

Happy New Year! I am excited to be a partner in ministry with you here at Immanuel. I thought you might like to know a little bit about me as we begin our transition time together.

I was born and lived most of my childhood in the LA basin of California. We moved around a lot to follow Dad's need to find better and better jobs to support our family of six. My family was infrequently in church, but all I remember about churches was good. I was confirmed and received my first communion in a congregation of the Augustana Synod (later LCA, then ELCA) but in high school and college I attended Missouri Synod churches.

I was trained as a church school teacher and have been a volunteer church leader in many areas: youth group leader, adult and youth Bible study leader, Sunday School teacher and daily classroom teacher. Also, unrelated to this purpose, I have served on congregation councils, been Financial Secretary, created, directed and published children's Christmas programs, sung in choirs and led drives to assist the needy.

Following 15 years of classroom teaching that spanned all ages and ability levels, I enrolled at Wartburg Theological Seminary at Dubuque, Iowa. There, I earned my Master of Divinity degree in 1993. My first call to ordained parish ministry was at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Stafford Springs, CT. While there, I also served as the Bishop's Assistant/Secretary of the Slovak Zion Synod of the ELCA and a part-time chaplain at a state home for people with developmental disabilities. I served six years as a member of the Board for Higher Education and Schools of the ELCA beginning in that call and continuing into the next.

My second call was to serve Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) at Trumbull, CT. I also served as Co-chair of the Bridge Building Ministry of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport. I received the Distinguished Service Award from the Council of Churches for 12 years volunteering in various capacities. During my tenure at Trumbull, the membership of the congregation grew from 220 to over 300 baptized souls.

Throughout my ministry, I have enjoyed writing petitions to be used as the Prayers of the Church (or Prayers of the People). About 15 years ago, while sharing some of my petitions online with friends and colleagues, I was encouraged to make these writings more widely available. Friends began telling friends about my prayers and people started requesting my prayers weekly. Last year, readers of *The Lutheran Forum* magazine were invited by the editor to contact me about receiving the prayers for their own use. This referral has resulted in the need to send additional emails each week.

During my ten months at Grace in Naugatuck, ending on Labor Day this year, I helped the congregation transition from one called pastor to the next. Some of the things we accomplished together there were improved communication, accurate record keeping and improvement in the timely processing of bills and invoices, and establishing an accurate membership roster. My schedule was half time and hours were flexible while I did maintain regular office hours for availability. →→→

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**10:30 Holy Communion**

**Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

One service at 10:30 followed by Potluck Luncheon and meeting.

My husband, Karl, and I were married July 31, 1971. We have three grown children and three grandchildren with one more on the way. Our son, Matthew, and his wife, Katarina, live in Norwalk with our 10-month old granddaughter, Alexandra. Our daughter, Kerriane, is single and lives in Beacon Falls. Our daughter, Kathryn, and her wife, Heather, live in Needham, MA, with our 6-year old granddaughter, Esther, and our 9-month old grandson, Charlie. We have two small dogs and two cats at home. I love to read mysteries, watch TV, garden and sew both clothing and quilts. My husband is the office manager at Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport.

I look forward to getting to know you and walking with you where God's Spirit leads us. Please be patient with me as I learn names and put them with faces. I surely do not mean to snub anyone or ignore any needs. I will hold you all in prayer as we praise the Lord.

~~~Transition Pastor Linda Kraft

PS – Stop by the church office one of these days for a visit. I plan to be in the office Tuesdays 2-5pm and Wednesdays 9:30-2:30 as I work half-time. See you soon!

## Immanuel's Blessings!

Thank you Immanuel for your embrace of our 27th Cantata! As in every year, great numbers of individuals help make this endeavor a success. This year, however, the choir deserves an extra applause for mastering some difficult music. Many hours of practice went into accomplishing this feat. Special kudos to Alicia and the children for an exceptional job!

The choir will travel to the Lutheran Home in Southbury on January 15<sup>th</sup> to repeat the Cantata for the residents' enjoyment. Noel

*Many thanks to Judy Adcox, Sue Borchert, Karen Errickson and Arleen Flach for their help putting the Cantata program together and to the RMC for the doorbell! Thank you, Maureen*

## Happy Birthdays

|    |                     |    |                 |
|----|---------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Elizabeth Loughlin  | 19 | Evan Meady      |
|    | Jeanmarie Mullen    | 20 | Thomas Lovell   |
|    | Patrick Burton      |    | Rich Alves      |
| 2  | Michelle Schreyer   | 23 | Victoria Skehan |
| 3  | Isabella Fassbender |    | David Haight    |
| 7  | Victor Diaz         |    | Dillon Bye      |
| 10 | Peter Wright        | 24 | Joey Diaz       |
| 12 | Allison Ahearn      | 27 | Walter Hupprich |
| 15 | Teri Mazza          |    | Alaina Richards |
|    | Caitlyn Lynch       |    | Chloe Richards  |
|    | Caleb Lynch         | 28 | Barbara Lovell  |
| 16 | Teresa Mentgen      | 29 | Carla Diaz      |
|    | Sean Skehan         | 31 | Barbara Enquist |
| 18 | Emma Jean Florin    |    | Victoria Alves  |

## The Food Bank Corner

**Hamburger Helper, Instant Potatoes**

### Spooner House Meal Tuesday, January 24th

*If you would like to prepare a meal for Spooner House, please contact Ellen Fritz 203.888.5756  
All months open except March.*

## Happy Anniversaries

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 2  | Anne & Robert Dow      |
| 29 | Barbara & Eugene Andes |

**New baby?** Let Karin Schidat know so a rose can be placed on the font in their honor. 203.888.5946

## Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218) Donna Figoras (203.734.0249)

|                  |                        |                          |                  |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Joe Abate        | Mary Ann Croves        | Art Moran                | Lynne Ross       |
| Ann Marie Lisa   | Russ Dilley            | Ava Nebbia               | Joyce Sauer      |
| Helen Ahearn     | Heather & Kasen Demers | Tacia Neumann            | Debby Simko      |
| Bob Ancefsy      | Elizabeth Dicapua      | George Officer           | Margo Steckert   |
| Elaine Ault      | Ruth Edgren            | Tyler Otis               | Dorothy Stockman |
| Barbara          | Millie Grele           | Olivia                   | Ed Stockman      |
| Shirley Bernardo | Sebastian Estrada      | Florence Pawlak          | Arlene Sullivan  |
| Patrick Burton   | Illiana                | Gary Petitti             | Alexa Terrell    |
| Lauren Burton    | Linda Kunecki          | Dorothy Prillip          | Kim Tupper       |
| Cheryl           | Norbert Lorenzen       | Joanna Rooney & children | Ron Thompson     |
| Kathy Corrigan   | Richard LoRicco Sr     | Rose                     | Dee Voccola      |
|                  | Wilma Luft             |                          | Chelsea Wheeler  |

# Oxford Community Car Service

Volunteer drivers needed!

Newer, town-owned car provided.

Drive once or twice a week.

For information – Call Sandy Brown at 203.881.0406

The Seymour Oxford Food Bank would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped out during the November Food Drives. Your help in sorting and boxing the donations we received by the ambulance companies, the Seymour Police Department and the area schools was very much appreciated. We are so blessed to have such caring people in our community. Happy Holidays! Warmest wishes, Seymour Oxford Food Bank

## January Ministry

|                     |              | Ushers                                          | Assisting Minister                      | Lector                   | Acolyte                                      | Coffee Hour                                   |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>            | <b>8:15</b>  | <i>One Service</i>                              |                                         |                          |                                              |                                               |
|                     | <b>10:30</b> | <i>Charlotte Tottenham &amp; Charlie Rippel</i> | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>                    | <i>Andrew Napomiceno</i> | <i>Samantha Fletter &amp; Madison Jarvis</i> | <i>Sue Borchert &amp; Charlotte Tottenham</i> |
| <b>8</b>            | <b>8:15</b>  | <i>Deb &amp; Tom Solomon</i>                    | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>                    | <i>Lynn Nesshouver</i>   | <i>Ethan Andes &amp; Tori Alves</i>          | <i>Paula Otis</i>                             |
|                     | <b>10:30</b> | <i>Kim Tupper &amp; Deb Maciog</i>              | <i>Andrew Napomiceno</i>                | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>     | <i>Lauren Burton &amp; Josh Napomiceno</i>   | <i>Sandra &amp; Dave Andes</i>                |
| <b>15</b>           | <b>8:15</b>  | <i>Betty &amp; Jerry Lower</i>                  | <i>Wendy Cegelka</i>                    | <i>Lars Edgren</i>       | <i>Sean Ruggerio &amp; Jack Mullen</i>       | <i>The Mullen family</i>                      |
|                     | <b>10:30</b> | <i>Rick Kaeser &amp; Al Meyer</i>               | <i>Ellen Fritz</i>                      | <i>Beth Alves</i>        | <i>Tori &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>            | <i>Kim Tupper</i>                             |
| <b>22</b>           | <b>8:15</b>  | <i>Annual Meeting</i>                           | <i>One service</i>                      | <i>---</i>               |                                              |                                               |
|                     | <b>10:30</b> | <i>Sandra &amp; Dave Andes</i>                  | <i>Julie Cormack</i>                    | <i>Karin Schidat</i>     | <i>Vanessa Bogle &amp; Josh Napomiceno</i>   | <i>Potluck Luncheon</i>                       |
| <b>29</b>           | <b>8:15</b>  | <i>Julie Cormack &amp; Peter Wright</i>         | <i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i>              | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>     | <i>Jack Mullen &amp; Ethan Andes</i>         | <i>The Burton family</i>                      |
|                     | <b>10:30</b> | <i>Vicki Napomiceno &amp; Kim Tupper</i>        | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>                    | <i>Charlie Rippel</i>    | <i>Madison Jarvis &amp; Tori Alves</i>       | <i>Karin Schidat &amp; Jutta Firat</i>        |
| <b>Altar Guild:</b> |              |                                                 | <i>Kim Burton &amp; Alicia Belinsky</i> |                          |                                              |                                               |

# January 2017

| Sun                                                                                                                      | Mon                                 | Tue                                                                                   | Wed                        | Thu                                                  | Fri                     | Sat       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:20 Sunday School<br>One Service at 10:30a<br>Holy Communion                                                | <b>2</b><br>7-9<br>Scouts           | <b>3</b><br>6:30<br><i>Worship &amp;<br/>           Music<br/>           Ministry</i> | <b>4</b><br>6:30-9 Scouts  | <b>5</b><br>7:00p Christian<br>Education<br>Ministry | <b>6</b>                | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>11:30 Membership &<br>Outreach Ministry | <b>9</b><br>6:30<br>Adult<br>Study  | <b>10</b><br>7-9 Scouts                                                               | <b>11</b><br>6:30-9 Scouts | <b>12</b>                                            | <b>13</b>               | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion                                           | <b>16</b><br>6:30<br>Adult<br>Study | <b>17</b>                                                                             | <b>18</b><br>6:30-9 Scouts | <b>19</b>                                            | <b>20</b><br>7-9 Scouts | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br><i>Annual Meeting</i><br>One Service<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion                          | <b>23</b><br>6:30<br>Adult<br>Study | <b>24</b><br>7-9 Scouts                                                               | <b>25</b><br>6:30-9 Scouts | <b>26</b>                                            | <b>27</b>               | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion                                           | <b>30</b><br>6:30<br>Adult<br>Study | <b>31</b>                                                                             |                            |                                                      |                         |           |

