goods to be sold in the old school basement. These baked goods are sold to be taken home. Examples are pies, breads, packaged cookies and other goodies. Proceeds from our bake sale go to help others.

JOIN THE FUN AT THE 2026 GERMAN FESTIVAL!

**Friday, SEP 18th
6 PM - 9 PM**

&

**Saturday, SEP 19th
12 PM - 9 PM**



Get the latest
info on the
festival

Friday Menu

Bratwurst
Hot Dogs
Sauerkraut
Frikadellen & Potato Salad Platter
German Pretzels
German Desserts
Imported German Beers
Wine & other beverages

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHT

Bürgermeister's First Pour
Alpenland Tänzer Dancers

Saturday Menu

Roasted Pork
Sauerkraut
Spätzle
Bratwurst
Potato Pancakes (gluten -free)
German Pretzels
German Desserts
Imported German Beers
Wine & other beverages



SATURDAY FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Official U.S. Stein-holding Competition (21+ only)
at 3 PM (arrive by 2 PM to participate)



Live German Music by the Austrian Boys Band

FREE Kinderland Activity Area For Kids with
facepainter, mini-golf, games, crafts, scavenger
hunts, prizes, and, more!...

154 Meadow Street, Bristol, CT (on the corner of West & Meadow Streets, across from the Boys & Girls Club)



Friendly Event



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



Worship Services are
broadcast each Sunday at
1:00 p.m. on

WNTY Radio

AM 990

&

FM 96.1

and online at

KoolOldiesRadio.net



**WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE**

From the Pastor's Desk

You cannot truly love Jesus if you do not love His Church.

Many people claim to be Christians who love Jesus, yet they do not love the Church. They avoid church. I had someone tell me recently: "I think that Christianity is more about a relationship with Jesus than it is about going to church." Ah, but the question is, how does one have a relationship with Jesus? Imagine a wife who does not love her husband's body. Can such a wife be said to truly love her husband? Of course not! Neither can a person love Jesus without loving His Church.

The Church is the body of Christ. In fact, our Lord Jesus Himself goes so far as to identify the Church as Himself. In the early part of the book of Acts, Saul (the man who would come to be known as the Apostle Paul) was persecuting the Church: "As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison" (Acts 8:3). But when the Lord Jesus confronted Saul on the road to Damascus, He said this: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:4). When Saul persecuted the Church, he persecuted Christ Himself. The Church is Christ. Or, as the New Testament states it more regularly, the Church is the body of Christ (see Romans 12:4-5, Colossians 1:24, Ephesians 5:29-30). And if the Church is Christ's body (and it is), then one cannot truly love Christ without loving His body, the Church.

When you love someone, it changes you—the way you spend your time, your priorities, and your desires. A young couple who have fallen in love desire nothing more than to be together. An old couple who has been married for 50 or 60 years can't bear the thought of being apart—even in death. If you truly love someone, you want to be with them—bodily. Since the Church is the body of Christ, those of us who claim to love Him must allow that love to change us such that our desire is to be with Christ's body, our priority is to be with His body, our time is spent with His body. If we truly love Christ, that love will manifest itself in a life that

revolves around opportunities to be with His body, the Church.

With the new school year now underway, it is as good a time as any to review and reorient your priorities. If you love Jesus, but you don't find yourself at church every week, then now is as good a time as any to make time in your calendar to do so. If you love Jesus, but you don't make it a priority to attend Bible studies or coffee hour, it's not too late to rearrange your schedule to prioritize time with Christ's body. If you find your Sunday mornings too busy or stressful to come to church, then perhaps this is a warning that your love for soccer, dance, or time at camp has surpassed your love for Jesus. If you're too tired on a Sunday morning to get out of bed in time to be at church, then perhaps this is a warning that your love for your work or your social life has surpassed your love for our Lord Jesus.

Our Lord said to His disciples: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). This is the blessed news of the Church. When we walk through the doors, when we gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the Scriptures in study, around the Word and Sacraments in the Divine Service, or in discussion at coffee hour, we are with the body of Christ. Jesus is there. In the study, in the service, and, yes, even at Coffee Hour, you are with Christ because you are with His body. Abide in Him. He desires to give you more abundantly than you could ask or imagine through the continual gift of His presence. Apart from Him you can do nothing.

