

*Our mission is to introduce all people to
Jesus Christ and the exhilarating power and
undefeatable joy He brings to life!*

JULY 2022

GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Rebecca Craig, pages 1-3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Pete Morello, page 2

DEACON'S DESK

Cheryl Gundersdorff, page 3

FINANCIALS

page 4

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Brittany Lustig, pages 6-7

STEWARDSHIP

Paula Tsufis, page 8

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Pr. Chad Fair, page 9

MINISTRIES & GROUPS

pages 10-11



Life on the Margins

by Pastor Rebecca Craig

The good and bad part about utilizing the Narrative Lectionary that follows a preaching schedule from September through Pentecost (May or June) is that it gives us the opportunity to explore topics during the summer months that we likely would not preach on otherwise. Now the reason I say this is good AND bad is because it's good to cover new topics. The bad is...trying to decide what new topics to cover! We landed this year on women's stories in scripture, in particular stories that don't tend to get a lot of attention typically via either the narrative or the revised common lectionaries that we use as a guide for our preaching schedule.

So admittedly, this summer's series was my idea. In the wake of things like the

Southern Baptist Convention's sexual abuse scandal, where over 700 pastors had their arrests for abuse covered up by the church, and the female victims demonized and harassed, I thought perhaps talking about the contributions of women in scripture might help us all to understand some of the struggles and dangers that women have faced throughout church history. How their faithfulness in spite of how they many times get relegated to side-issues or plot devices can inspire anyone who has faced some form of marginalization in their lives.

2020 was the 50th anniversary of women's ordination in the ELCA and her predecessor churches, the LCA, ALC and AELC.

(continued on page 2...)

God with us
Immanuel

LUTHERAN CHURCH
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive
Palm City, FL 34990
772.287.8188
immanuelpalmcity.org



Pastor Rebecca's

MONTHLY MESSAGE

(...continued from page 1)

I think what strikes me is that fifty-two years ago wasn't that long ago. In the two thousand years since Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was said to have caused both male and female to prophesy (the word in Greek means to speak/preach God's word), it's only been in the last several decades that women have been allowed to more fully live out their calling and vocation in the church. Though that is still not across the board in all denominations of Christianity. Many continue to deny women the right to wear the stole and be called "Pastor."

This saddens me because when we look at these stories of women in scripture, we see women who are mothers of the faith (Rebekah), warrior judges and prophets that led their nation (Deborah), women who juggled being head of their household, having a career to support her family, and a leader in their faith community (Lydia).

The women of scripture aren't that different from the women of today. Yes, things have changed, but as the saying goes, the more

(continued on page 3...)



PLANTING SEEDS



*by Pete Morello
Council President*

A lot is happening at Immanuel. We are closer to renovating our parking lot. Vacation Bible School was a great success. The Early Learning Center is going strong, and we are looking forward to next school year already. I have been seeing new faces in worship which is great. The Endowment committee had a wonderful meeting to go over how Immanuel can best use those funds to support our mission.

Although it is quite hot, I really enjoy the summer months. My wife and kids are off from school, so I get to see them in the morning before I leave for work. What a great way to start off my day. The quick conversations we have in the morning always set me up for success for the day ahead. Those conversations got me thinking about the bible passage Matthew 13:1-9, the story Jesus told about a farmer scattering seeds. I recommend reading the whole verse, but I will sum it up and share with you just the ending piece "other seed fell on good soil. It produced a crop 100, 60, or 30 times more than what was planted." Farming experts know just what kind of soil is needed for their crops. They will add the right kind of fertilizer (vitamins and nutrients) so their plants can grow. They want their seeds to grow into large, healthy plants that will give them good fruits and vegetables. If it is done right, a handful of seeds will produce bushels full of good things to eat! Those morning conversations are mostly positive and talking about what is the plan for the day ahead. They are adding the "vitamins and nutrients" I need to be "good soil" for the day ahead. Preparing me to face the day open to what is to come and be ready to grow. When your conversations are looking forward, guided by faith and "The Good News" they will make those involved become "Good Soil". This will produce a crop of understanding and joy that will multiply 100-fold. Have a happy and safe 4th of July! ■

Dave Vanderlice

**Memorial Service
Saturday, July 23rd
11 am**

*followed by light lunch in the
FDC.*

If you plan on attending the lunch, please RSVP to ilcpalmcity@gmail.com



FREEDOM IN CHRIST



by Cheryl Gundersdorff
Deacon

Freedom. The ability to make choices. Freedom. Liberation from the power of another. Freedom. That which Americans treasure from our heritage, but that can turn into an idol if not exercised with responsibility. The question is, are we really free? What does freedom really mean in

God's realm?

I like another of Webster's definition of freedom: released from something onerous. What could be more onerous than being under the weight of bondage to our sins and paying the ultimate price of our sins through the eternal separation from God?

Real freedom comes from God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8 tells us that "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast."

Real freedom comes through faith in Jesus. It is that simple. He suffered and died for us so that we can be free from the weight of the bondage to sin. Romans 8:2 tells us "Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." It is His love that has set us free to be children of God. We are freed from our old sinful self to be molded into the person God created us to be. John 8:36 tells us "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." We are free to love and serve others as He loved us. In John 13:15 Jesus says to us "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Our excitement over Jesus gifting us with true freedom should be greater than any Fourth of July fireworks. By all means enjoy the fireworks, but realize that they are nothing compared to the fireworks of God's eternal love. How will you use your freedom? ■

(...continued from page 2)

things change, the more they stay the same. Women still struggle to have their voices and stories heard, to be believed, and treated with equality; both in wider society and within the church as well.

I know as I study these stories, I feel a certain kinship with these women who I am separated from by thousands of years, culture, country and race. Yet despite two millennia of separation, I am able to identify with their plight. I see how they respond to the limitations of the culture they are living within and can see myself in their situation perhaps responding and doing similar things. I feel the pain of making hard choices, alongside the joys of being seen and known by God. ■

MONTHLY GOOD NEWS DEADLINE

The deadline to submit items for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month. Items received after the 15th may or may not make it into the newsletter. To submit items, send an email to: ilcmedia2655@gmail.com

Fill plates and lift hearts



Essential Thrivent community food bank items

More than 38 million people—including 12 million children—in the U.S. experience food insecurity, leaving families to make hard choices between paying bills or buying groceries. Together, let's help everyone get enough to eat.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned tuna, ham or chicken | <input type="checkbox"/> Whole grain pasta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef stew, chili or hearty soups | <input type="checkbox"/> Cereal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned or dried beans | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned fruit & vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries |

Donations should be non-perishable, but be sure to check expiration dates.

thrivent® Items may be dropped off in the Narthex
3



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President

Pete Morello
shipperpete@gmail.com

Vice President

Drew High
drewhigh7@gmail.com

Secretary

Sandra Foley
fschoolmarm@aol.com

Treasurer

John Gustafson
johndgustafson@outlook.com

Finance

Ron Froehlich
rfroeh1944@gmail.com

Worship

Kim Shrum
kim.shrum2011@gmail.com

Stewardship

Doug Crawford
dougcm@fps.us

Communication & Evangelism

Belinda Lowe
lovymille@comcast.net

Service

Marcie Balow
mbalow45@gmail.com

Learning

Michael Keese
makeese14@live.com

Property

Rex Noble, Jr.
auburn1984@bellsouth.net

Faith, Fun & Fellowship/Small Groups

Amber Castro
ambercastro@yahoo.com

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE



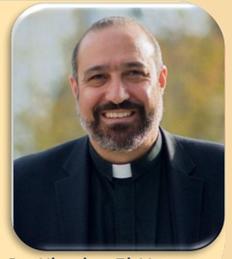
Pr. Chad Fair

February 06 - 16, 2023

From Miami, FL (MIA)

Other Cities Available

Package Price: \$3790



Pr. Khader El-Yateem

- Round trip airfare
- Double occupancy luxury hotels
- Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner daily
- 9 days sightseeing on private bus
- Optional Jordan extension Feb 16-19, price \$750

If you are interested in going on this trip, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Pastor Chad at pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org. Signing up is not a commitment to go on the trip, it just helps us determine the level of interest.

