



BE THE LIGHT IN CHANGING TIMES

by Pastor Chad

Most people don't like change. I know I don't. We get attached to the things that have shaped us—our routines, our traditions, the way we've always done things. Those things become part of our story. So when they change, it can feel like we're losing something, even when the change is for the better. ***The church isn't immune to that.***

Every generation of Christians has had to wrestle with the question, “What does it look like to be faithful here and now?” The answer has never been found in doing everything exactly the way it was done before. Instead, it has always been found in following Jesus wherever He leads.

The gospel hasn't changed. It never will. People have. Communities have.

The challenges our neighbors face today aren't the same ones they faced twenty or fifty years ago. If we're serious about sharing Christ's love, then we have to be willing to ask whether the way we do ministry is helping us reach the people God has placed around us.

That's not abandoning our identity. It's living it.

At Immanuel, we say our mission is to Be the Light. Light doesn't stay where it's comfortable. It shines into dark places. It helps people find their way. It brings hope.

That's our calling. Sometimes that means trying something new. Sometimes it means letting go of something we've loved so that something else can grow. Those decisions aren't always easy, and they shouldn't be made lightly. But they should always be made with one question in mind: ***Will this help us share Jesus more faithfully with the people God has called us to serve?***

If the answer is yes, then it's worth our prayer, our effort, and sometimes even our discomfort.

The wonderful thing about following Christ is that while the world around us changes, He doesn't. His grace is the same. His promises are the same. His love is the same. That gives us the freedom to move forward without fear.

As a congregation, we've been blessed with a rich history. We honor it. We learn from it. But our history isn't our destination. God is still at work, still calling, still opening doors we couldn't have imagined.

My prayer is that we'll have the courage to walk through them together. Not because change is exciting. Because Jesus is worth following.

And wherever He leads, that's where we'll find the opportunity to Be the Light.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY DR. PATTY

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

August is here and it wraps up our summer program for Immanuel Early Learning Center.

This summer, the children enjoyed many different experiences such as Kona Ice stopping by to bring us a cool treat for the hot days and creating lasting experiences based on the weekly themes.

The highlight for this last month was Bible stories week, during which the children learned some of the great stories represented in the Bible. Their favorite was Noah and the Ark - they loved learning about all the different animals that joined him aboard.

Another highlight from our summer sessions was hosting guests from the Kiwanis reading club. This lovely group came by to read to our little ones and inspire a love of learning, fantasy and discovery that can only be found in books.

The children closed the summer with a spectacular Bounce House Day where they celebrated with friends and jumped to their hearts content.

As the summer program comes to an end, we think of the children headed off to Kindergarten. We will miss them, but have been honored to be a part of their early learning journey.

Those children who will join us for Fall session, we look forward to a great successful school year. We are thankful for all of the families who have trusted Immanuel to be part of their child(ren) learning and faith experience.



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY TIM RUSSO

Hey Immanuel Youth and Families,

As back to school season kicks into gear, make sure to mark your calendars for some exciting Youth dates.

- 2027 National Youth Gathering — Minneapolis, MN
Attention high school students & parents: Join us on August 24th at 6pm in the FDC for an initial meeting about the 2027 Youth Gathering. We'll cover what to expect, travel details, and fundraising ideas. Let's make the 2027 Gathering our best yet!

- August Youth Event — Ideas Wanted!
We're planning an August outing and want your input. Some ideas on the table: PopStroke, Elev8 Fun, and more. Have a favorite activity? Cast your vote to me (Tim Russo) or Pastor Chad.

- 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.

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



New Tax Benefit for Charitable Giving Begins in 2026



Paula Tsufis - Stewardship

Good news for many church members: beginning with the 2026 tax year, taxpayers who take the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions may once again receive a federal income tax benefit for charitable giving.

Starting in 2026, individuals who claim the standard deduction may deduct up to \$1,000 in qualified cash charitable contributions, while married couples filing jointly may deduct up to \$2,000. This deduction is available even though the taxpayer does not itemize deductions.

For many years, charitable gifts were deductible only for taxpayers who itemized their deductions. Because the standard deduction has increased significantly in recent years, most taxpayers now choose the standard deduction instead of itemizing. As a result, many faithful donors received no direct federal tax benefit for their charitable giving. The new law restores a tax incentive for most households.

To qualify, contributions generally must be cash gifts made directly to eligible charitable organizations, including churches. Certain gifts, such as donations made to donor-advised funds, do not qualify for this special deduction.

As always, donors should keep accurate records of their contributions, including church giving statements and receipts, for tax purposes. Church members are encouraged to consult their tax advisor regarding their specific situation.

Faithful stewardship is first and foremost an act of gratitude. It is encouraging to know that beginning in 2026, federal tax law will provide many non-itemizing taxpayers with an additional incentive to support their church and other charitable ministries.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 9
During the 9:30 Service
In the Sanctuary

Join us as we bless students, teachers, and backpacks for the new school year.

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	\$37,551.43	\$263,783.63
Budgeted	\$44,107.00	\$261,646.00
Difference	(\$6,555.57)	\$2,137.63

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	\$524,429.36
Expenses	\$468,801.59
Difference	\$55,447.77



PALM CITY:
2655 SW Immanuel Drive
Palm City, FL 34990
772.287.8188

STUART
2200 NW Federal Hwy
Stuart, FL 34994
772.692.1171

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild does not meet in August but we are always looking for more volunteers to help serve communion. If interested, please call Marj Smith at 772-286-8974 to get on the schedule.

Sisters in Spirit

meets August 18th at 7PM (Room 203).

Our Bible study is *Determined:*
Living Like Jesus in Every Moment
(a study of Luke).

Thank you, Immanuel community,

for the outpouring of your caring and love during my knee replacement recovery. Your visits, cards, texts, calls, words of encouragement, Thank you for being an expression of Jesus' love.

Blessings of love, peace, and joy to all of you,
Deacon Cheryl

THANK YOU, HELPING HANDS!

Your generous donations provided **\$645** in gas gift cards for **Project Lift!**

These gift cards will help transport students each day to and from their facility, making a meaningful difference in the lives of the students.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and support of our community!

Souper SUNDAY

Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Immanuel Dates:

- Sunday, August 9th
- Sunday, August 16th
- Sunday, August 30th

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

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE SOUP KITCHEN

Lunch 'n Learn

Red Flag Scams

Tuesday, August 18 | Beginning at Noon | Stuart Campus

Join us to learn:

- 11 Red Flags to Spot Scams
- How to identify and recognize clues that may indicate you are in contact with fraudsters
- Learn how to protect yourself and those you care about
- See the prevalence and impact of scams in the U.S.
- Explore examples of common scams
- Gain specific tips to help avoid falling victim.

Lunch will be provided. There is no need to bring food.

Please send an RSVP to Arthur Hintz at arthurhintz@comcast.net by Friday, August 14 to reserve your spot for the luncheon.

Happy August Birthdays

Patty Brookshire	Gail Nansen
Nick Buhrow	Kim Neal
Christopher Castro	Michael Orsatti
Katherine Dangerfield	Janice Rades
John Eason	Taunya Rapley
Quinn Fair	Carolynn Ries
Tisha Freedman	Reese Rinderknecht
Laurel Goll	Kaisa Rinier
Anne Gouldsbury	Wayne Schrader
Margarete Hendricks	Greg Seefeldt
Jeff Kelly	Kooper Seefeldt
Mary Lendman	Kenneth Selby
Janet Matthews	Fred Theye
Graydon Miller	Marlene Valpatie
Debbie Mills	