

# GOOD NEWS



## WHEN PRAYER LOSES ITS WAY

Pastor Chad

The separation of church and state requires a delicate balance. On one hand, I believe God belongs and exists in all spaces. However, I also believe in the constitutional rights of those of different religions or those who do not identify with any religion. I personally prefer that leaders lean on their faith during difficult times and when making challenging decisions. However, recent reports of a Pentagon worship service prayer calling for “overwhelming violence” and “no mercy” toward enemies has made me question that belief.

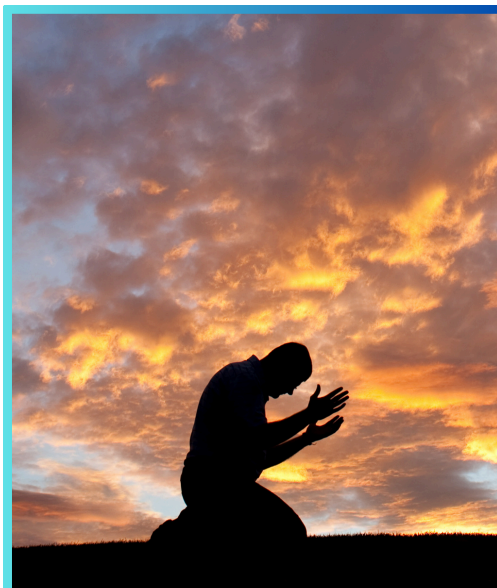
As a Christian, I’m not naïve about the realities of war. Governments bear responsibility for protection, and Scripture is honest about a broken world. But when prayer begins to baptize violence in the name of righteousness, something essential is lost.

Jesus does not lead with violence, rather he enters Jerusalem on a donkey. He rebukes the sword in the garden and he forgives from the cross: “Father, forgive them.” (Luke 23:34) This is not weakness. This is the power of God—revealed in love. One of the greatest dangers in times of conflict is confusing God with our side. But Scripture reminds us: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

We are not the righteous condemning the wicked. We are sinners in need of grace. Prayer is meant to shape our hearts, not harden them. Even in the midst of conflict, Christians are called to pray differently—for wisdom and restraint among leaders, for the protection of the innocent on all sides, and ultimately, for the end of violence, not its escalation.

The Church’s role is not to echo the rhetoric of war, but to proclaim Christ. When Christian language is used to bless violence without mercy, it distorts that witness and risks confusing the Gospel with power.

So we pray differently: Lord, grant us wisdom in conflict. Protect all who are in harm’s way. Break the cycles of hatred that divide us, and make us instruments of your peace. Amen.



## IMMANUEL STAFF

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BRITTANY LUSTIG

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### PIANISTS/ORGANIST

SARAH MILLER & KATHLEEN KNOTT

## Altar Guild Spring Luncheon

APRIL 8TH | NOON

LOCATION: CITRON BISTRO

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH COMMUNION OR CARE FOR THE ALTAR.

QUESTIONS HAPPILY ANSWERED BY MARJ SMITH AT 772-286-8974 OR BELINDA LOWE AT 772-634-0194.

# PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY DR. PATTY

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

**The themes for this month are Farm Animals and Zoo Animals.**

Wow! It's April already. Welcome to April! This month holds lots of interesting and major observances. The observances are Stress Awareness, Autism Acceptance, and Earth Month. The preschool will incorporate some of these observations into their monthly lessons.

The Fabulous Fours (VPK) class will be having fun getting to know more about zoo animals. As they learn about the zoo animals, they will focus on the animals' functions, appetites, and some of the things they like and do not like. This takes them into learning how each animal is unique, just as humans are unique (Autism Acceptance). They will continue to practice their daily breathing exercise which helps them to control their stress (Stress Awareness). Their vocabulary words for the month are words such as mammals, spine, reptile, and migrate. They will continue to build on the 7 essential skills for school readiness: Confidence, curiosity, intentionality, self-control, relationships, cooperation, and communication. Ms. Krystal is well prepared to give these students the adventure of traveling to the zoo and exploring the different animals they might find there.

The Thriving Threes will explore animals from the zoo, the ocean, the farm, and the circus. Oh, what fun this will be to learn how elephants use their trunks, how horses and hens help farmers, and what animals live in fresh water versus salt water. Some of their vocabulary words for this theme are habitat, environment, and zookeepers. They also get to learn some of these words in Spanish too! For instance elephant in Spanish is el elefante. They will learn how these animals were created uniquely just as humans, we are all different and all included. Ms. Daniella and Ms. Sharon will prepare activities that encourage building their motor skills pertaining to the themes such as rolling brown play dough into "monkey tails" and pretending to be a zoo animal. The teachers are all smiles as they prepare the lessons for the children to learn all about these animals.

The Terrific Twos will be engaged in learning all about the Farm Animals. Since most of their learning is through songs, stories, and nursery rhymes they will have fun singing songs like "Old McDonald Had a Farm" and "The Farmer In the Dell". Their activities will consist of pony riders, (don't worry, the ponies will be noodle ponies), and playing "Moo, Moo, Neigh". Ms. Katherine and Ms. Elise can hardly wait to sing the songs and teach them new ones like "Jigger" and "This Little Cow".

**Reminders for this month:** We will be closed for Good Friday 4/3. Our big egg hunt is 4/2. The last day for taxes 4/15 and Earth Day is 4/22. We also have a new team member! Ms. Debbie she comes to Immanuel with a wealth of knowledge and experience in early childhood education.

**Looking for Summer Camp? Immanuel Early Learning Center is hosting weekly summer camp June 1st - July 31st. Spots are limited. Register today!**



# YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY LUSTIG

Hey Immanuel Youth and Families,

As we step into this beautiful Easter season, we are so grateful for all the ways our community showed up in love and service. A huge thank you to everyone who donated Easter egg fillers, and to those who spent time prepping and hiding eggs for our Easter egg hunt—you helped create such a joyful and memorable celebration for our children and families!

It has been an incredible time preparing for Holy Week and Easter, and we are so thankful to walk through such a meaningful season together as a church family.

Looking ahead, we will be scheduling one-on-one family meetings in the coming weeks to talk about the future of our youth program. These conversations are so important to us, and we can't wait to hear your thoughts, ideas, and hopes as we continue building something special together.

We are also excited to officially introduce our Youth Council:

- Farren Bell – President
- Juliana Russo – Vice President
- Gia Morello – Secretary
- Graydon Miller – Service Coordinator
- Dominic Morello – Treasurer
- Fynn Wyatt – Communications
- AnnaMae Fair & Emelia Russo – Liaisons

We are so proud of these students for stepping into leadership roles, and we look forward to scheduling our first Youth Council meeting after Easter as they begin helping shape the future of our ministry.

**Here's what's coming up this month:**

- Confirmation Class: Sunday, April 19th
- Youth Group: Sunday, April 26th, 6-8 pm

Thank you for continuing to support, encourage, and pray for our youth. This season is full of new life, new leadership, and new possibilities, and we are so excited for how the Holy Spirit is calling us to move!

Parents and youth—invite a friend to join us this month! There is always room at the table, and we'd love to welcome new faces into our community.

"He is not here; he has risen!" — Luke 24:6



# HELPING HANDS



## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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**FAITH, FUN & FELLOWSHIP  
& SMALL GROUPS**  
ARTHUR HINTZ  
ARTHURHINTZ@COMCAST.NET

Recently a group of 22 people from Immanuel toured the Project Lift Center in Hobe Sound. This incredible nonprofit constructs the Tiny Homes located on the Stuart Campus. Project Lift provides at-risk students ages 14 to 24 mental health counseling, vocational training, and life skills development, including interview preparation and resume building experience. Participants are also given the opportunity to earn their accredited high school diploma on site.

Thanks to the generous donations of our Immanuel family, the Immanuel Helping Hands was able to provide snacks, fruit and water to the students. We would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to everyone that contributed to support these young people.

Our next meeting will be at the Stuart campus fellowship hall on Monday, April 20th with a potluck lunch at Noon. We will discuss our May "baby shower" outreach event. ALL are welcome.

## GLEANNING

A huge thank you to all who came out and donated their time to help glean for our community!



### 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.

	February 2026	YTD 2026
<b>Given</b>	\$44,406.99	\$95,054.23
<b>Budgeted</b>	\$44,600.01	\$89,200.02
<b>Difference</b>	(\$193.02)	\$5,854.21

### Operating Fund Income and Expenses

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

	YTD 2026
<b>ILC &amp; IELC</b>	
<b>Income</b>	\$168,812.87
<b>Expenses</b>	\$128,284.27
<b>Difference</b>	\$40,528.60



**Immanuel**

ilcbethelight.org

**PALM CITY:**

2655 SW Immanuel Drive  
Palm City, FL 34990  
772.287.8188

**STUART**

2200 NW Federal Hwy  
Stuart, FL 34994  
772.692.1171

# SOUPER SUNDAYS

**March Meals Served: 518**

**Immanuel Volunteers**

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Fred Prange            | Kim Shrum          |
| Sandra Foley           | Ron Froehlich      |
| Jodi Dudeney           | Karen Coombs       |
| Rylee Perdue           | Sandra Wick        |
| Giovanni Inizarry      | Bernie Muckenfuss  |
| Tom & Sue Whittington  | Sue Galloway       |
| Kathy LaBelle          | Sal & Judy DiSalvo |
| Lou Gregory            | Elise Eichelkraut  |
| Melinda & Nate Shaffer | Daniella Vins      |
|                        | Pastor Chad        |

## HOLY WEEK

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7 PM

**GOOD FRIDAY MUSICAL**

7 PM

**HOLY SATURDAY**

INTERACTIVE PRAYER STATIONS  
8 AM - 8 PM

**EASTER SUNDAY**

CONTEMPORARY  
9:30 AM

TRADITIONAL  
11:15 AM



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

7 PM



**FREE ADMISSION**

**DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED**

**GOOD FRIDAY MUSICAL**

April 3rd | 7 PM  
Immanuel Palm City | 2655 SW Immanuel Dr

## HOLY SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL

8 AM - 8 PM



**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**APRIL 5TH**

AFTER OUR 9:30 AM  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

**Easter Pancake Breakfast**

**Pancake Breakfast**  
10:00 - 11:30 AM  
In the FDC

**Between Services:**  
Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt!