

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

MAY 2023

GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Rebecca Craig, pages 1-3

FINANCIALS

page 4

HOLY WEEK IN PICTURES

pages 2-3

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

page 5

MINISTRIES & GROUPS

pages 6-7



Fighting Fire with Fire

by Pastor Rebecca Craig

God with us
Immanuel
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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

STUART
2200 NW Federal Hwy
Stuart, FL 34994
772.692.1171

immanuelpalmcity.org

Another year, another Holy Week in the books. Our next major church holiday is Pentecost on May 28th.

And by major, I mean that the church thinks this day is rather important, but it doesn't have a lot of commercial value so it doesn't really get the attention culturally like Christmas and Easter. No one's going around exchanging matches or doing Pentecost flame hunts. Churches aren't packed because it's not one of the few times a year everyone feels obligated to show up.

Still, Pentecost was, for the ancient Israelites, one of the three "required" festivals (Passover and the Feast of Booths were the other two) that they were supposed to make the trek to Jerusalem for. It was the "first fruits" harvest festival in which they also celebrated the giving of the Torah fifty days after their release from Egypt. In essence, it became a celebration of the birthday of God's covenant with the Israelites.

Pentecost in Christianity is viewed similarly, only rather than Moses on

(continued on page 2...)

Maundy Thursday



Pastor Rebecca's

MONTHLY MESSAGE

(...continued from page 1)

Mount Sinai, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit, which we are told is also God's instruction that is being imparted to us. Like Torah, the Holy Spirit is a guiding presence in our lives. Its arrival heralds a new way in which God's instruction gets lived out. No longer a set of external rules and regulations, but an indwelling of God's presence within God's people.

It's kind of a big deal.

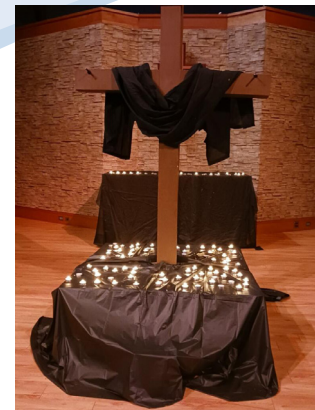
The scene that depicts the Holy Spirit's arrival is rather dramatic, with tongues of fire coming to rest upon each of the disciples before they go out and begin speaking in the languages of the world that were gathered in Jerusalem for the Holy Day celebrations.

This past weekend I helped lead a retreat up at Luther Springs. The theme of the retreat was titled, "Journey to Joy." The idea was to move us from our lament and despair at the beginning of the retreat, to joy by the end. One of the workshops I led was about taking all the images and words we'd come up with in a different workshop that represented our current or past lament and despair and

(continued on page 3...)



Holy Saturday



Many thanks to all of our volunteers who made our Holy Week services and activities meaningful and successful.

Good Friday



(...continued from page 2)

change those images/words into something positive, like a work of art. To transform something ugly into something beautiful.

I described the parts of my life, and the things in the world that were cause for lament and despair as "being on fire." The world as a whole just sometimes feels like it's on fire, doesn't it? That everything is just a hot mess? What does God do with hot messes?

He takes our Good Fridays, and turns them into Easters. He turns our mourning into dancing; our sorrows into joy; hot messes into fiery passion and action.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were still hiding out in fear. Jesus had been raised, but now he was gone having ascended into heaven. What were they to do now? They were choosing to just sit around and mope. I mean, how could twelve people change anything in the world, right?

God chose to fight the fires of despondency with the fires of Pentecost. Fire has a long symbolic history of being a refining tool of God that burns away the chaff, burns away the ugly stuff, in order to mold and shape us into something new.

The disciples were transformed by the fires of Pentecost to move out of their hiding place and out into the world where they proclaimed the Good News of the resurrection. He transformed the fires of despair into fires of hope and new life.

