

# The Visitor

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 2024 \* Volume 63 #1



### A Christmas Truce for the Prince of Peace?

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9.6 KJV)

*"Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.*

*"The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man's land dwindled out.*

*"The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit.*

*"After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas.*

*"In what was known as the 'Live and Let Live' system, in quiet sectors of the front line, brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead."*

*(from "The Real Story of the Christmas Truce" <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-real-story-of-the-christmas-truce>)*

If the British and German soldiers could celebrate Christmas Eve in the middle of a world war, shouldn't the Russians and Ukrainians be able to share a little down time together during a regional conflict? The Israelis and Hamas probably aren't going to want to celebrate Christmas together, being mostly Jewish and Muslim rather than Christian, but couldn't they still play "football" on New Years Eve?

You probably have one or two people you don't get along with as well as you wish you did. Christmas is over, but maybe you can still send a late Christmas card? Have a cup of coffee or tea together with the understanding that for both of your sakes you won't talk about what you usually argue about. Just once. So you can say, "For one day, we were friends again," or at least, "For an hour, we were at peace."

It doesn't have to last, but it might. Germany and the British aren't enemies today. Maybe someday Israel, the Palestinians, and Hamas will be friends. Maybe someday soon, you can say, "The Prince of Peace reigns in my life a little more than he used to."

Peace,

Pastor Burgess

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

## OFFICE HOURS

9 am – 1 pm Monday – Friday

## **THE NEXT VISITOR**

**Articles for the February Visitor are due no later than January 21<sup>st</sup>.**

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](mailto: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

Glory to you, God, for your mercy to those on our prayer list: Dawn Aliou; Carmelo Alvarez; Ginette Anziano; Gigi Balducci; Jimmy Burlison; Helene Campbell; Sabrina Campbell; Timothy Carmody; Joan Chasse; family of James Freeman, Sr.; Elliott Gardner; Matthew Gerry; Anthony Grego; Adrian Hyatt; Doreen Jenkins; Carol Kania; Kathleen Kilbride; Jean & Bob Kozuch; Tammy Luft; Herta Marin; family of Herb Marin; Jan McGrath; Carla McLeod; Dwight McLeod; Connie Mezzio; Oliver; family of Jeff Peterson; Ann Phipps; Donna Rackie; Katie Reeves; Raquel Rodriguez; Jaylea Smith; family of Teri-Ann Stapleton; Dawn Stitham; Hillary Taylor; Carolyn Ziemelis; those suffering from environmental disasters; those suffering from wars, especially the wars in Israel & Ukraine; and those we pray for aloud our in our hearts

## 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.

## 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.

## Congregational Meetings

The Annual meeting for Immanuel Lutheran Church is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>. The snow date will be January 28th. The special congregational meeting will be January 7th to present the new proposed constitution. All meetings will be immediately following Sunday morning worship, starting 11:00 am.

The agenda for the annual meeting will cover the congregation's regular business, with particular attention paid to the discussion and voting on the 2024 budget and the election of council members along with voting on the new constitution.

Please make every effort to attend both the special and annual congregational meetings as we come together to discern God's will for Immanuel as we move forward.

Committee heads Please have all annual reports to Diane Murphy by January 10th.

In Christ,

Heidi Burlison, Council President

Pastor Richard Burgess, Transitional Pastor

### Tuesdays at Immanuel Schedule for January

Tuesday, January 2	7:00 Bible Study
Tuesday, January 9	12:30 Pub Theology
Tuesday, January 16	7:00 Bible Study
Tuesday, January 23	12:30 Pub Theology
Tuesday, January 30	7:00 Bible Study

**Bible Study** is Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in online with Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/194460329?pwd=aWFPZTQvM3NIY3BHVER4MWh6SGJLdz09>

or on phone: 1-305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 194 460 329 Passcode: 574509

One tap mobile: +13052241968,,194460329#,,, \*574509# US

**Pub Theology** is 12:30 pm in the Library. Bring your brown bag lunch and join us for fellowship and conversation.

### 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



“...Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1b

“Being the church in this world is no small task. We need courage and creativity to ‘lean into abundance’ when the world seems continually to be teaching lessons of scarcity”

“Yet this is precisely what **we are called** to do as church: to preach the word of joy, to rejoice because ‘God has done great things for us’ (Psalm 126:3). As people of God, **we are called** to speak the word of joy and abundance. To be the church is to be a visible reminder of the

promise of God unfolding in history. Our very vocation and identity are rooted in the same joy and hopefulness we struggle to experience in our congregations. There is a fundamental longing for the church to abound in what we need if we are to become who **we are called** to be.”

Excerpts from the ELCA World Hunger Advent Study 2023, Week 3-Vocation

The next Stewardship meeting will be Sunday, January 28, 2024 following worship, assuming we don’t need to use the snow date for the Annual Meeting. Join us in the library. Your insight and talents would be appreciated.

May the people of Immanuel journey with God through this New Year of transition possibilities and opportunities. Amen and amen!

Immanuel’s Stewardship Team: Beverly Lange, Lelita McKetty, Kyle Fohlin, Pastor Burgess and Kim Freeman



### January Celebrations



#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### HAPPY Anniversary

William Liedtke	1/01
Sandy Gade	1/05
Carolyn Ziemelis	1/06
Joan Chasse’	1/09
Lyn Tozier	1/09
Dorothy Marrow	1/11
Jody Ann McKenzie	1/13
Thaylia Corarito	1/13
John Comp	1/16

Frank Milano, Jr	1/16
Jack Zuber	1/22
Ralph Brooder	1/23
Corinthian McLeod	1/24
Joseph Loubier, Jr	1/28
Liliana DeMerchant	1/29
Schaefer Ellis	1/30
Lucille Gardner	1/30

Michael & Linda Langner	1/23
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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



# January 2024

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7pm Women's Area NA Meeting	<b>2</b> 7pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7pm Pentecostal Service  7pm NA	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Cove	<b>5</b> 10am Library Group	<b>6</b> 10am NA  7pm NA
<b>7</b> 9:45am Worship  5pm Pent Serv.  5:30pm NA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 12:30 Pub Theology 7:00 pm Finance	<b>10</b> 7pm Pentecostal Service  7pm NA	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Council  7pm NA	<b>12</b> 10am Library Group	<b>13</b> 10am NA  7pm NA
<b>14</b> 9:45am Worship 11 am Roxana Videla ordination celebration 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7pm Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7pm Pentecostal Service  7pm NA	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Cove 6:30pm Action 13 7:00 pm Finance 7pm NA	<b>19</b> 10am Library Group	<b>20</b> 10am NA  7pm NA
<b>21</b> 9:45am Worship 11am Annual Mtg 5pm Pent Serv 5:30pm NA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:30 Pub Theology	<b>24</b> 7pm Pentecostal Service  7pm NA	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Cove 7pm Finance 7pm NA	<b>26</b> 10am Library Group	<b>27</b> 10am NA  7pm NA
<b>28</b> 9:45 am Worship 11am Stewardship Mtg  11am Annual Mtg (Snow Date)  5pm Pent Serv.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  10 am Conference Pastors  7pm Bible Study	<b>31</b> 7pm Pentecostal Service  7pm NA			