

FOOTBALL UNITES THE WORLD?

by Pastor Chad

As the world turns its attention to the World Cup, billions of people from every nation, language, and culture gather around a common love of the game. People find themselves celebrating alongside neighbors they might otherwise never meet. I do not claim to be a soccer fan, but I do love the World Cup. I love the passion and the energy of the boisterous stadiums. I love teammates rushing to embrace each other after scoring goals. And I love the simple message of the captain's armband: "Football Unites the World."

Whether or not every person agrees on every issue surrounding international sports, that phrase captures something deeply biblical. From the beginning, God created humanity as one family. Though sin divided us through pride, conflict, and fear, God's desire has always been to bring people together. Throughout Scripture, we see God's vision extending beyond any one nation or tribe. God calls Abraham not merely to bless his descendants but so that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3).

The prophet Isaiah envisioned a day when nations would stream together to God's mountain seeking peace and justice. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul reminds us that in Christ, barriers that divide people are broken down. "There is neither Jew nor Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

The World Cup offers a glimpse, however imperfect, of this longing for unity. Fans cheer in dozens of languages. Players from vastly different backgrounds shake hands before and after matches. Children wear jerseys from countries they have never visited. For a moment, people remember that they share something larger than their differences.

Of course, football cannot heal the world's deepest wounds. No tournament can end war, injustice, or hatred. Sports can unite us for a season, but only Christ can reconcile humanity fully to God and one another.

Yet moments like the World Cup can remind us of God's greater vision. Every team represents a nation, but every player is made in God's image. Every fan has hopes, dreams, and fears not unlike our own. The diversity on display is not something to be feared but celebrated as part of God's creative design.

The book of Revelation paints a beautiful picture of God's kingdom: "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9). Heaven itself is multicultural. God's family is global.

As we watch the matches, celebrate great moments, and enjoy the excitement of competition, perhaps we can also pray for the unity that God desires for the world. May we see beyond flags and jerseys to the people God loves. May we remember that our highest allegiance is not to a nation, a team, or a political cause, but to Jesus Christ.

Football may unite the world for a few weeks. Christ unites the world for eternity.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY DR. PATTY

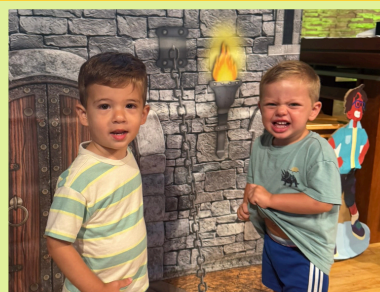
Dear Immanuel Church Family,

July is here! Summer Camp is in full swing, and we are having so much fun making memories together! Each week has something new to explore, from Bible Stories Week and Disney Week to All About Animals and Storybook Week. Our classrooms are filled with laughter, creativity, and hands-on learning that keeps our campers excited to come back each day.

This month we'll be cooling off with Water Play Days, enjoying a special visit from Kona Ice, reading with our friends from Kiwanis, bouncing the day away in the bounce house, creating friendship bracelets, celebrating with ice cream and popsicles, and wrapping up the month with our End of Summer Camp Celebration. It's going to be a July full of adventure!

As always, we are so grateful to our amazing teachers and families for making our preschool such a loving place to learn and grow. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for supporting all the special moments that make Immanuel feel like home.

We hope everyone has a safe, joyful, and memory-filled July. We can't wait to continue learning, laughing, and growing together!



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY LUSTIG

Hey Immanuel Youth and Families,

What an incredible month we've had! Kingdom Quest VBS was an unforgettable week filled with laughter, worship, games, crafts, and discovering what it means to live as part of God's Kingdom. Seeing our church filled with smiling faces and children growing in their faith was a beautiful reminder of how God works through His people.

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing youth volunteers who served with joyful hearts all week long. Whether you led a group, played games, welcomed families, helped with music, or simply showed up with a smile, you made a lasting impact on every child who attended. Watching our students step into leadership and serve the next generation was one of the greatest blessings of the week.

We also want to extend our deepest gratitude to the many adults who donated supplies, volunteered their time, prepared decorations, prayed for our ministry, and worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Kingdom Quest truly became a church-wide mission, and it would not have been possible without each of you.

Thank you for believing in our young people and for helping us create a place where they can encounter Jesus, build friendships, and discover the gifts God has given them.

"Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." — Matthew 19:14



HELPING HANDS



Helping Hands enjoyed an amazing tour of House of Hope on June 15.



WHAT WE LEARNED



• House of Hope provides all services at no cost to clients.



• Registered clients can shop at the Food Pantry.



• Hope Farm grows fresh vegetables using hydroponic and in-ground methods.



• About 1,600 packages of fresh produce are distributed each week.



• Their mission is to improve health by providing access to nutritious meals.



• House of Hope also offers family coaching, home-sharing assistance, and workforce development.



• The Copper Key Scholarship Promise supports promising seventh-grade students through mentoring and financial assistance.



• Three Centers for Enrichment offer free education, literacy, and technology programs.



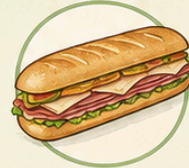
• These programs are supported by a full-time staff of 50 and hundreds of volunteers.



Get Involved

There are many opportunities to volunteer, whether once a week or once a month.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS



September 12 –
400-foot-long Cuban sandwich at Justin Wilson Park (sponsored by Old Havana Café)



November –
Tennis and pickleball tournament at Harbor Ridge



*Thank you for your generosity and support.
Together, we are making a difference.*



To learn more, contact:



Joy: 267-320-1192



Mary: 570-280-6170



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.

	May 2026	YTD 2026
Given	\$42,800.43	\$226,232.20
Budgeted	\$39,138.96	\$217,539.00
Difference	\$3,661.47	\$8,693.20

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	\$445,219.72
Expenses	\$390,813.49
Difference	\$54,406.23



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



Thank You!
House of Hope Donations
Your support is
greatly appreciated.

Souper SUNDAY



Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Immanuel Dates:



Sunday, July 12



Sunday, July 19



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

KINGDOM QUEST

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies and gave their time for VBS!

Your generosity and service are helping make Kingdom Quest a wonderful week for our kids.



Helping Hands

Next meeting
Monday, July 20th



Beginning
at
noon



**Stuart
Campus**



We will be collecting
gas cards
to benefit the Project Lift staff
who provide transportation
for the students.



Questions?



Joy: 267-320-1192



Mary: 570-280-6170



Blessing of the Backpacks

SafeSpace
Helping survivors of domestic violence

July 17 | 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Thrivent Pineapple Chalet
3472 NE Savannah Rd., Jensen Beach

Bring school supplies to help fill backpacks for SafeSpace.

Retro lunch served!

RSVP: Judy | jiwakeman@gmail.com

Suggested Supplies

Crayons • Markers • Pencils • Glue • Scissors • Notebooks

Happy July Birthdays

Christa Pingel
Patricia Carson
Carson Schroeder
Ruby Miller
Deb Moilanen
Barry Pearson
Marge Hercl
Richard Weigel
Catherine Jankens
Jonathan Brookshire
Jeanne Schuler
Bernie Muckenfuss
Todd Schroeder
Wilbur Worlinsky
Jeffrey Carson

John Eason
Margaret Gray
Alice Windle
Ann Christ
George Falconer
June Hewitt
Keith Johnson
Gerald Schuler
Leslie Smith
Scott Scherer
Arlo Koletzky
Jonathan McCormick
Hollon Trent
Marc Tsufis
Gary Blodgett
Elise Eichelkraut