If you truly love Jesus, you will love His Church. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love" (John 15:9).

In Christ,
Pastor Akers

Welcome to Our Church Family

Installation of our Director of Parish Music
on Sunday July 26

L to R

Pastor Robert Beinke, Oyeniran Oyedeji, Kantor,
and Pastor Ben Akers



A Note from Your Musician

To the saints of Immanuel:

As I am writing, I am settling into the role of Kantor here and I must say that I thank God for the welcome that I have received. I am settling into life and ministry at Immanuel, getting to know people, finding my way around, and finding spare moments to learn about places to go in town. I also want to thank you for the wonderful Installation Service.

As far as the church side of things go, I am working on bringing back the choir and handbell choir. I know there has been much made about making choir and bells regular parts of worship once again. On that front, I bring you good news of great joy: Both the handbells and the choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday nights beginning September 3rd! Handbells will rehearse in the balcony from 6 to 7:15 pm; the choir will be from 7:30 to 9 pm in the Music Classroom in the Old School Building. I have already heard from people willing to participate, some of whom are brand new to both! It's not too late to join: you can either drop me an email (ooyedeji@ilcs.org), talk to me in person, or just show up at the appointed time. If you are new to handbells, don't worry! There will be some tutorials, so you'll be able to understand the fundamentals before we start on



playing music. If you need help determining which part would be best for you to sing in the choir, don't worry! We'll help you there too!

On the school side, I will be teaching music on Tuesdays and Fridays. Each class will be learning the fundamentals of music theory while learning to sing the songs of the church. In addition, middle school students will learn how to use the hand chimes and handbells on Fridays. I will also be offering instruction on piano, organ, and woodwind instruments. Students at ILS will have the option of taking lessons during the school day or after school. If you or your child (Grade 2 and up) want to have lessons and you're not in the school, you can sign up as well. There are flyers outside the sanctuary by the offices.

As many of us get back into routine with the start of school, I leave you with this verse: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* – Colossians 3:16

In Christ,
Oyeniran Oyedeji, Kantor

It's Time To Volunteer for German Fest 2026!



Starting this Sunday, we'll be in the lobby (and at coffee hour) recruiting volunteers to take on a shift (or two!) for our upcoming festival. On top of our regular teams who work in the main and potato pancake kitchens, we'll need lots of help with ticket sales, serving, running, kitchen support, potato pancake prep, and more. It takes many hands to bring our annual festival to life—and no matter your situation (whether you need to sit, stand, move around, love to chat, or tend to be a little shy), there's a role that's just right for you. Have questions? Chase down Rhoda Lange or Christina Curry if you have any questions.

German Fest Ticket-Tearing Pizza Party & Final Committee Meetups!



Don't forget – our Ticket-Tearing Pizza Party is coming up! Everyone is welcome to join us on **Wednesday, September 9th starting at 5 PM** as we get stacks of tickets ready for the festival. Committee members can also use this time to pop-in for quick, final planning meetups. Pizza and beverages will arrive around 6 PM—so come hungry, stay for the fun, and help us get festival-ready! Need more info? Connect with Rhoda Lange or Christina Curry.



SAVE THE DATES:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

It's our **Oktoberfest** German Lunch in the OSB at 11:30. We need your help filling our buffet tables with all the special German dishes we all love. Call Lynda H. 860-585-7004 for menu addition suggestions.



We will be playing German Bingo and have great prizes for you. It's only \$5 or just \$2 if you help fill our buffet tables.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

It's our homemade soups and sandwiches with our **Anniversary Cake** for Dessert.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

It's our annual Christmas Party. (Please contact Julie Follo if you can help plan this year party.)





A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated to our **Appalachia School Supply Drive!**

Orphan Grain Train was very pleased with the wonderful amount of supplies collected. Your generosity and willingness to help make this drive a great success and will be a blessing to those receiving these much-needed supplies.

Thank you again for your kindness, generosity, and support!

**With gratitude,
Evangelism and Stewardship Committee**

Women of Immanuel



The next meeting of our Women of Immanuel will be on **Saturday, September 12 in the OSB at 11:00 am.**

Important meeting as we get ready for the German Festival.
Light refreshments will be provided.

LUNCH at BARC

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month,
September 8,
at BARC - 12:30 pm.
Join us and bring a friend.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Pastor Beinke's Thursday evening Bible Study resumes.

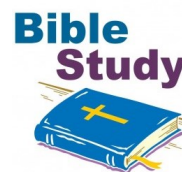
You're warmly invited to join him every **Thursday at 7:00 pm** for time together in God's Word

Join online:

<https://meet.goto.com/445850965>

The link can also be found on the **New England District** website under **President's Message.**

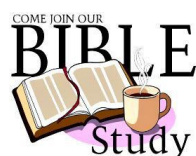
We hope you can join us!



Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 15 at noon.

Bring a lunch, coffee provided.
Bibles available if needed and join us in the Parish Center.



REMINDER: the deadline for the OCTOBER Messenger is September 25.

2026 Immanuel Lutheran Church Scholarships

This year's recipients are:

**Zachary Cudjoe
Cole Krueger
Gretchen Radcliff
Kurt Radcliff**



2026 Foundation's Westfall II Scholarships

This year's recipients are:

**Zachary Cudjoe
Cole Krueger
Charles Pankenier
Gretchen Radcliff**



The Immanuel Lutheran Church Digital Photography Club

Roadtrip - ***SAIL BOSTON***

And ... The Bus Ride thru Boston – an Adventure in Itself!

The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding in 1776. For this milestone celebration, a fleet of 60 of some of the world's most magnificent Tall Ships and military ships set sail for Boston Harbor, and were there from July 12 thru 15, Joining us on our visit were overcast skies and heavy smoke from forest fires in Canada. Poor conditions for photos but a great photo opportunity nonetheless. Thank you, Photoshop, – you do magic!! So did the Bus Driver!

Below-clockwise: Boston Harbor, the ARC Liberato (Buenos Aires-341'), the USS Constitution (USA-207'), the Mayflower II (USA-106'), and the Gorch Fock (Germany-292')



Join us!
*The first
Tuesday, of the
month, in the
Parish Center.*



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

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church Members and Friends,

We have had a wonderful beginning to our new school year! It has been a joy to welcome our students and families back and to begin another year of learning, growing, and serving together.

We began the school year with a special Back-to-School Night service led by Pastor Akers and Pastor Beinke, centered around our 2026–2027 theme, “Rooted in Christ,” based on Colossians 2:6–7: *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”* What a wonderful reminder as we begin a new year that Christ is the foundation of all we do.

On the first day of school, we gathered for our opening chapel service and the raising of the American and Christian flags. Each morning, our Kindergarten through 8th-grade students continue to gather for chapel, beginning each day together in God’s Word and prayer. We are thankful for this opportunity to keep Christ at the center of our school day.

We have also begun implementing a classical curriculum that emphasizes timeless literature, rich language, history, critical thinking, and the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty, all viewed through the unchanging truth of Scripture. Our goal is to help students not only gain knowledge, but also learn to think carefully, communicate clearly, and develop a love of learning. This approach also includes the study of Latin beginning in Grade 2. Ultimately, we seek to prepare our students not only for academic success, but for faithful lives of service to God and their neighbors.

This year, we will also be featuring a teacher each month so that our church and school families can get to know our faculty members a little better. Look for these teacher features in the bulletin, the Messenger, and on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the library. This month, we are pleased to begin with our new 4th-grade teacher, Cheri Atwood. We are so thankful to have Cheri as part of our faculty and look forward to sharing more about her with you!

We are off to a great start, and we are so thankful for the Lord’s blessings upon our school. Please continue to pray for our school as we seek to grow, for our faculty and staff as they teach and serve, and for our students and their families. May God continue to guide us and help us remain firmly Rooted in Christ throughout the year!

In Christ,
Deborah Krueger





Teacher Spotlight



Ms. Cheri Atwood
"Ms. Atwood"

About Me

I teach fourth grade at ILS. The 2026-2027 school year is my first year working at ILS.

