

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

FEBRUARY 2022

GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

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Put A Ring On It

by Pastor Chad Fair

During a recent staff meeting we were talking about gratitude, a subject we plan on talking about a lot this year. Jim, our cantor/organist said, "I'm grateful for Lutheran's love of singing. Brittany quickly replied with an, "AMEN." Yes, we sometimes get a little Pentecostal in our meetings. I don't believe the love of music is strictly Lutheran but the term liturgy is thrown around frequently in Lutheran circles. Liturgy, simply means the work of the people. It's why we stand up and sit down so much during our traditional service especially and why we sing and pray

out loud together etc.

While my musical abilities are somewhat lacking, I do love music. Music has a way of stirring emotions, setting a mood, or sending a message no matter the genre. Our newly installed council president Pete, has a rule for his employees at his UPS store that if you say a lyric from a song, you have to sing it. I sure hope he doesn't plan on implementing that at our council meetings. If he does, we might be singing a lot of, "I Second That Emotion," by Smokey Robinson. If I could pick my song theme for the year it might be Beyonce's "Single

(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)

Ladies.” Nope I’m still married, happily so, but one of the refrains in the song is, “If you liked it then you should have put a ring on it.” (If you need a good laugh google SNL single ladies). Putting a ring on it is of course talking about engagement, which I believe is critical to everything we do. The more engaged we are the more we get out of something...anything. If we’re engaged in work, we get more done. If we’re engaged in a relationship, it becomes a healthier relationship. If we’re engaged in our faith, yep you guessed it, our faith becomes stronger.

The rag tag group of disciples grew in their faith because of their engagement with Jesus. They didn’t merely sit on the sidelines, they engaged in Jesus’ ministry. They regularly heard his teachings, and participated in his ministry. With that level of engagement, they couldn’t help but grow stronger in their faith.

One of my goals for this year is to be personally more engaged in the community. I’m a strong believer if the church is going to be stronger the church must be

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GO MAKE DISCIPLES

*by Pete Morello
Council President*



Wow, 2022 is off to a fast start. I blinked and poof gone was January; the days might have seemed long, but the month of January sure went fast. In January we opened our campus to many groups, some of them regulars and some that were new. We had a Palm City Chamber Ribbon cutting ceremony, an after hours event, showing off our new playground. It was a great success and there were many people at the event that said, “I have driven by here all the time and this is the first time I have been here.” It is so great to bring new people on to our campus. What a great way to share the “Good News” and spread our ministry.

Having our leadership and congregation stay active in the community is such a great way to spread “The Word.” Paraphrasing what Pastor Chad has said many times before, I know there are ten commandments, but Jesus only “really” gave us three; 1) Love God, 2) Love your Neighbor and 3) Go make disciples. Loving God is easy most of the time. Loving your neighbor—that can be a little trickier. Go make disciples—more difficult yet. I know I do not want to feel like I am a “Bible thumper” but I do think people could find great strength, Peace, Grace, and a lot else if they turned to the Word. So, I would like to talk about what “Go make disciples” means to me.

I would like to do this with a bit of a physical exercise. You do not have to do this exercise, but it is fun. Stand holding your arms extended with your palms face up and time how long you can hold them there. Next, take a break, then hold your arms extended but have your palms face away from your body almost like you are pushing something and time how long you can hold them there. This exercise will show you that holding your arms extended with your palms facing up is much easier than holding them facing forward. Now if you talk to a doctor, they will probably tell you that the way our body muscle structure is made they are more suited for Supination versus Pronation. What I ask is, who made our body? Who designed our muscle structure? Did he want it to be easier for our arms to be extended with our palms up in a welcoming stance? Did he also make it more difficult for us to hold our arms extended with our palms facing forward as if we are pushing others away? *(continued on page 4)*



LOVE LIKE JESUS



by Cheryl Gundersdorff
Deacon

Last month I talked about how God is in the process of making us new. It is a life long process of becoming more and more like Jesus. One of the major ways to be more like Jesus is to strive to love like he does. Okay, that is not totally possible as we are not God and will not be crucified on a cross as a sacrifice to demonstrate our love. So, for us, what does loving like Jesus really look like?

Let us start by defining love. We understand the usual meanings of love as to how we feel towards our significant other, family, and friends. There are different types of love such as eros (emotional and physical) and philos (fraternal,) both of which have important places in our lives. There is another definition that is more connected to Jesus' kind of love as stated in Webster's Dictionary: an unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another such as the fatherly concern of God for humankind and brotherly concern for others. This is agape love, a higher spiritually motivated love to sacrifice oneself for the sake of another person. This is the love the writers of the New Testament convey. It is sacrificial and unconditional.

So, how do we, mere sinful mortals, live out this agape love? First, we need to receive it from God as through our baptism. Then we need to spend time with Jesus every day through worship, prayer, and Bible study (such as the Sisters in Spirit study of Experiencing the Heart of Jesus), to understand his love so we can imitate it. It is the imitating that makes us stumble. It is not easy living out a sacrificial and unconditional love, because our sinful human nature gets in the way. What helps us greatly is to put on our God glasses, that is, seeing other people through the eyes of Jesus. If Jesus loves them, and he does, then we must do the same.

In Luke, Jesus commands us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself."-Luke 10:27. If we concentrate on the first part of loving God, then loving our neighbor (which is everyone in the whole world), becomes easier as the Holy Spirit will work through our relationship with God to enable us to love our neighbor unconditionally. Loving with an agape love is more than just being kind to one another. It can also include putting others first before ourselves, even if it is inconvenient. That is part of the sacrificial aspect.

So, yes, loving like Jesus can be challenging. It can also be incredibly rewarding and astonishing as we realize that Jesus calls us to partner with him in sharing his love. So, as we continue on our journey of faith, love much and love often. ■

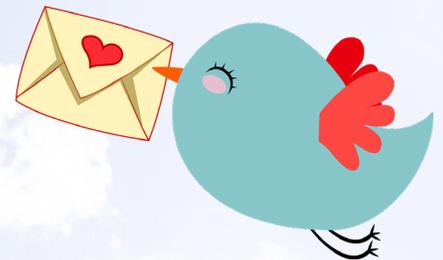
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fully engaged, not just in worship, prayer and scripture, but also in the community and the world. Jesus didn't do his ministry in a vacuum, neither should we. That's why I serve as board chair of Family Promise. It's why I participate with Faith in Florida. It's why I'm doing invocations at commissioners meetings and going to chamber events. The more we know what's going on in our community the better able we are to serve the community.

So here is my proposal, put a ring on it. Put a ring on your faith. Engage in worship and prayer and scripture. Use the gospels to engage the world and together we can sing a new song. ■

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



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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Disciples (...continued from page 2)

Making disciples for me is having my arms out, palms up, welcoming in others. Saying yes when they ask for help. Attending events to show support for others. Opening our beautiful campus to groups in our community. An important part of making disciples is also letting people know you are there and will continue to be there for them. Having a Palm City Chamber event on our campus and showing them our new playground, along with our large Faith Development Center (FDC) inspired the attendees to want to have more events with us. It also inspired me and the many Church Council members that attended to stay involved. We are ready to welcome folks with open arms to Immanuel's campus and that will help us make disciples to spread "The Good News." ■



We have currently raised over \$383,000 in hand. This is more than just over half of what was pledged! Your dedication and commitment to these capital projects has been overwhelming. Thank you all!

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

	Dec. 2021	Dec 2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Given	\$48,335.93	\$46,449.17	\$458,107.93	\$523,937.19
Needed	\$40,240.00	\$44,692.00	\$523,120.00	\$580,996.00
Difference	\$8,095.93	\$1,757.17	(\$65,012.07)	(\$57,058.81)

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 12/31/2021	ILC & IELC
Income	\$987,347.69
Expenses	\$1,010,089.93
Difference	(\$22,742.24)*

*Does not include PPP Loan. PPP: \$91,290.00, Difference: \$68,547.76



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT AND ORGAN BENCH

by *Jim Peppers*
Cantor/Organist/Choir Director

"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise...But any who remain unaffected (by music) are clodhoppers indeed and are fit to hear only the words of dung-poets and the music of pigs." The words, of course, of Martin Luther. He didn't really ever hold back what he thought. "Looking at music itself, you will find that from beginning of the world it has been instilled and implanted in all creatures, individually and collectively. ...Music is still more wonderful in living things, especially birds, so that David, most musical of all kings, and minstrel of God, in deepest wonder and spiritual exultation praised the astounding art and ease of the song of birds in Psalm 104...And yet, compared to the human voice, all this hardly deserves the name of music, so abundant and incomprehensible is here the munificence and wisdom of our most gracious Creator." Luther loved music. He sang with a light lyrical tenor voice, played lute and flute, and composed. He understood the styles of music of his day. He changed the religious and liturgical music of the emerging Lutheran church. He really might be considered "the father of Protestant music in Germany." Luther's word as balance, "Both text and music, accentuation, melody and gait, must come from the true mother tongue and voice". His legacy truly is in the way his combining texts with melody speak to our hearts. Luther's original, read: "A firm castle/fortress is our God, a good defense and weapon, he helps us free from all distress that now has struck us. The old evil enemy means it seriously, great might and much deception are his terrible armament, on earth is not his equal." ■

