



EVEN GOD TOOK A DAY OFF

by Pastor Chad

Labor Day is a slightly confusing holiday. We celebrate work by taking the day off. We honor labor with cookouts, trips to the beach, and the annual question, “Are we still allowed to wear white after Monday?” Is that even a thing in Florida?

Beneath the long weekend, however, is something worth remembering. Labor Day honors the dignity of work and the people whose labor keeps our communities going. Scripture affirms that dignity. In Genesis, God places Adam in the garden “to till it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15). Work was part of life before sin entered the picture. Apparently, even paradise had a to-do list.

Work can be good and meaningful. Through our labor, we use our gifts, care for our families, serve our neighbors, and participate in God’s ongoing care for creation. That includes far more than the work attached to a paycheck. Raising children is work. Caring for an aging parent is work. Volunteering, preparing meals, maintaining a home, and being the person everyone calls when something breaks all count too.

Our work matters to God. But here is the part we often forget: our rest matters to God as well. After six days of creation, God rested on the seventh day. God was not worn out or complaining about needing a vacation. God rested to establish a rhythm for creation. There is a time to work and a time to stop. Later, God made Sabbath part of the Ten Commandments: “Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8).

That may be difficult for those of us who feel guilty when we are not doing something productive. We say we will rest when the work is finished. The problem, of course, is that the work is never finished. There is always another email, another load of laundry, another meeting to prepare for, or another home project quietly judging us from the corner. If we wait until everything is done before we rest, we will never rest.

Sabbath interrupts that cycle. It reminds us that we are human beings, not human doings. Our value does not depend on how much we accomplish, how busy we appear, or how many items we cross off a list. Before we do anything for God, we are already loved by God.

Sabbath does not have to mean sitting silently in a chair all day, unless that restores you, in which case, enjoy the chair. Sabbath may include worship, an unhurried meal, a walk, time with family, a round of golf, a good book, or an afternoon nap that lasts longer than originally intended. The point is not to create another list of rules. The point is to make room to receive life as a gift.

This Labor Day, let us give thanks for meaningful work and for the people whose labor often goes unnoticed. Let us honor teachers, caregivers, first responders, tradespeople, service workers, parents, volunteers, and everyone who helps hold our communities together.

So fire up the grill. Spend time with someone you love. Take a nap. Remember even God took a day off

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY DR. PATTY

September is here, and the school year is off to a great start. This month at Immanuel Early Learning Center, our students will enjoy a variety of fun-filled activities based on the weekly themes in our curriculum. Our teachers are excited to provide opportunities for the children to learn, explore, create, and make new friendships throughout the month.

The highlights for this month are: The Kiwanis Reading Group. These wonderful ladies visit our center twice a month to read to our little ones. We are so thankful for their time and for helping us encourage a love of books and reading in our children. We are excited to celebrate our dads on September 24th with our special "Donuts with Dads" event. Dads will have the opportunity to come out, enjoy a sweet treat, and spend some special time with their children. We look forward to sharing this fun morning together.

We will continue starting each week with Chapel every Monday. Chapel is a special time for our children and teachers to come together, learn about God's love, sing songs, and begin the week with a positive and meaningful message. We are having so much fun getting to know our new friends and are especially grateful for all of the families who have returned to Immanuel Early Learning Center for

another school year.

September is a special time of the school year because the children and staff are settling into their classrooms, learning routines, building relationships, and creating wonderful memories together.

As we move into a new season, we are excited about all the learning, growing, and fun that September will bring! Thank you to all of our families for trusting us with your precious little ones. We are blessed to be a part of your child's early learning journey.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and wonderful September!

With love,

The Immanuel Early Learning Center Team ❤️



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY TIM RUSSO

Our Youth program is looking forward to a busy fall. Please mark your calendars for upcoming events and fundraisers.

- 2027 National Youth Gathering — Minneapolis, MN

If you're interested in attending the Youth Gathering in July, 2027. Please contact Pastor Chad

- FUNDRAISER - Labor Day Service Hot Dog Sale

Support our Youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering by purchasing a hot dog after the 10:00 am service.

- September 11th — Night of Remembrance Concert @ Palm City Patio

Join us for a community evening of music as the Immanuel Lutheran Praise Team leads a special Night of Remembrance. A meaningful chance to gather, remember, and worship together.

- Sunday Children's Church — Volunteers Needed!

Children's Church lessons will continue once school resumes. If you're interested in leading a Sunday lesson, please reach out to Pastor Chad for more information and scheduling. We'll provide all the lesson materials and support you need.

- FUNDRAISER - Christmas Wreaths

Our Youth will be selling Christmas wreaths and decor again this year. Keep an eye out for announcements as the holidays get closer.

We're excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you at these events and growing together in faith!



Protect Yourself From Scams

11 Red Flags to Look For.



On August 18th, the Faith, Fun, Fellowship, and Small Group Ministry organized a Lunch and Learn to discuss the threat of scams.

Rob Whitlach from the Pathfinder Financial Group/Thrivent presented *The 11 Red Flag Scams*.

If you missed it, below are 11 Red Flags to help identify scams so that you can protect your assets and financial information.

1. You're contacted out of the blue.
2. It sounds too good to be true.
3. There's a sense of urgency to act.
4. Threat tactics are used.
5. Spelling and grammatical errors are made.
6. An upfront investment or payment is required.
7. Untraceable payment methods are requested.
8. You're required to provide personal information.
9. Pop-ups or links are used. Do not click on them.
10. They refuse to let you see them.
11. They ask you to keep a secret.



Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over **8,300 ELCA congregations** participating in "God's work. Our hands." day of service. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love.



GUEST SPEAKER

from Helping People Succeed



WE ARE COLLECTING GIFT CARDS

to purchase essential items like diapers & formula.



Potluck Lunch
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
AT NOON
ALL ARE WELCOME!



VISIT US ONLINE
ILCbethelight.org



LOCATION
Stuart Campus



QUESTIONS?
Contact Joy
267-320-1192
or Mary
570-280-6170



Thank you for
being the hands
and feet of Christ
in our community!



♥ Many hands. ONE HEART. ♥ GOD'S WORK.

One Service

Sunday, September 6

10:00 AM

In the Sanctuary

Labor Day Weekend

Ice Cream Social on the Porch After Service

— PRAISE & WORSHIP —

BE THE LIGHT

Remembrance Concert

— A night of worship, remembrance & live music —

September 11th | 6-7:30 PM

The Patio
3290 SW Mapp Rd. Palm City

Monthly Giving Report		
A report of our combined Palm City & Stuart giving compared to the approved budget the congregation agreed to at the annual meeting.		
	June 2026	YTD 2026
Given	\$47,770.91	\$311,554.54
Budgeted	\$43,607.00	\$305,253.00
Difference	\$4,163.91	\$6,301.54

Operating Fund Income and Expenses	
Our year-to-date operating income and expenses using the latest report of the treasurer.	
ILC & IELC	YTD 2026
Income	\$603,397.93
Expenses	\$545,992.22
Difference	\$57,405.71



Thanks A Brunch!

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

If you've EVER volunteered for ANY REASON, this is for YOU!

Saturday, October 24, 2026

10:30 AM in the Faith Development Center

Hosted by the Congregation Council

You make our church family STRONGER!

Sisters in Spirit

meets September 15th
at 7PM (Room 203).

Our Bible study is
Determined:

Living Like Jesus
in Every Moment
(a study of Luke).



Altar Guild

Our summer break is over! We will meet on September 9th at 10 am in Room 202 of the FDC in Palm City.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with communion or care for the altar. Please come and check us out. All are welcome!

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



Immanuel Quilters
is accepting nominations for a

Quilt of Valor

We invite our community to honor a service member or veteran with a handmade symbol of comfort and gratitude.

For more information or to nominate someone, please go to
<https://www.qovf.org/nominations-awards/>



the deborah circle

Deborah Circle Meeting

September 14th at 3:00pm
in Room 201 (Palm City).



Grandparents Day

Sunday, September 13

We give thanks for the love, wisdom, and faith of grandparents and grandparent figures.

Join us as we celebrate and honor them during worship.



Souper SUNDAY

Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Immanuel Dates:

Sunday, September 13th
Sunday, September 20th

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE SOUP KITCHEN

Thank you for helping share God's love, one meal at a time!