

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

APRIL 2022

# GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

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## Lenten Darkness, Easter Light

*by Pastor Chad Fair*

**A**s I write this article and look toward the month of April, Holy Week and Easter it's hard to know what might be going on in the world. We've all watched the heart-breaking events transpiring in eastern Europe. The devastation, the loss of life and the resulting refugee crisis seems overwhelming at times. I too have felt that heaviness. Like many of you, I have also struggled with the general idea of evil in the world. I struggle with why we so easily divide ourselves based on nationality (here and abroad), gender and sexuality, skin color, social class, political party etc. These things are not uniquely

American issues, but rather human issues. These are indeed some dark and heavy times and maybe Lent is the perfect time to reflect on this darkness in search of the Light. I'm a firm believer that God is at work even when we don't see it.

In my own personal faith journey, I try to find the Light in the midst of all the darkness. I admit that some days that's easier said than done. For me it seems to be a matter of focus and where I fix my eyes. When I look at scripture, I find myself both heartened and disheartened at the same time. My spirit is lifted because

*(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 Chad's**

## MONTHLY MESSAGE

*(...continued from page 1)*

when I read scripture, I don't see a narrative of division, but rather one of unity. Yes, even back then people divided themselves among arbitrary categories and humanity has had a difficult time freeing ourselves from the sin that divides us but ultimately God will win out. Even in the midst of war we see glimmers of God's hope, such as an impromptu worship service held in a subway station where Russians and Ukrainians were worshipping together. We see the world look for ways to respond to the numerous crises.

I'm hopeful that peace prevails (sooner rather than later) and that perhaps our world view changes as well. For instance, I know I've ruffled some feathers talking about immigration in the past, even while not talking policy. The word immigrant has become one of those hot button words. Today we define an immigrant as an individual who leaves one's country to settle in another, whereas refugees are defined as persons, who move out of one's country due to restriction or danger to their lives. While we categorize immigrants and refugees

*(continued on page 3...)*

# HOW WE PRAY



*by Pete Morello  
Council President*

Over the last month we have been pausing during The Lord's Prayer so we could really let the words sink in. This was perfect timing for me since I am in the Pathways bible study and we are working on the Prayer module right now, and one of the questions is, "How do we pray?" I pray in many ways but how do I pray when I recite the Lord's prayer? According to Luke 11:1-4, when one of Jesus' disciples ask Him, "Lord, teach us to pray," Jesus replied by giving us the Lord's Prayer. This short prayer takes a mere 15-20 seconds to say yet is filled with incredible meaning. If ever there was a prayer that summarized our faith and what's expressed in the Gospels, I believe the Lord's Prayer is it. Let's break it down:

- 1. Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name.** This reminds us that God is righteous and powerful and we should recognize all those around us as children of God and treat them accordingly.
- 2. Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.** We are asking that God's kingdom surround us in our everyday life allowing God's grace to move us to do his will throughout our life.
- 3. Give us this day our daily bread.** Knowing that all things come from God we're asking that God continue to give us not only the food we need for nourishment, but also the Bread of Life that nourishes our souls.
- 4. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.** This is a tough one. It may be easy for us to ask God to forgive us our "trespasses," debts, and sins, but we must first forgive those who've hurt us. Although it is difficult to forgive, this statement teaches us that when there is bitterness and anger in our hearts, there's no room for God's love.
- 5. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** Temptation, sin, and evil go hand in hand. When we come face to face with temptation, it can sometimes be difficult to resist. Evil is an unfortunate reality in our world. That's why we need our Father to set up the road blocks, to protect us, and lead us far from the path of temptation and evil.
- 6. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, the glory, forever and ever.** This is a statement not part of the original Lord's prayer but pulled from 1 Chronicles 29:11, but has been added to reassure the message to us that we are residents in his powerful and glorified Kingdom for all eternity.

I want to thank Pastors Chad and Rebecca for switching it up and allowing us time, during the Lord's Prayer, to reflect on the message. Sometimes, if we are not careful, we might fall into the trap of just

*(continued on page 3...)*

# THE JOY OF EASTER



by Cheryl Gundersdorff  
Deacon

April showers bring May flowers as the saying goes. In April it can rain a lot! The sky can be filled with gray clouds concealing the sun. People living in the northern climates are tired of the sadness of gloomy winter days. We become disappointed when the rain interrupts our plans.

Then one day splashes of spring colors paint the landscape. Our hearts fill with joy as we appreciate anew the glories of God's creation.

On that fateful Good Friday, as Jesus hung on the cross bearing the weight of the world's sin, darkness came over the whole land from noon to 3PM. At the moment Jesus gave up his spirit, the temple curtain tore in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. Jesus' mother's heart was wrenched with excruciating pain. The disciples were stunned. The tears of all fell to the ground in their anguish, broken hearts, and unfulfilled plans. They could not understand what had happened or what they should do. All they knew to do was lean on each other and wait in their grief.

Then as the sun rose gloriously in the morning sky, their gloom and sadness eventually turned to joy as they learned that Jesus had risen from the dead. Hallelujah! Now they were stunned with reverent awe and more appreciative of Jesus than ever before.

After the somber season of Lent, the joy of Easter emerges like a field of brilliant colors springing from the earth. Unlike the flowers that will eventually go through their yearly dormant season, the joy of Easter remains forever! Hallelujah! Let's spread the joy! ■

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## Prayer

(...continued from page 2)

"doing church" and not really being present in the experience. I know sometimes changing things up can seem uncomfortable, but if we listen and reflect, we can grow as a congregation. Grow into better disciples and grow closer together in our relationships as a church family. Life out there can get very messy and there is only one thing that I can say is consistent in my life right now: when I start my week off Sunday morning at Immanuel with my church family, I am comforted and refreshed to take on the week ahead. ■

## 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](mailto:ilcmedia2655@gmail.com)

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differently, the Bible really doesn't. Rather scripture talks of the stranger/immigrant/alien (depending on the translation) living among us and calls for us to love and care for them as we would ourselves. The response we are seeing for the people of Ukraine is a manifestation of that love and care.

I have heard many of you lament about the world being colder and less kind and caring. Maybe this has been a prolonged season of Lenten darkness and this last month is akin to the darkness of Holy Week where humanity nailed Christ to the cross. But ultimately, we know the story doesn't end in Lenten darkness but rather the brilliant and radiant light of Christ. As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, may the spirit of Christ be with us and compel us to resurrect kindness, compassion and grace in our own lives, in our community and around the world. ■

## How Can You Help With the Refugee Crisis in Ukraine?

### Donate to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

For over 80 years, LIRS has helped ensure that refugees and migrants are protected, embraced and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities.  
[lirs.org/ukraine-crisis](https://lirs.org/ukraine-crisis)

### Donate to Lutheran World Relief

100% of your donation will go to relief efforts in Ukraine.  
[donate.lwr.org](https://donate.lwr.org)

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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Pete Morello

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[auburn1984@bellsouth.net](mailto:auburn1984@bellsouth.net)

Faith, Fun & Fellowship/Small

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# 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](http://immanuelpalmcity.org/pathways)

**We now have more ways for you to give!**



**Mobile**

Text: IPCGIVE  
to 77977



**Online**

[immanuelpalmcity.org](http://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

	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Given	<b>\$28,883.62</b>	\$34,963.33	<b>\$66,238.77</b>	\$72,360.32
Needed	<b>\$41,332.00</b>	\$40,240.00	<b>\$92,997.00</b>	\$90,540.00
Difference	<b>(\$12,448.38)</b>	(\$5,276.67)	<b>(\$26,758.23)</b>	(\$18,179.68)

## OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 2/28/2022	ILC & IELC
Income	\$148,103.48
Expenses	\$165,138.05
Difference	<b>(\$17,034.57)</b>



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT AND ORGAN BENCH

by Jim Peppers  
Cantor/Organist/Choir Director

For the past 7 1/2 years it has been a real pleasure serving as your organist, choir director, music director, and Cantor. We have made a joyful noise to the Lord as a Congregation and Choirs! When I came to the Treasure Coast almost 8 years ago I had no intention to go back into Church music ministry, having started my serving at 17. But, God had other ideas for my life here. One thing led to another and I was appointed to Immanuel. God really saved my most precious worship experiences for service at Immanuel. It has been rich and rewarding beyond all my expectations. But, finally it has come time for me to retire and return to Mexico. I still have time here and everything is in God's hands, as I have learned to let go and let God. I really can't thank you all enough for such a blessing in my life serving you in our beautiful Church. It has been an experience in my life that I value a lot. ■



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

*House of Hope prioritizes offering nutritious options and fresh produce in our food pantries as well as to our food partners. One of the ways we secure produce is by participating in gleaning during the winter and spring months through a partnership with CROS Ministries. Gleaning is harvesting the produce remaining after a field has been professionally picked. This produce might be smaller or larger than what supermarkets consider "shelf-worthy" but it is still just as nutritious! Once harvested, the produce is distributed to our pantries and to our food partners instead of being plowed back into the soil. Without volunteers, we are unable to participate and we need all the help we can get! This is a great event for groups and families as children 5 and up are welcome to participate.*

**Where & When:** All gleaning takes place in western Palm City, FL from 8:30am – 11:30am.

For more details and/or to sign up, please visit:  
[www.hohmartin.org/gleaning](http://www.hohmartin.org/gleaning)

You must pre-register to participate! For questions or more information, contact Natasha Kassam, enrichment and engagement administrative assistant, at [Natasha@hohmartin.org](mailto:Natasha@hohmartin.org) or (772) 286-4673 ext. 1013

## IMMANUEL STAFF

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Deacon

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Sextons

Leeona Reid

Text: 772-444-5148

Zacary Tatem

[zacary84848@gmail.com](mailto:zacary84848@gmail.com)

## Prayer Requests

To add someone to the prayer list contact:

Sheri at [sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org)

To add someone to the prayer chain contact:

Cheryl Gundersdorff: 772-221-8939

[cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org)





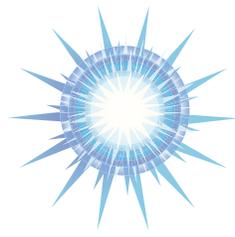
Brittany Lustig

# YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

We just “Sprang Forward” and goodness, do I feel it! This past month we did so much! We had our Confirmation Retreat AND our High School Lock-In. If you didn’t already know, these kids in our congregation are incredible. They have such big hearts and truly love each other and God. We continue to grow in our faith while making such wonderful memories as a youth group. Look at all these smiling faces!

The high-school kids were the first to witness a new worship experience that Pastor Chad and I have been working on. It is called “The Well”. They showed such genuinity through participation and singing during worship. They were able to participate in prayer and song. Pastor Chad and I were thrilled with the outcome and can’t wait to continue our “Well” journey.

The High School students that were attending the Youth Gathering are now attending a mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee! Pastor Chad and I will be traveling with



# CHILDREN, Y

## Youth Retreat & Lock-in



# YOUTH & FAMILY

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 20-24, 2022

9 am - 12 pm  
(drop off 8:45 am)

Registration forms for participants  
and volunteers available in the  
Narthex or online!  
[immanuelpalmcity.org/vbs](http://immanuelpalmcity.org/vbs)



10 of our youth at the beginning of June to embark on a faith filled mission trip. We can't wait! Thank you for all your help during our fundraising efforts.

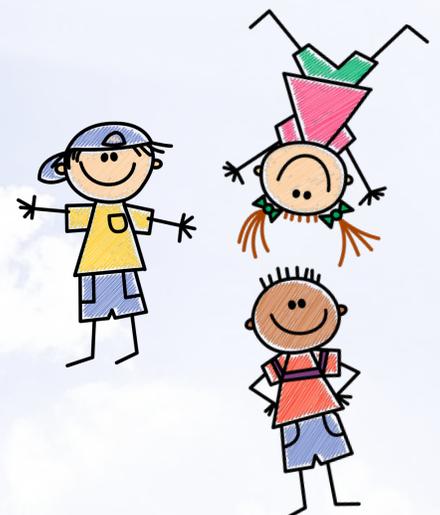
VBS is also around the corner. If you'd like to volunteer please contact me as soon as possible. We need 12 adult volunteers and 6 youth that may need their volunteer hours. Also, our Spring Fling is coming up. Don't forget to mark your calendars for April 22nd. It will be an Earth filled day as we celebrate Earth Day and the joys that Spring brings. ■

## Upcoming Events

- April 3rd: Confirmation
- April 22nd: Spring Fling
- June 5th-10th: Nashville Mission Trip
- June 20th-June 24th: VBS

## Mission Trip to Nashville

While the ELCA Youth Gathering was canceled, our youth will still be going on a mission trip June 5-10 to Nashville, TN

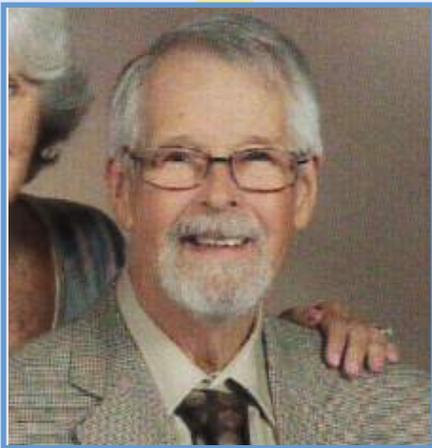


**Easter Egg hunt, games, food, prizes, fairy hair, arts, crafts, vendors, and so much more!**

To register as a vendor, go to our website:  
[immanuelpalmcity.org/springfling](http://immanuelpalmcity.org/springfling) or contact Brittany  
in the church office: 772-287-8188



## COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT



**John Gustafson**  
Treasurer

John Gustafson is looking forward to serving Immanuel Lutheran Church as the council treasurer.

John and his wife, Diane, joined Immanuel in 2016. Both grew up in Wisconsin and met at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. They have been blessed with a son and daughter and two lovely granddaughters.

John began his accounting career working for Bendix Corp. in New Jersey and Michigan. He was a corporate controller in Illinois before starting his own accounting practice in 1979. He sold the practice and retired in 2011. He also served multiple terms as treasurer of St. John's Lutheran Church in Peru, Illinois and over 25 years as treasurer of a homeowners association.

John enjoys playing golf and spending summer months at the century farms in Wisconsin, but loves to call Florida home. ■



## “BURNING HEARTS” TO MISSION SUPPORT

by Paula Tsufis, Stewardship Committee



*As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” - Luke 24:28-32*

Why give to your church when there are so many other worthwhile causes? This is an important question that needs to be carefully considered. The Road to Emmaus Story in Luke’s Gospel provides an extraordinary encounter of the risen Jesus changing hearts and allows us to see more clearly how our story resonates with God’s story.

Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest, professor, prolific writer and theologian offers this explanation of what the “heart” means in biblical context: “By heart, I do not mean the seat of our feelings as opposed to the seat of our thoughts; I mean the center of our being, that place where we are most ourselves, where we are most human, where we are most real, In that sense the heart is the focus of the spiritual life.”



The disciples encountered Jesus on the road with very heavy hearts, grief-stricken over his death and making their way home. They don’t recognize Jesus as he listens to their story of crucifixion tragedy and the empty tomb and then “interprets to them all the things about himself in all the scriptures.” At their home that evening their eyes were opened during breaking bread with Jesus and they recalled their “hearts burning” during the conversation on the road. During Jesus final appearance to his disciples, he tells them that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. They are the witnesses of these things and have been “clothed with power from on high.”

The story of the disciples is now our story as Christians and one to share. We are the Spirit-led witnesses today. This is our mission and an increasingly important one in our world besieged by widespread despair and yet another chapter of war violence. Walking with others, listening to their stories of joy and tragedy. Opening the scriptures, sharing hospitality, new hope, new life, new freedom to forgive, serve and love others. Our mission starts with you and me, people like the struggling disciples who have now experienced their hearts on fire to follow Jesus.

*(continued on page 9...)*

# EARLY LEARNING CENTER



by Director Beth Tatem

Some fun things that are happening at Immanuel Early Learning Center in the month of April!

Our VPK are practicing their songs for our Graduation.

Thursday, April 14th will be our annual Easter egg hunt, which takes place on our school's playground. The following day, April 15th we will be closed for Good Friday.

April 22nd is Earth Day. Have a Happy Easter! ■



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

## About Immanuel Early Learning Center

by Rebecca Painter

At Immanuel Early Learning Center, we strive to make learning fun and based on Christian faith. Through play, we use step by step instruction to facilitate the students' transition to the higher grades, building their confidence necessary to succeed, promoting phonological awareness, math emergent literacy and using the Florida standards for preschool. We also provide a summer camp that has games, art, water play, and special visitors to introduce animals, athletics and proper hygiene. Choosing the appropriate preschool for your child and family is one of the most important decisions you can make. We invite you to visit and learn more about our policies and the information required to successfully apply for a place in our school.

## Burning Hearts

(...continued from page 8)

Our vocation continues with deepening faith and support for our congregation to share our new freedom in Christ lived out today in our community and our world. This is our extraordinary call as disciples this Easter to which I say: "Hallelujah, thanks be to God!" ■

## Thank You...

The Kiwanis Club of Martin County would like to thank Pastor Rebecca Craig for being their guest speaker at the March 11 breakfast meeting held at Too-Jays Restaurant. Pastor Rebecca spoke about her life as a female pastor in the Lutheran Church.



**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.

Happy  
EASTER

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month  
3 pm • Choir Room

### Sisters in Spirit

3rd Tuesday of the month  
7 pm • Panera

## FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE MINISTRIES

### Quilts of Valor

Wed at 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

### 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

All Immanuel ladies & friends are invited to the Deborah Circle Bible study. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month, in the choir room, at 3PM for about an hour. We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. You don't need to be well versed in scripture to enjoy this study. We do an in-depth study of one chapter each month with a study sheet to follow along. For more information and to RSVP contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

People do not always need advice. Sometimes what they really need is someone to hold their hand when life gets tough, someone non-judgmental with a listening ear, and someone with a compassionate heart to understand them. That someone is a Stephen Minister who can be there for you. To get you connected with a Stephen Minister contact your Stephen Ministry leader: Deacon Cheryl 221-8939 t



### 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.





## 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

\*in April we will cover the second Sunday instead of the

third due to Easter - Temple Beit HaYam will switch weeks with us.

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

### Contemporary Worship Team

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

### Bell Choir

Saturdays at 4:30 pm • Sanctuary

### Chancel Choir

Sundays at 10 am • Choir Room  
\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Cornerstone Singers

Saturdays @ 5:15 pm • Sanctuary  
pdcjimmy@hotmail.com

### 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 the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7PM at PANERA. For more information and to RSVP contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939.

## Altar Guild

# Spring Luncheon

April 13 • 11:30 am

Miles Grant Country Club on East Cove Road in Stuart

Menu prices start at \$11.

RSVP by April 7 to Belinda at 772-634-0194.



## Food Pantry Most Needed Items

Canned beans	Dish Soap
Canned fruit	Laundry det.
Canned veggies	Cleaning supplies
Cereal	Shampoo/Cond
Dried beans	Soap/Body wash
PB & J	Body lotion
Juices	Razors
Rice	Shaving cream
Dry milk	Deodorant
Pasta	Toothbrush
Pasta sauce	Toothpaste
Pancake mix	Can openers
Soup	
Cooking Oil	
Sugar	
Coffee	

## FOOD BAG DONATIONS FOR SOUPER SUNDAYS



We are continuing to distribute food & toiletry bags at Souper Sunday. We will be accepting donations of the following (NEW, not used) items:

**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



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

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

*(All services except the Sunrise Easter service will be livestreamed.)*

Maundy  
Thursday  
April 14  
7 pm  
Footwashing  
Service

Good  
Friday  
April 15  
7 pm  
Musical &  
Dramatic  
Service of  
Shadows

Holy  
Saturday  
April 16  
7 pm  
Meditative  
Service

Easter  
Sunday  
April 17  
Sunrise Service  
6:55 am  
Contemporary  
9:30 am  
Traditional  
11:15 am