IMMANUEL STAFF

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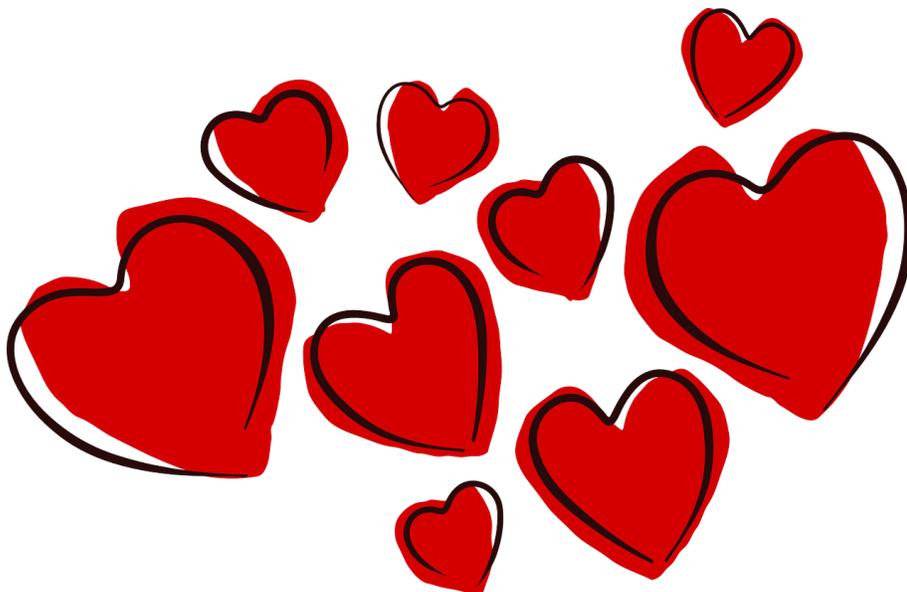
Sextons

Leeona Reid

Text: 772-444-5148

Zacary Tatem

zacary84848@gmail.com



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



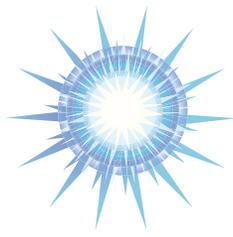


Brittany Lustig

YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

How are we already in February?! This year is flying by already. The youth have been doing so much but we're very excited for this month. We have an in-church retreat on February 11-13th. We can't wait to grow in our faith together and connect through friendship and fellowship. The Youth Gathering is around the corner and we need to start fundraising some more to get the last bit of money we need! If you'd like to help be in the rotation of volunteers for Sunday School, please contact me for details. We really hope to start growing the program more so the kids have more people to look up to and rely on. Pastor Chad did just preach about change! Let's call on the Lord for help and guidance to bring that change into our lives and our congregation. As we continue to talk about "Gratitude" in church, I'd like to express my appreciation for our families and youth. I truly am blessed to be able to be in your children's life. As we continue into this month, let us reflect on that

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CHILDREN, Y

VPK Music Class



YOUTH & FAMILY

JAM

(JESUS THROUGH ART & MUSIC)



(...continued from page 6)

word "gratitude." Let's teach our youth what it means to be thankful for the things around us, especially in the midst of the pandemic. ■

Upcoming Events

- Youth Retreat: Feb. 11-13
- Confirmation: Feb. 13



COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT



Mike Keese Education

Mike Keese is an insurance underwriter for Williams & Stazzone (Insurance broker based in Melbourne, FL). He and his wife Ashley have been members at Immanuel for a little over four years now. During that time they have been blessed with two children, Michael Jr., (otherwise known as "Junior") who is currently a student at the Immanuel Early Learning Center, and Hailey, who is now two years old.

Mike was born in South Florida, but grew up in Kansas City, MO. They moved to Palm City in 2017. As a family they enjoy camping and going to football games.

Mike has joined the Immanuel Lutheran Council as the leader of our Education Team, where he will oversee and coordinate all matters related to education here at Immanuel, including adult education, Sunday School, confirmation, and the preschool. ■



"STEWARDING OUR FACILITIES

by Paula Tsufis, Stewardship Committee



Tim Cool states in his May 2015 post on ChurchExecutive.com, "An Introduction to Church Facility Stewardship," "I'm a firm believer that everything on earth belongs to God. Our money. Our houses. Our cars. The word of God. Our families. The people we encounter—and the facilities in which we worship. God has entrusted us with the stewarding of all these items. For me, stewardship is less about what we give and more about taking care of what we have been given—of all that's entrusted to us." This expansive view of stewardship supports Immanuel's current thinking about how we care and account for our physical property.

Churches often spend millions of dollars in the construction and renovation of their facilities — but then fail to maintain (i.e., steward) them. Tim encourages churches to look at the real cost of ownership and estimates that the sustaining costs will be between 70 and 85 percent of the total cost of ownership over a 40- year period when factoring in the original cost of construction, financing costs and the ongoing operational costs.



Immanuel Lutheran's recent LIFTT capital campaign has already made a big impact supporting our goal of being good stewards of our facilities for mission:

- The new playground will enhance the fine reputation that our preschool already has in a very competitive market as well as share our desire to be inviting and accessible as we endeavor to care for and minister to young families.
- The leaky roof replacement has been completed on the Faith Development Center so that congregational fellowship activities, study groups, Sunday school, youth activities, our community soup kitchen, hosting Family Promise, 12 step programs, Hispanic services, the preschool, and Martin County voting precinct are able to continue.
- Parking lot improvements are underway and will fulfill our desire that everyone visiting is able to safely access our buildings and associated ministry programs, as well as making our campus more attractive and inviting.
- Funding a capital needs fund for future projects, such as renovation of the HVAC system.

These improvements are important as we continue to share God's love with our community and build upon the ministries already in place. Our congregation's collective generosity will ensure that Immanuel continues to be a beacon of faith for generations to come. ■

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



by Director Beth Tatem

Our Valentine's day parties will be on Monday, February 14th. Please look for the sign up sheets in your child's classroom.

Class pictures will be on February 16th. If your child does not come on Wednesdays they can come at 9:00 for the class picture.

Just a reminder there is NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 21st. We are closed for Presidents' Day. Have a happy Valentine's Day! ■

Immanuel Early Learning Center

Gourmet Popcorn and Virginia Peanut Fundraiser

G O U R M E T
POPCORN
AND *peanuts*

Thank you for your support in helping the IELC earn some extra funds!
Shop online and have your order shipped directly to your home at:
fundraisingshoppingcart.com/orders
Enter the Group Code: S0247185

Contact Beth Tatem if you would prefer to place your order with cash/check/money order.
bethtatem@ilcpalmcity.org



FOOD DONATIONS

We continue to take non-perishable food donations for both the Salvation Army and House of Hope. Items may be dropped off 9 am - 3 pm at the church office or before worship on the weekends.

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month
3 pm • Choir Room

Sisters in Spirit

3rd Tuesday of the month
7 pm • Choir Room

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

Wednesday Bridge Group

Wednesdays at 1 pm
Choir Room

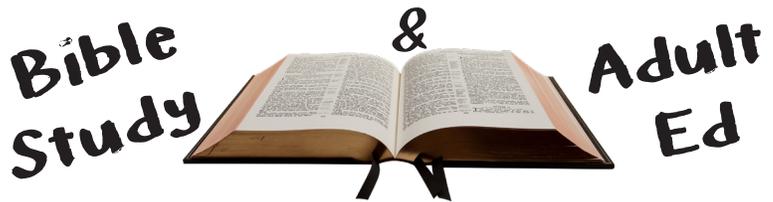
Souper Sundays

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*

Change To Offering Envelopes

The number for your offering ID has changed, so whether you use the envelopes or not, please pick them up in the Narthex to get your new ID number.



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

Sometimes life gets hard and stressful, but God doesn't abandon us during those times. He is always there for us and He sometimes sends help through other people. Stephen Ministers are God's helpers and are here for you. Don't bear your burdens alone. Contact your Stephen Leader, Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff, 221-8939 to arrange for a Stephen Minister.



Prayer Chain Ministry

Need prayer? The prayer chain ministry team is honored to pray for you or someone you know. All prayer requests are confidential. Call Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff (221-8939) to get those prayers started





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

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 in the choir room. For more information and to RSVP contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939.

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



Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet on **Wednesday, February 9, at 10 am in Room 202** of the FDC (can take elevator). We will be cleaning the candles used on Christmas Eve. Please try to attend as "many hands make light work." There will be a short meeting following. We welcome ALL interested volunteers.

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

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.



FOOD & TOILETRY 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).

Toiletry Bags: (Travel size preferred) Soap (bar or liquid), Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/brushes, Hand lotion, Small combs, Wet wipes, Hand sanitizer.

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

Ash Wednesday
Services

March 2nd

Noon & 6 pm

