

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 2023 * Volume 62 #10



Giving Thanks for All the Saints

Each year in November we celebrate two minor, but important, festivals: Thanksgiving Day and All Saints Sunday. They are different but related.

At Thanksgiving we give thanks for the many blessings God has given us. Many of those blessings have come to us through people who have come before us, the saints, the people made holy by God and through whom God has worked. I can think of at least four categories in which those saints fall:

Our Ancestors: These are the people who have given us life. Obviously our parents, grandparents great grandparents, etc. Also adoptive, foster, and stepparents who have functioned as parents when our natural parents may have been unable to full that roll. And our extended family of ancestors of aunts, uncles, and cousins. Through these people, God has given us life and made us who we are.

Our Teachers, Mentors, Community Leaders and Role Models: These people passed on the wisdom of the faith and our communities to help us grow and know what it means to be a child of God. While not actually “family”, like family they cared for us, taught us, and showed us what it means to be a person in the world. Some of them reached out and encouraged us personally. Some of them never knew us but inspired us from afar, perhaps even from the distant past. Historical figures like Martin and Katie Luther and biblical figures like Ruth or the disciples come to mind.

Those Unknown to Us: Many people have left us legacies that have shaped and blessed our lives. The people who founded our cities and nation. The saints who founded our congregation and built our church building. At a very tangible level, the people who constructed the buildings we live in, laid down the roads and sidewalks we travel on, made the clothes we wear, and grew the food we eat. In most cases they never knew or heard of us, nor we of them, yet through them God has blessed us.

The Departed Saints of God: The people who have died in the faith, especially as on All Saints Sunday we remember those who have recently died, but also those who over the centuries and millennia have lived lives of faithful service to God and who now rest in peace. We will one day join them at the marriage feast of the Lamb to sing praises to our Lord and God forever.

At Thanksgiving we are grateful for many things. As part of our Thanksgiving celebrations this year may we take an extra moment to give thanks for all the saints, known and unknown, family and beyond family. These are people made holy by God, and God has blessed us through them.

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 December Visitor are due no later than November 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.

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.

Current Prayer List

We pray for those on our prayer list: Dawn Aliou; Ginette Anziano; Jimmy Burlison; Timothy Carmody; Elliott Gardner; Matthew Gerry; Anthony Grego; Adrian Hyatt; Doreen Jenkins; Carol Kania; Kathleen Kilbride; Jean & Bob Kozuch; Tammy Luft; Herta Marin; Jan McGrath; Carla McLeod; Dwight McLeod; Connie Mezzio; Erin Murphy; Ann Phipps; Donna Rackie; Katie Reeves; Jim Soucy; Dawn Stitham; Hillary Taylor; Carolyn Ziemelis; those suffering from environmental disasters; those suffering from wars, especially the wars in Israel & Ukraine.

The Word in Season

Resolve to read the Bible more in 2023! The fourth quarter addition of The Word in Season (October, November and December) is now available as you enter the building. Pick up a copy for yourself and a copy to share.

The Word in Season is a daily devotional booklet; a tool that can help strengthen one’s relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Devotions can be tailored to anyone’s daily routine. Read as much or as little as fits your schedule.

Thanksgiving Service



Tuesday, November 21

7:00 pm

in person at
Faith Lutheran Church
300 Washington Street,
Middletown, CT

What are you thankful for this year?

Share an Evening with Us to Give Thanks!

Music, Scripture, Prayer, Holy Communion
Bring a non-perishable food item as your offering.

To Join Worship via Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 872 0686 5150

Passcode: 150805

or call +1 929 205 6099 (New York)

Meeting ID: 872 0686 5150

Passcode: 150805

or scan QR Code:



Presented by Local Lutheran Churches

East Hampton

Meriden

Middletown

Newington

Portland

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Faith Lutheran Church

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church

Christ Our King



God's church celebrates Christ the King Sunday on November 26, 2023, which is the last Sunday of this church year. We take another look at Jesus death on the cross. "We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as a humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise." (from Sundays and Seasons).

Property Clean Up Day

There will be a property clean up day Saturday, November 4th from 9 am till noon.

Bring your fall outdoor tools and come for as much as or as little as you can. All help is welcome!

Tuesday Night Bible Study

During the school / program year we meet every other Tuesday evening online to study a relevant passage from the Bible, usually though not always, from the lectionary. While this group has been meeting for some time now, we are always looking for new people to welcome, whether it be a one-time visit or as a regular member. You need not be a member of Immanuel.

Zoom Logon Info for Tuesday Night Bible Study:

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

Dial in by phone: 929 205 6099 US (New York number)

Meeting ID: 194 460 329 Password: 574509

Advent Dinner Church

During Advent 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.

Join us Tuesday nights as we prepare for the coming of Jesus to us in Advent. Bring a simple dish to share with us, but most importantly bring yourself to be nourished by the Spirit of Christ.

Note: Due to scheduling conflicts in November and Dinner Church in Advent, There will be no Bible Study after the first week in November or Pub Theology for the rest of 2023.

