

Be the light

# GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran



## Pastor's Monthly Message

# Falling into Fall

by Pastor Rebecca Craig

**I** know it's crazy to think about, but yes, summer is about to come to a close in another few weeks, and we're going to be well into the fall schedule. School is back in session, and we're beginning to order all those pumpkin-spiced lattes. (Well, those of you who drink coffee or coffee-adjacent products at any rate.)

As a Nebraska native, fall always meant something very different for me than it does in Florida. In Nebraska, it meant not only cooler weather, but the possibility of snow. The leaves would change. You'd begin figuring many of your outdoor activities would have to move indoors.

But in Florida? That's when we get moving on all of our outdoor activities because it's not so hot and humid!

Despite the unprecedented heat throughout the country and of course here in Florida, it's been a busy summer and we've managed to accomplish several things over at the Stuart site. The offices have now been painted thanks to volunteers John Wakeman and Jerry Schuler. That was just the beginning, however. Due to the costs associated with hiring painters, we're looking for volunteers to help us this fall finish painting the Fellowship Hall, the Sacristy area (that will now be used primarily for Family Promise families to stay) and the Sanctuary.

As the weather cools off and the rain stops, we're also going to look at painting the exterior. If you are willing and able to help with any of these endeavors, please

let me know! I'm hoping to set up a couple of different painting dates.

Speaking of painting, thanks to the Thrivent Action Team paying for supplies, our painting party on July 29th resulted in almost \$600 being raised to purchase the paint. We will be doing another painting party fundraiser event on November 11th—so save the date if you're interested in participating. We think we can accommodate up to 50 people now, so if we can fill all the spots, we'll make \$1000 that can go toward beautification projects.



Unfortunately, due to the fact that we had several people sign up that didn't show last time, we will now be requiring people pay in advance to reserve their spot so they aren't taking places away from people who might have come but were told we were full.

We are waiting on a quote to come in to cut a doorway between the sacristy and the men's bathroom at the Stuart site so that the only entrance is not clear on the opposite side of the Fellowship Hall. Likewise we're looking at additional quotes for flooring options.

Looking forward into the future, we have the Family Promise Bed Races coming up on October 14. We're doing a Trunk-or-Treat & Chili Cook-Off in our parking

*(continued on page 2...)*

IN THIS  
ISSUE:

p. 1-2  
Pastor's Message

p. 3  
Preschool Update

p. 4  
Financials

p. 5-6  
Ministries  
& Groups

## Pastor's Message

(...continued from page 1)

lot on Friday, October 27th.

I'll be gone for the bed races, unfortunately, as our Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Khader El-Yateem, has arranged for me to attend Mission Developer training in Chicago from October 11-15. So hopefully I'll come back with all kinds of new ideas and resources to help us make our Stuart site an active part of the Stuart community.

Our Thanksgiving Eve service and pie social this year will be at our Stuart site at 7 pm given we have the Fellowship Hall right off the Sanctuary over there.

And to kick Advent off we're going to have some sort of Festival of Music and Lights on December 1st.

Also please note that our email addresses have all changed! In order to reflect the fact that we are no longer solely based in Palm City, we've changed both our website address and our email addresses to [ilcbethelight.org](mailto:ilcbethelight.org). If you send to our old addresses, they will continue to work through April 2024.

We've got a lot going on in the coming months and it's exciting to partner with all of you in this ministry as we continue to share the love of Christ in our community and beyond. ■

Save the Date!



Fall  
Painting  
Party

Saturday, Nov. 11th  
1 pm - 3 pm  
Stuart Fellowship Hall

# Summer Painting Party

*e the light*



# TRUNK-OR-TREAT

&

- Trunk or Treat
- Costume Contest
- Trunk Decoration Contest
- Food
- Games
- Chili Cook-Off



FRIDAY, OCT. 27TH

6 PM - 8 PM

PALM CITY LOCATION

Looking for candy & food donations.

Please see the items listed in the Narthex & Stuart Fellowship Hall

Sign up for Trunk decorating, Set-up/Break-down teams, & chili in Narthex & Stuart FH

Be the Light



## PRESCHOOL UPDATE

*by Natalie Davis*

Hey Immanuel friends and families, the past few weeks have been super exciting here at Immanuel Early Learning Center. Summer camp came to an end, and it was time for the teachers to begin setting up their classrooms for a new school year. As the teachers prepared for our open house and meet the teacher event, classrooms were painted, new toys were purchased, and new furniture built. Each classroom is decorated in fun, kid friendly décor. We are very proud of the new look of the preschool. We would like to welcome all our new and existing families to Immanuel Early Learning Center. This year is going to be the best year ever!