This Pentecost, how will God transform your sorrows into joy? How will you fight the fires of despair in our world with the fires of God's Spirit? What Good News will you share in the world? ■

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

President

Pete Morello

shipperpete@gmail.com

Vice President

Drew High

drewhigh7@gmail.com

Secretary

Sandra Foley

fschoolmarm@aol.com

Treasurer

John Gustafson

johndgustafson@outlook.com

Finance

Ron Froehlich

rfroeh1944@gmail.com

Worship

Kim Shrum

kim.shrum2011@gmail.com

Stewardship

Doug Crawford

dougc@mfps.us

Communication & Evangelism

Kyla Mericle

mrsmericle1112@gmail.com

Service

Marcie Balow

mbalow45@gmail.com

Learning

Michael Keese

makeese14@live.com

Property

Rex Noble, Jr.

auburn1984@bellsouth.net

Faith, Fun & Fellowship/Small

Groups

Belinda Lowe

lovymille@comcast.net

Stuart Representatives

Roberta Virta

robertavirta@cs.com

Jodi Dudeney

jldportstlucie@aol.com

STUART VISIONING SESSION

Sunday, May 7 • 11:30 am

If you are a regular Stuart attendee (former POP member, or a Palm City member who now attends the Stuart site regularly) you are invited to attend our second visioning session following Fellowship on Sunday, May 7th. Think about and be prepared to share what your favorite Bible Verses are prior to the meeting.

Thrivent Benefit and Associate Members

Have you done an "Action Team" for 2023? As you know, we provide "Snack Bags" for the families that attend our "Souper Sunday." As the cost of food rises, we are having a larger need in the community. If you could apply for an "Action Team" to assist us for this very worthy cause, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact or see Karen Coombs, at 772-475-3312, to see how easy it is to apply. There is a 21 day lead time, apply today!

Thank you!

We now have more ways for you to give!



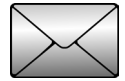
Mobile

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. *Figures do not include Stuart location

	Mar 2023	Mar 2022	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Given	\$36,988.68	\$33,273.66	\$117,400.00	\$99,512.43
Budgeted	\$40,316.00	\$41,332.00	\$131,027.00	\$134,329.00
Difference	(\$3,327.32)	(\$8,058.34)	(\$13,627.00)	(\$34,816.57)

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 03/31/2023	ILC & IELC
Income	\$263,898.95
Expenses	\$245,661.12
Difference	\$18,237.83



Confirmation

Sunday, May 28th, 10 am

IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Chad Fair

pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org

Pastor & Media Director

Rebecca Craig

pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org

Deacon

Cheryl Gundersdorff

cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org

Organist & Choir Director

Vacant

Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Lustig

brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

Director of Early Learning Center

Rebecca Painter

IELCDirector@ilcpalmcity.org

Children, Youth & Family Director

Brittany Lustig

brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

Office Manager

Shea Johnson

sheajohnson@ilcpalmcity.org

Administrative Assistant

Sheri Muller

sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org

Secretary — Stuart

Karen Gumm

ImmanuelStuartLC@gmail.com

Sexton

Leeona Reid

Text: 772-444-5148

FINAL CONFIRMATION RETREAT OF THE YEAR

May 19th - 20th

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

May 12th • 6-10 PM



ACTIVITIES:

- Games
- Crafts
- Movie

Drop your kids off in the Faith Development Center and enjoy a date night!
(potty-trained—middle school)

High Schoolers: you can use this to fulfill your volunteer hours!
Contact Brittany Lustig for more information: 772-359-7354



VBS 2023

STELLAR

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

June 5-9

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SIGN UP NOW

Volunteers still needed!

Prayer Requests

To add someone to the prayer list or to the prayer chain contact:

Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 772-221-8939
or cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org



ADULT EDUCATION

Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month
3 pm • Rm 201

Sisters in Spirit

3rd Tuesday of the month
7 pm • Panera

Word on Wednesdays

2nd Wednesday of the month
5:30 pm • Townies

Bible Study

Wednesdays • 5:30 pm
Stuart Fellowship Hall
Bring your own dinner.

Does not meet on the 2nd Wed of the month due to Word on Wed.

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

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

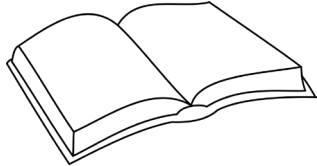
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Some of our member information in church windows is out of date. We would greatly appreciate it if you would please go to our website and fill out the online information form:
www.immanuelpalmcity.org/update-information

Bible Study & Adult Ed



Word on Wednesdays



2nd Wednesdays • 5:30 pm at **Townies**
TAVERN

Join Pr. Rebecca for our Word on Wednesday this month at Townies Tavern in Palm City.

Next Word on Wednesday: May 10th

Bible Study

(Stuart Fellowship Hall)

Wednesdays, 5:30 PM • Bring your own dinner

We will continue with our study of the Book of Revelation led by Pastor Rebecca

**does not meet May 10th due to Word on Wed*



Prayer Chain Ministry

Everyone needs prayer!

Consider joining the prayer chain. As you bless others through your prayers, you will find that you also will be blessed. Call Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 or 485-1954.



Souper Sundays

Immanuel Lutheran volunteers serve every first, third and fifth Sunday.

To volunteer, scan the QR code or go to our website, immanuelpalmcity.org/serviceopportunities



MUSIC MINISTRIES

Contemporary Worship Team

Sundays @ 8 am • Sanctuary
Contact Brittany Lustig
brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

Bell Choir

Practices Tuesdays @ 6 pm
Contact Sandy Foley
772-240-6753

Chancel Choir

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



Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet on **Wednesday, May 10, at 10 am in Room 202** of the FDC (second floor-take elevator). We welcome ALL interested volunteers to help serve communion or care for the altar.

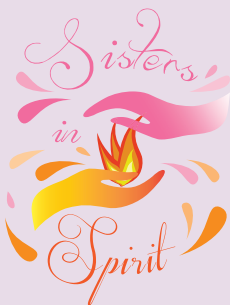
For more information, call Marj Smith at 772-286-8974 or Belinda Lowe at 772-634-0194.

Deborah Circle

Are you looking to expand your Biblical knowledge and draw closer to Jesus? Come to the Deborah Circle Bible study the 2nd Monday at 3PM in room 201 as we explore the gospel of Matthew. Contact Deacon Cheryl 221-8939 or 485-1954 for more information and to RSVP.

Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry

Do you want to know Jesus more than you do now? Join the ladies of Sisters in Spirit as we get to know Jesus through the Experience the Heart of Jesus Bible study. We meet the 3rd Tuesday at 7PM at Panera Bread in Palm City. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 or 485-1954 for more information and to RSVP.



HURRICANE PREP TEAM

Hurricane season is just around the corner. We have many members within our community who will need assistance the next time we wind up in that dreaded "cone of uncertainty" putting up their shutters.

We will also need a crew of volunteers to help put the tarps up around the church.

If you are interested in being part of our hurricane prep team that we call and mobilize in the event of an approaching hurricane, please contact

Pastor Chad Fair:
pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org



LUTHERAN CHURCH
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive
Palm City, FL 34990
772.287.8188
immanuelpalmcity.org

Regular Worship Schedule

Palm City

Saturdays:
6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary
11:15 am Traditional

Stuart

Sundays:
10:00 am Traditional

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Stuart, FL
Permit No. 144

35th Anniversary Celebration *May 27th & 28th*

Saturday, May 27th • 6 PM - Celebration Dinner
sign up in the Narthex (PC) or Fellowship Hall (Stuart) • May 13 deadline

**Sunday, May 28th - 10 AM Worship with Bishop
Pedro Suarez & burning of the mortgage**

There will be only ONE worship service that weekend at 10 AM.