Tuesdays at Immanuel Schedule for November & December

Tuesday, November 7	7:00	Bible Study	Online Zoom 7:00 pm
Tuesday, November 28	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, December 5	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, December 12	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, December 19	5:30	Dinner Church	Augustana Hall
Tuesday, December 27	(no Tuesday activity)		

Check Your Mailbox

Due to the increasing cost of postage, if you give a donation to a fund at Immanuel, please check your church mailbox for your acknowledgement. Some of the church mailboxes are overflowing with mail. Please clean out your mailbox. If you are a member, and do not have a church mailbox please contact Diane in the church office or Cindy McCarthy. If you are a non-member your acknowledgement will be mailed.

Thank you to the members and friends of Immanuel who have been donating postage stamps. The stamps are greatly appreciated.



Thanksgiving Baskets

This Thanksgiving we will be putting together food bags/baskets for needy families! The need for food grows more and more each year and we want to make sure families in our community have food on their table this holiday.

Below is a suggestion on items we would like to collect:

- Canned vegetables
- Potatoes
- Gravy
- Mac and cheese
- Corn bread mix
- Cranberry sauce
- Dessert mix
- Turkeys
- Anything you think a family will enjoy!

We are so excited to be able to do this. Last day for collecting goods will be November 15th so we can distribute them by November 18th.



Stewardship

We Are Called



Called to worship and praise God in community. Called to love and support our families, friends and neighbors. Called to care for God's creation. Called to live lives modeled after Jesus.

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

It is awesome to see so many additions to the interactive **Wall of Gratitude** display. Everyone is encouraged to continue to notice where your fellow worshipers are living out their calling and sharing their gifts. It will give us a deeper picture of the ways God has created and called us as a whole body of faith.

Thank you to everyone who has returned the 2024 financial pledge forms. Your offerings allow God's ministry to continue at and through Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church.

The Stewardship team is asking everyone to return a completed form by putting it in the offering plate at an upcoming worship service, mailing it in or dropping it off in the office M-F, 9am-1pm, if you have not done so already. Receiving a form from everyone will help us better understand what God might be up to our midst.

Having this information will also assist the Finance committee in preparing a 2024 budget for Council to present to the congregation at the Annual meeting in January. We pray everyone feels called to be involved in planning and funding Immanuel's ministry.

Then on **Stewardship Sunday, November 12th, we celebrate!** Being redeemed children of God is sure something to celebrate. Called leaders and the 2024 offering pledges will be blessed during worship and a pot-luck fellowship brunch will follow the service. There may even be some financial reporting available, should there be an interest.

Giving Tuesday is November 28th this year.

Set clocks back one-hour Saturday, November 4th.
Daylight Savings time ends Sunday, November 5th.

THANK YOU

Immanuel's Stewardship Committee is grateful to everyone who was able to contribute to the contingency fund during their September matching challenge. Because of how finances are recorded, the total amount raised was not known when the October Visitor was printed. We now know that gifts totaling \$612 were contributed during September! Therefore, the Stewardship team as also contributed \$600 to help offset the budget deficit. Another reason to celebrate on November 12th!

The next Stewardship meeting will be Sunday, November 5, 2023 following worship. Join us in the library. Your insight and talents would be appreciated.

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

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



November Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dave Lindsey	11/02
Caleb Zuber	11/03
Bertille Black	11/04
Teri-Jean Loubier	11/04
Debbie LeHerissier	11/06
Edward Lange	11/07
Abigail Kronenberger	11/10
Emily McKenzie	11/10
Teal Singleton	11/12

Carmen Rodriguez	11/16
Michael Coon	11/16
Cameron Coon	11/17
Shaylin Hall	11/17
Milton Contaras	11/24
Courtney Becker	11/25
Judith Mosier	11/25
Charlain Stocking	11/29

HAPPY Anniversary

Beverly & Edward Lange	11/18
Pastor & Betty Burgess	11/26



*Please join us as we celebrate the
30th Anniversary of Ministry of
Deacon Lynn Tozier*

*Sunday, November 26, 2023
Immanuel Lutheran Church
164 Hanover Street
Meriden CT 06450*

*Immediately following
9:45 am worship service
refreshments provided*



November 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	2 6:00pm Cove	3 10am Library Group	4 9-12 Property Clean Up Day 10am NA 7pm NA
5 9:45am Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	6 7pm Women's Area NA Meeting	7 7:00 Bible Study	8 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	9 7pm NA	10 10am Library Group	11 10am NA 7pm NA
12 9:45am Worship Stewardship Mtg 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	13	14	15 6:30pm Council 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	16 6:00pm Cove 6:30pm Action 13 7pm Finance 7pm NA	17 10am Library Group 7-9pm Pentecostal Meeting	18 10am NA 11am -Birthday Party 7pm NA
19 9:45am Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	20	21 7:00 Thanksgiving Service (Faith Luth, Middletown)	22 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	23 8am – 2pm NA Marathon 7pm NA	24 10am Library Group	25 10am NA 7pm NA
26 9:45am Worship Anniversary Party for Lynn Tozier 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	27	28 5:30 Advent Dinner Church	29 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	30		