

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2024 * Volume 63 #2



As Jesus Changes, Can You Let Him Change You?

The second week in February is Transfiguration, when we remember Jesus going up on the mountain with three of his disciples:

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. (Mark 2.2-8 NRSV)

Jesus was changed; he was greeted by Moses & Elijah; and his heavenly Father declared him his beloved son and commanded Jesus’ disciples to “listen to him!”

Transfiguration is the last Sunday of Epiphany, preparing us to enter the season of Lent. During Lent this year we will see many sides of Jesus as he is baptized & tempted, predicts his suffering & death, rebukes Peter, takes over and cleanses the temple, contrasts light & dark, and even tells his disciples they must die to truly live. In effect, we will see Jesus transfigured and transformed many times before we get to Holy Week and Easter.

Can you open yourself to whatever form Jesus might take as he presents himself to you? In light and dark, glory and shame, life and death can you still know him as the same Christ your Lord and Savior?

As you worship, pray, and study this Lent, see how many ways you can see Jesus. How many ways can you be open to let Jesus be transfigured and in the process transform you? As he changes before you, can he remain your same Beautiful Savior?

Peace,

Pastor Burgess

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev Richard M. Burgess, Pastor: (860) 462-6545 richardmburgess@gmail.com
Diane Murphy, Administrator: (203) 238-1248 office@immanuelmeriden.org

OFFICE HOURS

9 am – 1 pm Monday – Friday

THE NEXT VISITOR

Articles for the March Visitor are due no later than February 21st.

Please submit all articles via email to both Diane Murphy and Pastor Burgess (addresses above). Alternatively, submit hard copy (ie, “paper”) to Diane Murphy. This will avoid miscommunication and make sure all articles get printed in the Visitor each month.

Another way to receive Immanuel's Visitor

If you wish to receive Immanuel's monthly newsletter via email, please email the office at office@immanuelmeriden.org using the email address you want the Visitor sent to. Please note “Visitor email listing” in the subject line.

Current Prayer List

Dawn Aliou; Carmelo Alvarez; Ginette Anziano; Gigi Balducci; Jimmy Burlison; Sabrina Campbell; Helene Campbell & Edwin; Timothy Carmody; Joan Chasse; Charlotte Gardinier; Elliott Gardner; Matthew Gerry; Anthony Grego; Adrian Hyatt; Doreen Jenkins; Carol Kania; Kathleen Kilbride; Jean & Bob Kozuch; Richard Leherissier; Tammy Luft; Herta Marin; Jan McGrath; Carla McLeod; Dwight McLeod; Connie Mezzio; Oliver; Ann Phipps; Katie Reeves; Raquel Rodriguez; Jaylea Smith; family of Teri-Ann Stapleton; Dawn Stitham; Hillary Taylor; Carolyn Ziemelis; those suffering from environmental disasters; and those suffering from wars, especially the wars in Israel & Ukraine.

Prayer List Updates

Please contact the office if you would like someone added or taken off the prayer list. They need not be only people who need help – prayers of thanksgiving are also welcome.

Church Cancellation - TV - 30

The decision to cancel church in the event of inclement weather will be made by the Pastor and council president. The condition of the parking lot needs to be clear and safe, as well. Simply tune into Channel 30 and look for the cancellation banner 90 minutes or sooner before church or other events at church

The Word in Season

The first quarter 2024 addition of The Word in Season (January, February, & March) is now available as you enter the building. Pick up a copy for yourself and a copy to share.

From the Counters

To assist the counters when processing your weekly envelopes, please be sure to write your name on your envelope. If using the green and white envelope please make sure you designate what category you want to assign the amount to. We want to be sure that we document your weekly donation properly.

Thank you for giving to Immanuel

Ash Wednesday

Pastor Burgess will be at the church all day Wednesday, February 14 to distribute ashes. Drop by any time between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm to receive ashes and a blessing.

Dinner Church for Lent

During Lent we will gather for fellowship and worship Tuesday evenings for Dinner Church:

The agenda is simple: pot luck dinner at 5:30 followed by a short worship with scripture, prayer, and singing after dinner at 6:15 or shortly after.

Since we are having Dinner Church on Tuesdays in Lent, there will be no Bible Study or Pub Theology in February or March. Both Bible Study and Pub Theology will resume after Easter.

Tuesday, February 13	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, February 20	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, February 27	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, March 5	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, March 12	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, March 19	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall

Outreach News

Periodically we take pictures of events that we hold at Immanuel. Some of these pictures may be posted on our Face Book page. If there is anyone who does not want their picture posted on social media please notify the office, Pastor or anyone on Outreach. There will not be pictures posted of anyone under the age of 18

Thanks,
Cindy, Debbie & Lelita

Stewardship

We Are Called



Throughout October, while we are putting an emphasis on stewardship, we worked on an interactive display. The purpose of the display was to invite gratitude for one another's gifts. Everyone had an opportunity to lift up specific ways they have noticed others being called to serve God's church, community, family, and at work/school. Below are the responses shared on the display.

Director of Music Andrew H. plays the best music for worship and is willing to learn new things.

Denise H. - She has come many times to clean the sanctuary.

It is a joy when Herta and Michelle are able to worship with us. And, they bring yummy snacks to share at fellowship too.

Kim-Greeter always.

Diane M. and Doug G. keep ministry moving forward and the grounds and building ready for visitors.

It was a big help having the use of Crandall's pickup truck on Bulky Waste Day. It looks a bit tidier around here.

Rita Bates. - always willing to help with communion. Thank you for bringing food for fellowship and cleaning up.

God's living and life-giving word becomes clearer to me when Pastor Burgess leads worship and Bible study.

Bev and Joan have spent a great deal of time updating Immanuel's library.

Cindy McCarthy- On Finance committee, Memorials committee.

Felix, by serving as Episcopal Deacon and working with Meriden Community Farmers Market.

Cindy and Jack- Provide cups, plates and coffee for fellowship.

Lelita, Financial Secretary for years.

Ed Lange, Auditor and did Ameriprise investments for years.

Marilyn, Cindy and Joan, take responsibility of counting the offering.

Robert Siegler has a gifted mind for finance and history.

Dear Linda, thank you for your kind heart, positive attitude and delicious treats you gift us with! You are appreciated.

Bev quilting with Joan. Also handles Martins Messengers correspondence.

Kyle and Kim, Lelita and Beverly, Stewardship, Cindy Z., Treasurer-forever, Paul Olson-does everything building related that needs to be done.

Diana Clancy, Council Secretary for years

Getting to worship with Gary, Barbara and David, Jean, Sandra and Gary, David, Claudette, Tony....

EVERYBODY

Linda Gianakos- Thankful for fellowship food.

Charlie and Charlotte have shared their gifts and talents w/ Immanuel. Thank you-we are blessed.

Kyle- Thank you for all your support!

Listening to the choir on Sundays is a joy! Thank you, Andrew and singers!

Debbie and Lelita's "Outreach" mindset. Praise be to God! Jack's interest in keeping people fed! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Burgess, Father Carroll and Deacon Rivera, called to preach God's word!

The group working on updating Immanuel's Constitution. Thanks be to God!

We are blessed by far-a-way friends: Laurel, Paula and Ray, Jan, Bertie, Lynn... and closer to home friends: Edward, Frank, Joyce, Tammy and Quinto, Dan and Tammy, John...

Jim Dionne- Always available to fill in with anything needed in worship, etc.

All Saint's choir who sang at the Nov. 25th Yuletide celebration

Immanuel's 2023 Council: Heidi, June, Diana, Cindy, Ricki, Mark, Paul, Vera, Al

Whoever God is calling to serve on the Audit committee.

June B and everyone who helps her create greeting cards for the Martin's Messenger ministry.

Let's continue to notice where fellow worshipers are living out their calling and sharing their gifts.

Not only is February 14th Valentine's Day; this year, in the Christian Church, it is also Ash Wednesday.

"To be the church is to be a visible reminder of the promise of God unfolding in history." Excerpt from the ELCA World Hunger Advent Study 2023, Week 3-Vocation

Are you being called to serve on the 2024 Stewardship Committee? We sure hope so.

Ask Beverly L., Kim F., Lelita M. and Kyle F. for more information.

2024 Registration for Calumet

Registration has begun for Resident Camp 2024 at **Calumet**.



A summer full of faith and fun

The cost for one week at resident camp will be \$1050. Transportation is available for an additional fee. Partial campships are available from Immanuel.

Family summer camping is also an option. To learn more about both of these camping experiences check out their website www.calumet.org

If interested in sending your child(ren) to **Calumet**, please see a member of the Scholarship Committee, prior to June 1st. In addition to children attending camp there is also money available for any Immanuel adult member to attend any church-related workshop, summer school, seminar or other learning event. See any member of the Scholarship Committee.



February Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sandra Dobratz	2/01	Lelita McKetty	2/14
Kerissa Doeher	2/07	Carson Coon	2/15
Stephanie DuBois	2/08	Heather Sokolowski	2/17
Aria Marie Merola	2/10	Jeremy Beaudry	2/20
Garrett Kronenberger	2/11	Vera Luft	2/21
Gary Dobratz	2/12	Michael Barnett	2/29
Cheryl DuBois	2/14		

HAPPY Anniversary



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
164 Hanover Street
Meriden, Connecticut 06451
Telephone: 203-238-1248

2024 Easter Lily Order Form

(Please return by March 20th to offering plate or secretary inbox with payment)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory /Honor circle one

of: _____

Quantity: _____

Order Total: (\$15.00ea.) _____



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Box Top Labels

Thank you to the congregation and friends for participating in the Box Tops for Education program. This is a project that my mother, Ruth Tozier, started many years ago. A collection box is attached to the bulletin board, outside Augustana Hall. Please continue to save your grocery receipts for this worthy cause. Once the receipts are scanned credit is given to the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Arizona.

THE NEW BOX TOPS LABELS



Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label.

If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt.

Box Tops are still worth 10¢ for your school. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

It's the easiest way to earn for your school: just use the Box Tops mobile app to scan your store receipt. It automatically finds participating products and instantly adds 10¢ Box Tops to your school's earnings online. No clipping required!



The grocery receipt needs to be scanned within 2 weeks of purchasing. This box top is useless without the receipt. Thank you for saving your grocery receipts.

If you download the app, the zip code for the Navajo School is 86545. If you do not want to or know how to download the app, you can place your receipt in the collection box and I will upload the receipt. Just a reminder, if you are collecting this box top label, please supply your grocery receipt for scanning.

Cindy McCarthy



February 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church
164 Hanover Street, Meriden, CT
06451
203-238-1248

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00pm Cove	2 10am Library Group	3 10am NA 7pm NA
4 9:45am Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	5 7pm Women's Area NA Mtg	6	7 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	8 6:00pm Cove 6:30pm Council 7pm NA	9 10am Library Group	10 10am NA 7pm NA
11 9:45am Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	12	13 6:30 Dinner Church	14 9am-5pm Ash Wednesday Ashes 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	15 6:30pm Action 13 7:00 pm Finance 7pm NA	16 10am Library Group	17 10am NA 7pm NA
18 9:45am Worship 11am Roxana's Videla Ordination Celebration 5pm Pent Serv 5:30pm NA	19	20 6:30 Dinner Church	21 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	22 6:00pm Cove 7pm NA	23 10am Library Group	24 10am NA 7pm NA
25 9:45 am Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	26	27 6:30 Dinner Church	28 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	29		