## 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

## 2 PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024!

*Steps of Paul*  
**GREECE & GREEK ISLANDS**  
Package Price : \$4,890.00 From Miami, FL (MIA)



**JUNE 18 - 29, 2024**

Contact Pr. Rebecca or pick up information in the PC Narthex/Stuart Fellowship Hall

**HOLY LAND**  
*pilgrimage*



**April 2 - 12, 2024**  
with optional Egypt extension

Contact Pr. Chad or pick up information in the PC Narthex/Stuart Fellowship Hall

### We now have more ways for you to give!



#### Mobile

Text: IPCGIVE to 77977



#### Online

[ilcbethelight.org](http://ilcbethelight.org)



#### Envelopes

### 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.

	July 2023	YTD 2023
Given	\$40,733.95	\$285,839.62
Budgeted	\$56,675.00	\$351,385.00
Difference	(\$15,941.05)	(\$65,545.38)

### OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 07/31/2023	ILC & IELC
Income	\$693,541.84
Expenses	\$746,500.99
Difference	(\$52,959.15)

# Congratulations Brittany & Sem Peralta



## IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Chad Fair

[pastorchad@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:pastorchad@ilcbethelight.org)

Pastor & Media Director

Rebecca Craig

[pastorrebecca@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:pastorrebecca@ilcbethelight.org)

Deacon

Cheryl Gundersdorff

[cherylgundersdorff@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:cherylgundersdorff@ilcbethelight.org)

Pianists

Sarah Miller, Joyce Milligan,  
Roger Rossi

Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Peralta

[brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org)

Director of Early Learning Center

Natalie Davis

[IELCDirector@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:IELCDirector@ilcbethelight.org)

Children, Youth & Family Director

Brittany Peralta

[brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org)

Office Manager

Shea Johnson

[sheajohnson@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:sheajohnson@ilcbethelight.org)

Administrative Assistant

Sheri Muller

[sherimuller@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:sherimuller@ilcbethelight.org)

Secretary – Stuart

Karen Gumm

[ImmanuelStuartLC@gmail.com](mailto:ImmanuelStuartLC@gmail.com)

Sexton

Vacant

Please take note of our new email addresses that end with [@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:@ilcbethelight.org)

4TH ANNUAL  
  
**Bed Races**  
 8AM-1PM  
 Saturday  
 October 14<sup>th</sup> 2023  
 600 SE Flagler Ave. Stuart, FL

If you would like to be on our bed-decorating committee, please contact Pr. Rebecca

### 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](mailto:ilcmedia2655@gmail.com)

## 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

### Super 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](http://www.immanuelpalmcity.org/update-information)

# Ministries & Groups

## 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.

## 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: Sept. 13**

## HARLOTS & Heroines of the Bible



Every Wednesday\*

5:30 PM • Stuart FH

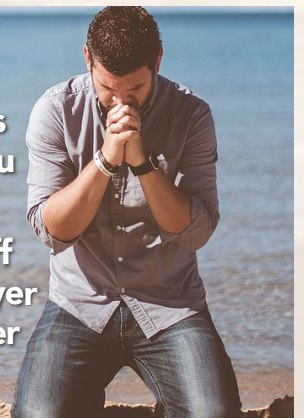
*Bring your own dinner*

*\*Does not meet Sept. 13 due to Word on Wednesday at Townies*

## Prayer Chain Ministry

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 or 485-1954 to request prayer or to become a member of our prayer team.



## Souper Sundays

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

To volunteer, scan the QR code or go to [ilcbethelight.org/serviceopportunities](http://ilcbethelight.org/serviceopportunities)



## Music Ministries

Contemporary Worship Team  
Sundays @ 8 am • Sanctuary  
Contact Brittany Peralta  
[brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.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 Peralta  
[brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org](mailto:brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org)



## Altar Guild Meeting

Our summer break is over! The Altar Guild will meet on Wednesday, September 13, at 10 AM in Room 202 of the FDC in Palm City. Anyone interested in helping serve communion or taking care of the altar at either location, please come. If you have been thinking of joining us, this would be a good time to check us out.

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

## 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.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you or someone you know going through challenging times? Stephen Ministry may be able to help. A Stephen Minister offers a confidential listening ear and comforting presence to walk with you during your challenge. To get you connected with a Stephen Minister contact your Stephen Ministry leader: Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 or 485-1954, our pastors or our Stephen Ministers wearing a blue badge.



**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL®

## Attention Thrivent Members!

If you do not plan on using your Action Team benefit, PLEASE consider requesting one or two from Thrivent for our "Snack Bag" program. I will gladly do the shopping for you!

Call Karen Coombs  
772-475-3312.

Thank you!



**Immanuel**

[ilcbethelight.org](http://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

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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

# Labor Day Picnic

**Monday, September 4th at 1 pm**

Stuart location

2200 NW Federal Highway

We will supply the hot dogs and brats,  
but you can bring soda, tea, water or a side dish/dessert to share.

Bring a friend!

Please see sign-up sheets at both locations.

## Worship Schedule

**Palm City**

Saturdays:

6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

*watch our livestream of  
all Palm City services:*

*[ilcbethelight.org](http://ilcbethelight.org)*

**Stuart**

Sundays:

10:00 am Traditional