I have a Master's Degree in Reading & Language Arts; Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I have been a teacher for 22 years! I have one daughter, Sophie, who is a senior at Farmington High School this year. I have two cats, Sapphire, a ragdoll cat, and Minkies, a gray tabby cat.

I love working at ILS because I get a chance to share my love of Jesus with my students. I've never had the chance to do that before! I also love being surrounded by fellow lovers of Jesus all day! I wanted to become a teacher at ILS because I wanted to spend my days teaching children who love Jesus and I wanted to feel like I was part of something incredibly special. My favorite thing about ILS is going to Chapel every morning and starting the day in prayer.

Favorite Bible Verse

"May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:7

Fun Facts

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Barbados is definitely on my bucket list! I went there once on a cruise for a few hours, and it had the most incredible sand and ocean. I want to take an all-inclusive trip there!

What is one piece of advice that you would like to share with students and families?

Keep Jesus at the center of everything! Spend time together praying, enjoy time together in the evening talking about your day. The family that prays together, stays together!

Favorite color
Blue

Three words that describe me
Kind, caring, funny

Hobbies
Playing with my kitties and reading

Favorite treat(s)
Cheesecake



Orphan Grain Train News

Shipment to Appalachian Shipment on August 20

Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct. loaded a 53 foot Trailer of needed items for Appalachia on August 20, 2026 to help the people there deal with the poverty resulting from the closing of the coal mines and massive flooding. 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 Appalachian shipment, expected to arrive on Aug. 21, was sent to Manna from Heaven, a local Mission in Myra, Kentucky that provides food, clothing, medical items and other needed supplies to families in need. Included were over 13,000 pounds of food to help with their meal program to feed hungry families. Also on the shipment were almost another 20,000 pounds of items like 20 mattress pieces along with bed frames, 5 cribs, 2 refrigerators, 2 stoves, 2 A/C units, a freezer, other small appliances, some furniture and many boxes of household, clothing and medical supplies including wheelchairs, commodes, canes, walkers. Also included were sewing machines, hand tools, books, toys and children's items. These types of items had been requested by the Mission to assist the families there.

This is Mary Tackett from Manna From Heaven. We would like to extend our greatest appreciation to each of the wonderful volunteers who give their time to help the needy people here in Appalachia. The furniture we received we started giving out yesterday and the food we started giving out today. It was a blessing to receive such great things to help the people in this area. We serve approximately 150 to 200 families per week and we were running low when this load came in. It was a great blessing from you. The furniture we give out as the people need it and the clothes we give out daily to the needy people in this area. You all have been a wonderful blessing to the needy people in this area God bless and protect you all for the love and care you show for the people in this area. Mary Tackett.

SEPTEMBER 2026 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Jonathan Harrington	2 Shari Kohl Elias Lopisi	3 Barbara Greenlaw Keegan Thormahlen Brian Winter	4 Reinhart Hermann, Jr. Meghan Roy	5 Marcia Massaro Trina Theriault
6 Lindsey Klemyk Leo Madore	7	8 Heidi Dennis Dawn Ewen	9 Rachel Akers Brittany Dunn Michelle Helming Jonathan Tessier	10	11 Cody McIntyre	12 Pamela Prindle Josie Rindfleisch
13 Sarah Gurgigno	14 Shannon Gurgigno Ed Higgins Jaime Mitchell George Tavernier	15 Grady Savage	16 Clara Mason	17 Jilline Dolan Joan Kirschner	18 Rebecca Fitzinger Ronald Helming Janet Romanko Kimberly Wolfe	19 Cheyenne Plaza Savana Tonn
20 Joseph Zerbey	21 Elizabeth Mazzaccaro	22 Noah Delaney Tom Hislop Cole Raymond	23 Cordelia Behrendt Paul Tessman	24 Joshua Bodley	25 Robin Bodley	26
27 Anthony Buonafede Rickard Darm Karen Machado Cassandra Plaza Jordan Tonn	28 James Jacy Christine Morel William Wentland, Jr.	29 Jared Krueger Fred Mitchell	30 Kristine Beaudet Kylie Berrian Quinn Tessier			



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRISTOL, CT 06010
PERMIT NO. 382

Messenger 
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
154 MEADOW STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED