

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

JUNE 2022

GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

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God with us
Immanuel

LUTHERAN CHURCH
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive

Palm City, FL 34990

772.287.8188

immanuelpalmcity.org



We Can't Ignore It

by Pastor Chad Fair

I set out to write about graduation and summer celebrations as we are about to embark on yet another graduation of our Early Learning Center kids. I love their innocence and their joyful spirit. They truly bring a vibrancy to our campus. I want to celebrate these amazing kids and our amazing teachers. They go above and beyond to love these kids. I am truly grateful for their hard work and dedication. As for our graduates, they don't realize how much joy they bring.

While this is supposed to be a season of celebration sometimes you just have to write what is on your heart and my heart hurts. I'm fairly certain,

most of you have seen or heard about the horrific picture posted on social media by some students from our local middle school. When I saw it, my heart broke. The more I learned about the situation the more my heart broke. When something like this happens somewhere else, like the recent racially motivated shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, it's easy for us to point a finger at something or someone else and say, "that stuff doesn't happen here." Until it does.

Thankfully our incident wasn't a shooting, but it happened here in our back yard and people are hurting.

(continued on page 2...)



Pastor Chad's

MONTHLY MESSAGE

(...continued from page 1)

I'm not going to suggest I know the motives of six middle school boys. I know that middle school is a difficult age. In talking with our youth here at Immanuel, we hear the struggles of being in middle school. It's easy to blame the school, public education, the teacher, the parents, the kids. Blaming and finger pointing won't solve this, nor will pretending it didn't happen. If we've learned nothing else, taking the easy way out isn't the answer.

We are people who worship a savior who did anything but take the easy way out. We worship a savior who died on the cross. We can't blame one person or group of people for Jesus' death. If Judas, Pilate, the religious leaders, the crowd, the centurion soldiers, would have acted differently, maybe Jesus wouldn't have been nailed to that cross. No one singular action or person put Jesus on that cross. It took a confluence of events. Just like not one person caused those boys to make those letters, paint those letters the way they did, arrange them and pose for a photo. Failure and breakdown on many

(continued on page 3...)



FACING CHALLENGES

*by Pete Morello
Council President*



Immanuel has had a great first half of 2022 and now summer begins. Our worship services are reaching more people, participation in youth programs is growing, music programs are expanding, special worship services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were successful. Each of our three services are better defining their respective worship experience—

Casual, Contemporary and Traditional—and we are looking for ways to better serve our community.

Brittany has developed a tremendous relationship with our Early Learning Center students, our congregation's youth, and their parents. This is very apparent every Sunday when we look at the growing number of children that come down for the Children's Sermon each Sunday.

The "LIFTT Lifting Immanuel for Tomorrow Together" initiative is still going strong into our second year. The parking lot project is moving forward and during that process we will be freshening up our existing parking areas.

Summer is upon us and congratulations to teachers and students for navigating another school year. This year we had an exceedingly difficult last month of school and it is important for us to remember that "God is Love" and if you are filled with that love there is no room for hate. We are so blessed at Immanuel that we have smart, caring leadership that can help us understand the messages we should hear from tricky situations and difficult Bible verses. When I am dealing with challenging situations or having trouble understanding what is happening in our world I often look up and say a prayer like "Help me understand the lesson I need to learn from this experience." When life gets challenging it is difficult to see the bigger picture. It is so helpful to have our leadership be able to help guide us in faith, to trust in God, maybe even see the design of that message. Since pictures say a thousand words let me use an example. Take a look at this picture:



I know it is washed out and confusing. Take a look at it from every angle, upside-down, sideways, diagonal. I remember when I first saw this image

(continued on page 5...)

POWER OF THE SPIRIT



by Cheryl Gundersdorff
Deacon

We all know that one of the first things to go out during a hurricane is electricity. As we know, electricity is vital to our everyday living. When it isn't there, we flounder as we either learn to do without or find other ways to meet our need of preserving and cooking food, having access to water, and staying comfortable. For those of you who haven't experienced a hurricane, substitute tornado, earthquake, or major snow storm.