We now have more ways for you to give!



Mobile

Text: IPCGIVE
to 77977



Online

immanuelpalmcity.org



Envelopes

MONTHLY GIVING REPORT

A report of our giving compared to the approved budget the congregation agreed to at the annual meeting. We're including last year as a comparison as well

	May 2022	May 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Given	\$62,086.15	\$43,772.65	\$200,032.31	\$181,759.73
Needed	\$51,665.00	\$50,300.00	\$227,326.00	\$221,320.00
Difference	\$10,421.15	(\$6,527.35)	(\$27,293.69)	(\$39,560.27)

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

Our year-to-date operating income and expenses using the latest report of the treasurer.

Through 5/31/2022	ILC & IELC
Income	\$440,695.32
Expenses	\$383,402.60
Difference	\$57,292.72

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Chad Fair

pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org

Pastor & Director of Publications

Rebecca Craig

pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org

Deacon

Cheryl Gundersdorff

cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org

Organist & Choir Director

Vacant

Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Lustig

brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

Director of Early Learning Center

Rebecca Painter

IELCDirector@ilcpalmcity.org

Children, Youth & Family Director

Brittany Lustig

brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

Office Manager

Dawne Laval

dawnelaval@ilcpalmcity.org

Administrative Assistant

Sheri Muller

sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org

Sexton

Leeona Reid

Text: 772-444-5148



Prayer Requests

To add someone to the prayer list contact:
Sheri at sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org

To add someone to the prayer chain contact:
Cheryl Gundersdorff: 772-221-8939
cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org





Brittany Lustig

YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

June has been absolutely incredible. Let me just say: "I LOVE MY JOB!" It has been a whirlwind this month. We started the month going to Nashville, Tennessee with our high schoolers. Pastor Chad and I took ten of our youth and went on a journey of a lifetime. Our plane was delayed a handful of hours and canceled on our way back, but it didn't stop us from spreading the love of Jesus. These children were incredible. We are so immensely proud of these hardworking and respectful young adults. While we were thrown every travel nightmare in the book, these children were so positive. The relationships that blossomed on this trip were the highlight of my first year in ministry working as the Youth Director here at Immanuel. The amount of love and faith that was poured out of their cup and into the community of Nashville was overflowing. I'm so blessed to have been able to experience their faith and relationships grow through the week we spent together. Thank

(continued on page 7...)



CHILDREN, Y



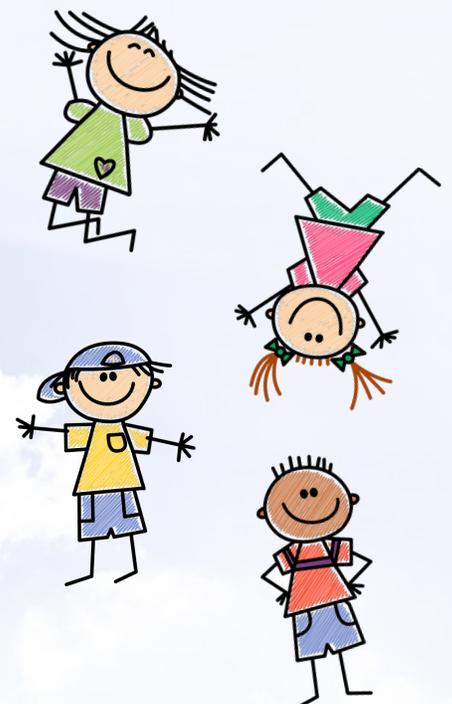
YOUTH & FAMILY



(...continued from page 6)

you so much Immanuel. Because of your donations and help with fundraising, they were able to have this trip forever in their hearts and minds.

Right when we got back I had to put on my VBS hat and get into planning mode. Thank you so much to everyone who donated food, craft supplies, AND your time. I cannot thank you enough! Truly these things can't happen without volunteers. We had 26 volunteers who helped us plan, prep and accomplish an incredible VBS experience. "Arise, Shine with Love, Trust, Faith, Joy, and Hope." Fun under the sun at our Adventure Island was a blast. Having fun and learning about our Lord was the goal, and the goal was ACHIEVED! Thank you again to everyone who helped and made it happen. You're truly appreciated by all of Immanuel's staff. I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer. ■



PATHWAYS

DISCIPLESHIP
FOR
SMALL GROUPS

Want to deepen your relationship with God and other members of the church? Join one of our Pathways Small Groups!

Pathways is about being changed by God's love into the person God has called you to be. It involves immersing ourselves in God's Word, communicating with God through prayer, and serving our fellow human beings...all while deepening our relationships with one another.

Groups can be in-person or online via zoom. Sign up in the narthex or on our website, immanuelpalmcity.org/pathways

"Pathways gives you skills to better understand the Bible and each lesson builds that understanding even more as you progress to the next lesson. Plus, you can share ideas and thoughts on what you are learning and often time ideas and concepts come up that you might not have been thinking about, you receive the perspective of each member of the group."

- Jeff Carson

If you have questions about what Pathways entails, please contact Pastor Rebecca at pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org



WHAT'S YOUR WORLD VIEW?



Secular or Christian?

by Paula Tsufis, Stewardship Committee

Secular

adjective

- of or relating to worldly things or to things that are not regarded as religious, spiritual, or sacred; temporal: secular interests.

- not pertaining to or connected with religion (opposed to sacred): secular music.

Source: Dictionary.com



The past two years I've been participating in the NE Minnesota Synod lay leader network. One continuing topic of study has been to explore our current context for ministry- our highly secular society. In April, instructor Pastor Mark Skinner, Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd, MN shared this handy summary. Where does your worldview land?

Highly Secular Worldview	Traditional Christian Worldview
Authenticity of the self above all.	<i>Personhood</i> is formed in relationship with God and with others.
The good life is what you make of it by building up yourself and your resources.	The call of Jesus is a call to, "Come and die." Following Jesus into the death experience of our neighbor. (Root, p 236)
The good life is always a projection into the future.	The good life is found in relationship with others in the presence of God.
Transformation is a self-help project.	Transformation occurs when we confess our need of God and others in our lives. (Root p. 240)
My community consists of people that think, act, look, and vote like me.	The congregation is a community of persons who are carried by the very spirit of Jesus Christ. (Root p. 245)
Authority comes from within ourselves. (Root p 237)	Authority is external to ourselves and finds its origin in God's Word for us and to us. (Bonhoeffer)
Humility is weakness.	Humility is ..."Along with all other human beings and the rest of creation my own self is not the kind of being that could be something on its own." (Root p 238)

Sources: *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1939, German theologian and *The Congregation in the Secular Age* by Andrew Root (Baker 2020), leading practical Lutheran theologian. www.Andrewroot.org

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

by Pastor Chad Fair

We are excited to announce some changes at our Early Learning Center that took place the end of June. Miss Rebecca Painter has been named interim director of our Early Learning Center and Miss Natalie Davis has been named interim assistant director. Those two names might be very familiar, combined they have over 25 years of experience here at Immanuel. Changes is never easy but we are excited for what the future holds under their leadership.

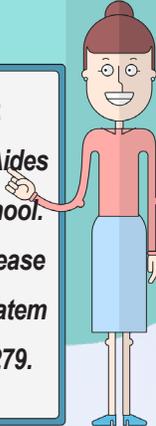
Of course, that means we have lost a long-time member of our Immanuel family. After 17 years of guidance Beth Tatem has stepped down from her position as director. We cannot thank her enough for building a wonderful foundation for the future of our school and we wish her many blessings in the future.

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	Closed July 4 th Spirit	4	5	6	7	8
			Week Music			9
10	Nature	11	12	13	14	15
			Week Music			16
17	Super Heroes	18	19	20	21	22
			Week Music			23
24	Water	25	26	27	28	29
			Week Music			30
31						



Needed:
Teachers and Aides
for our pre-school.
If interested please
contact Beth Tatem
at 772- 219-2279.





The Cracked Pots

Join Pastors Chad and Rebecca for their weekly podcast discussing the previous weekend's text more in-depth. Available on our website or on our app.

SAVE THE DATE

If something should happen to you suddenly, do you have all your wishes known?

End of Life Planning Seminar
Saturday, August 6th

ADULT EDUCATION

Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month
3 pm • Choir Room
not meeting in July

Sisters in Spirit

3rd Tuesday of the month
7 pm • Panera

FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE MINISTRIES

Quilts of Valor

Weds 6:00 pm • Room 202
Info: Jackie Koch, 772.834.8058

Altar Guild

2nd Wednesday of the month
10 am • Room 202
Info: Marj Smith, 772.286.8974
or Belinda Lowe, 772.634.0194

Stephen Ministry

2nd Monday
6:30 pm in Room 202
not meeting in July

Wednesday Bridge Group

Wednesdays at 1 pm
Room 201

Souper Sundays

Every Sunday @ 4:30 pm • FDC
Immanuel's Weeks to help are
the 3rd and 5th Sundays
Contact: Marcie Balow
772.283.0982 or
mbalow45@gmail.com

*Carry-Out only until further
notice*

BRIDGE GROUP

If you're fully vaccinated, join us Wednesdays in room 201 at 1:00 pm to play bridge. Anyone who would like to play is welcome.



Bible Study & Adult Ed



Deborah Circle Women's Ministry

Will not be meeting in the month of July.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

In an instant our lives can be changed. When those changes are difficult it helps to have a Christian friend who will walk with you and be there for you to help you adjust to the change. That is what a Stephen Minister does. You don't have to go through your difficulty alone. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 for information on getting your own Stephen Minister



Prayer Chain Ministry

So many people are in need of prayer. Our Immanuel prayer chain is always available to pray for you or those you know in need of prayer. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 to request prayer or to become a member of our prayer team. From May 12-June 12 contact Jill Swartz 219-2388.





Souper Sundays

Immanuel Lutheran volunteers serve every third and fifth Sunday.

To volunteer, contact Marcie Balow at 283-0982 or mbalow45@gmail.com or sign up in the Narthex

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Contemporary Worship Team

Sundays @ 8 am • Sanctuary
Contact Brittany Lustig
brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

Bell Choir

Saturdays at 4:30 pm • Sanctuary
On hiatus over the summer

Chancel Choir

Sundays at 10 am • Choir Room
Suspended until further notice

Cornerstone Singers

Saturdays @ 5:15 pm • Sanctuary

Children's Choir/JAM

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm • FDC
Contact Brittany Lustig
brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org



Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry

All ladies of Immanuel & friends are invited to the Sisters in Spirit Bible study of Experiencing the Heart of Jesus. We meet Tuesday, July 19th at 7PM at Panera Bread Palm City. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 for more info and to RSVP.



Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild does not meet in July or August, but we are always looking for volunteers to help with communion at all services. Please call if you are interested.

For more information, call Marj Smith at 772-286-8974 or Belinda Lowe at 772-634-0194.

FOOD BAG DONATIONS FOR SOUPER SUNDAYS



We are continuing to distribute food bags at Souper Sunday. We will be accepting donations of the following:

Food Bags: Tuna salad (boxes or foil bags), Chicken salad (boxes or foil bags), Jif to Go, Filled snack crackers (peanut butter or cheese filled), Breakfast bars, Fruit cups, Keebler/Ritz Crackers (Snack packs).

Contact Karen Coombs at 772-600-7272

Thrivent members:

Do you know that you are eligible for an Action Team every year? Benefit members are eligible for TWO Action Teams, Associate members are eligible for ONE.

Please if you have no plans or organizations that you wish to support, consider helping with our Souper Sunday "Snack Bags." As you are all aware, the price of food is climbing. We need your help to continue this ministry.

For additional information, please call Karen Coombs: 772-600-7272 or 772-475-3312.

Thank you so much.





LUTHERAN CHURCH
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive
Palm City, FL 34990
772.287.8188
immanuelpalmcity.org

Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays:

6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

All services available via
livestream on our website or
through our app.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Stuart, FL
Permit No. 144



SUNDAY, JULY 3RD



10 AM WORSHIP
followed by BBQ out front

Saturday, 6 pm worship will be as usual