As God's sons and daughters, we have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God chose us, Jesus saved us, and the Holy Spirit is who keeps us going. The Holy Spirit is like electricity; the energy of God in creation and an ongoing power source. In the gospels and the book of Acts, Jesus says the Holy Spirit will come upon us.

What does the Holy Spirit do for us with this power? He convicts us of our sin, brings us to new life in Christ, guides us into truth, illuminates Jesus' teachings, prepares the way for God's revelations, makes intercession for us, is the eyes through which we see the Father and the Son, helps the community of believers, helps us witness, bestows gifts upon us to be used in the kingdom, reveals the deep things of God, comforts us, and inspires holiness. Wow!

Wow indeed! The Holy Spirit is quite a power source that God gifted to us! The Holy Spirit is our ultimate power source. And the added bonus is that it never goes out like electricity in a natural disaster. While we would never stick our finger in an electrical outlet, you are given permission and encouraged to stick not only your finger, but your whole being into God's power source, the Holy Spirit. You will be energized when you stay plugged in to the Holy Spirit. ■

(...continued from page 2)

levels led to this incident. The question is what do we do now because we can and must certainly do better. Do we continue to turn inward and divide ourselves or do we take this as an opportunity to really examine and teach about racism, past and present in our community? We can no longer say it's not an issue here. It's literally right here. We are in for some difficult conversations in the coming days, weeks and hopefully beyond. Taking the easy way out and sweeping things under the rug will not make this go away. The cross wasn't the end of the story and this doesn't need to be either. We can rise to a new life where we truly live as God intended us to live, together, as one unified body of Christ where we celebrate our differences and engage each other with love and grace. ■

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.

- Canned tuna, ham or chicken
- Beef stew, chili or hearty soups
- Peanut butter
- Canned or dried beans
- Canned fruit & vegetables
- Whole grain pasta
- Cereal
- Rice
- Paper products
- Toiletries

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



thrivent® Items may be dropped off in the Narthex

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President

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Faith, Fun & Fellowship/Small

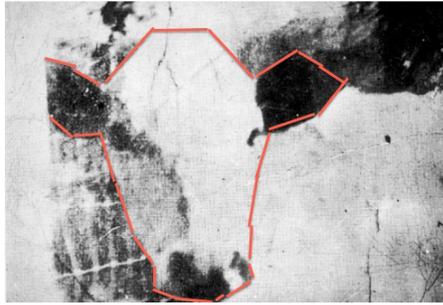
Groups

Amber Castro

ambercastro@yahoo.com

Challenges *(...continued from page 2)*

in eighth grade at the Boston Museum of science. Everyone in attendance had no idea what we were looking at. Then the leader shared the picture with an outline to guide our eyes to what was important and help us see what we were looking for.



Now every time I see the original washed out picture, I see the picture as clear as day even though it was many years ago, I was shown the outlined picture guiding my eyes and mind:

This is how I see our worship experience at Immanuel. Sometimes the pictures, texts, real life situations, we hear about at worship are challenging, difficult to see the overall design and message.

The truth is the church leadership guides our eyes to what is important and helps us see what message we should be focusing on to bring us closer to each other and our faith. Sometimes that message is a challenging one, it might make us shift around in the pews, but I promise the message is coming from the right place. Focused on faith, the Word, and though it might be difficult to see “The Good News.” It is important for us to realize that those uncomfortable difficult moments are meant to help us see the overall picture and the folks leading those moments are led by their knowledge of “The Good News.” ■

We now have more ways for you to give!



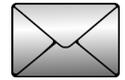
Mobile

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

	Apr. 2022	Apr. 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Given	\$38,433.73	\$32,831.28	\$137,946.16	\$137,987.08
Needed	\$45,332.00	\$40,240.00	\$175,661.00	\$171,020.00
Difference	(\$6,898.27)	(\$7,408.72)	(\$37,714.84)	(\$33,032.92)

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 4/30/2022	ILC & IELC
Income	\$322,971.13
Expenses	\$298,161.52
Difference	\$24,809.81

Jim's Farewell



Dearest Immanuel Lutheran Church,

I am overwhelmed with emotion and great appreciation for all the cards, gifts, considerations, prayers, and Christian love extended. Truly it all was love taught to us by Christ himself that I felt from you for all the time I served at Immanuel. Now begins the search for a new home in a new country. It's exciting and exhilarating. Please continue your prayers for us to find a new suitable retirement home.

The time at Immanuel was the most rewarding time in my career. The closeness I feel to all of you can never be duplicated. Leaving was really bittersweet. But, now we begin a new chapter of life.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

If you wish to communicate, the best is through email pdcjimmy@hotmail.com.

~Jim Peppers

IMMANUEL STAFF

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pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org

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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

It's getting hot outside! Can you believe it's almost Summer already? And with Summer around the corner, VBS is almost here! We are still in dire need of volunteers. Please contact me as soon as possible if you're able to help. If your child would like to volunteer for community service hours for VBS please contact me via email or have them fill out the volunteer application located in the narthex of the church. We can't wait for our "Discovery on Adventure Island!"

June is a busy month. Please keep our high schoolers in your prayers as Pastor Chad and I take them to Nashville, Tennessee for a mission trip. As you know, the Youth Gathering was canceled due to COVID, so we decided as a group to do a "YouthWorks" mission trip. So, Nashville here we come!

We are also confirming two of our youth this month! Congratulations to Kyle Weiksnar and Jackson Wyatt! Thank you for all your hard work! You both showed such incredible growth in your faith. We are so proud of you!

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CHILDREN, Y



C O N G R A T S !



Christopher Carnes is graduating from South Fork High School and will attend the University of Florida and major in International Relations and Sustainability. He will miss his time with Immanuel as a member of the Bell Choir and involvement in the youth activities.



Micheal Phoenix is graduating from 8th grade at Saint Lucie West K-8 as an honor roll student.



William Jankens is graduating from South Fork High School and will be heading to Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, FL.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Confirmation

The following students will be affirming their baptism and becoming full members of Immanuel Lutheran Church on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th, at 9:30 am.

Kyle Weiksar



*"For we live by faith, not sight."
- 2 Corinthians 5:7*

Jackson Wyatt



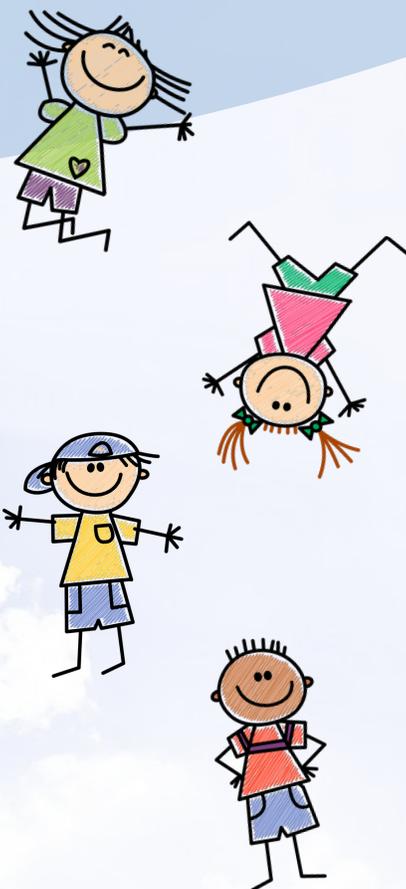
*"In a desert land he found him,
in a barren and howling
waste. He shielded him and cared
for him."
- Deuteronomy 32:10*

(...continued from page 6)

Let's take the time to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Amy Eason for all her time and dedication. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful youth and such a dedicated Confirmation teacher! Thank you Amy for showing me the ropes this year. You are appreciated by all of the parents and our church staff. ■

Upcoming Events

- June 5th: Confirmation Ceremony
- June 5th-10th: Nashville Mission Trip
- June 20th-June 24th: VBS



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



A MINISTRY OF LISTENING:



Stewarding Our Attention, Part 2 by Paula Tsufis, Stewardship Committee

In this "age of distraction" how do we focus our attention?

Years ago, I worked with a pastor who told me that she tried to look directly into a person's eyes when talking to them. She said that you could tell a lot about the person's emotional state through eye contact. Many mental health professionals agree.

In her book *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age* author Sherry Turkle notes that "Conversation is on the path toward the experience of intimacy, community, and communion. Reclaiming conversation is a step toward reclaiming our most fundamental human values." A vital church is one in where the relationships are strong—with God, with one another and our neighbor. Good relationships require good conversation.

So, won't text messages meet this need for conversation? Sherry states in her work that "From the early days, I saw that computers offer the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship, and then as the programs got really good,



the illusion of friendship without the demands of intimacy." She differentiates between a "connection" and a "conversation", and a key element is eye contact and physical presence. So, not anti-technology, rather pro-conversation. Conversation is especially important to the development of children. Psychiatrist Daniel Siegel teaches us that children need eye contact to develop parts of the brain that are involved with attachment. Without eye contact and physical presence, there is a persistent sense of disconnection and problems with empathy. I believe this continuing alienation applies to teens and adults as well.

Sherry offers the following "guideposts" in pondering use of technology and our human values:

- Remember the power of your phone. It's a psychologically potent device. The mere presence of a phone signals that your attention is divided, even if you don't intend it to be.
- Slow down and listen to your own voice (and I would add the voice of God.) Personally, I think the beach is a perfect place for a little solitude.
- Create sacred spaces for conversation. "No Device" zones perhaps at dinner or in the car or at a restaurant. As parents or grandparents, model this behavior for children and teens.
- Think of "uni-tasking" as the next big thing. In every domain of life, it will increase performance and decrease stress.

(continued on page 9...)

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Pirate	May 31	Week	2		4
5	Animals & Dinosaurs	6	Week	8		11
12	Space	13	Week	15		18
19	Under the Sea (VBS)	20	Week	22		25
26	Disney	27	Week	29		

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.

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	Closed July 4 th Spirit	4	Week Music	6		9
10	Nature	11	Week Music	13		16
17	Super Heroes	18	Week Music	20		23
24	Water	25	Week Music	27		30
31						

Listening, Pt. 2

(...continued from page 8)

Our challenge in today's time-crunched world is to love one another more deeply. Theologian Andrew Root notes in his book, *The Congregation in the Secular Age: Keeping Sacred Time Against the Speed of Modern Life* that "Through deep encounters of love, friendship and care, time is subordinate to the sacred action (motion) of the ministry in relation. Love is stronger than time but love always happens in time. And the love, friendship and care for persons unveils that eternity is still in time."

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

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

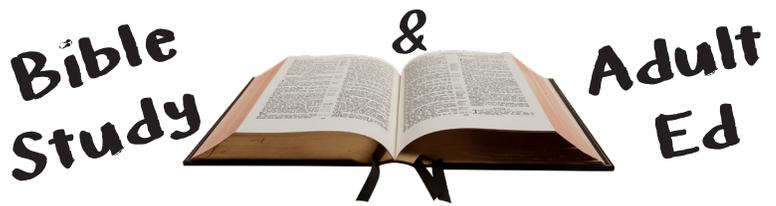
Wednesday Bridge Group

Wednesdays at 1 pm
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*



Deborah Circle Women's Ministry

All Immanuel ladies & friends are invited to the Deborah Circle Bible study and layette assembly. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month (June 13th) in the choir room at 3PM. We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew, 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 or 485-1954

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 or 485-1954.



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.



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

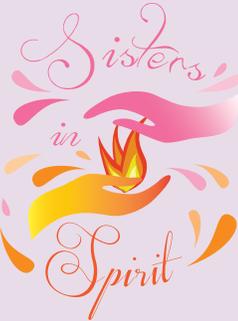
Sundays at 10 am • Choir Room
Suspended until further notice

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 the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7PM at Panera Bread in Palm City. For more information and to RSVP contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 or 485-1954.



Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet on **Wednesday, June 8, at 10 AM in Room 202** of the FDC (second floor-take elevator). We will be scheduling the next three months since we don't meet in July or August, so bring your calendars. We welcome ALL interested volunteers.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 20-24, 2022

We're looking for volunteers!
Registration forms for participants
and volunteers available in the
Narthex or online!
immanuelpalmcity.org/vbs
or call Brittany in the church office.

