

# GOOD NEWS



## $1 + 1 = 1$

BY PASTOR CHAD

I've never been confused with a math whizz. I didn't fail, but I hated algebra, geometry, trig, calculus, and even accounting (although I blame that mostly on some dreadfully boring professors). Church math is even more confusing. God + Jesus + the Holy Spirit = the trinity, ok 1 thing, plus 1 thing, plus 1 thing = three things. Except the trinity is three individual things and one thing at the same time. So does that equal one or three?...yes.

I don't even know how that math works. Seven is known to be the number of completeness or perfection in the Bible. I don't understand that AT ALL. Seven is neither complete nor perfect, in my estimation. First off, it's an odd number and odd numbers never seem complete to me. I can't even leave the volume on the TV at an odd number unless it's a 5. Somehow, 5 seems to be an ok number in one's column of the TV volume, but admittedly, that's halfway to ten. Halfway is not complete.

Wait, am I the only one that does that? It's not just me, right? How 'bout Skittles or M&M's, you sort and eat those by color right? Now I'm really wondering, how about French fries? Does anybody else pair them up by a length and eat two at a time?

So, does that equal one or two? I could simply end the article here and go eat some appropriately sorted Skittles (purple are the best ones, by the way) and leave the answer for you to decide. But here's my two Skittles worth...the answer is yes. WAIT, WHAT?! How is the answer to a math equation, yes? Yes,  $1+1=1$ , AND 2. We do, in fact, have 2 campuses, and we are one church. One church with four worship opportunities. Now look what I did, I made  $1+1=4$ .

Confused yet? Probably, so allow me to break down the church math or, more specifically, the Immanuel math. Yes, we have 2 campuses, and among those 2 campuses, there are 4 worship services, but we are 1 church. The key to our future success will be, in part, determined by our ability to shift our thinking from 2 churches to 1 church with 2 campuses.

Why does it matter? Simply put opportunity. If we are called to spread the Good News or, as our mission statement suggests, "be the light", we have more opportunities to do so. Having a footprint in Palm City and on US-1 gives us the opportunity to reach more people and, in turn, be a more vibrant light in Martin County. Upon my arrival five years ago, I said I wanted Immanuel to be known in the community as a place that provided meaningful worship and was immersed in the community. 2 campuses allow us to more fully live into that reality but it only works if we do so as 1 church.  $1+1=1$

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## ALTAR GUILD SPRING LUNCHEON

April 11th | 11:30 AM sharp @  
Dolphin Bar & Shrimp House  
1401 NE Indian River Drive,  
Jensen Beach

Order from the Menu  
RSVP by April 7 to Belinda at  
772-634-0194 (leave a message)



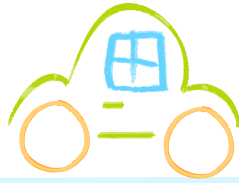
# PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY NATALIE DAVIS

Happy April, Immanuel Friends,

Spring is here, and we have truly enjoyed the last few weeks. Spring Break Camp was a hit. Thank you to all who joined us. March was amazing, and we had so much fun. The children made Easter crafts and hunted for Easter eggs. Palm Tree Portraits captured our smiles with spring pictures. Our summer registration was a success, and we reached our capacity in all classes. Mrs. Darlene Nelson has joined our preschool team as a teacher for the 2-3-year-old group. In addition, she will continue to help Mrs. Brittany with JAM on Wednesdays. Our VPK classes will begin to practice and prepare for Graduation. The end of the school year will be upon us before we know it. As always, friends, thank you for your continued support!

Love always, The Preschool Staff



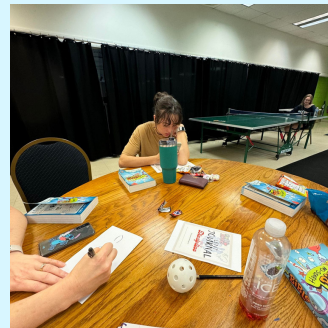
# YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY PERALTA

At the end of February, Mrs. Amy and I started Wednesday Night Youth Group! Seeing Immanuel's kids throughout the week and having fun together while growing in our faith as a community has been so fun. Please look at our Youth Group calendar on our website to see when youth group and other events occur! You don't want to miss our next Parent's Night Out on April 26th. Register your child on our website and pay through Pushpay or Paypal!

This Summer is approaching fast, and the Youth Gathering is almost here. Thank you to everyone who has donated and raised funds for this amazing trip. We will have two more fundraiser events: a quarter auction and our Rummage Sale! Keep your eyes out for details about these events. We are almost to our goal of 20,000 dollars, and it's all thanks to our Immanuel family. Thank you all so much!

I hope you had a fantastic Holy Week and Easter Sunday. I'm looking forward to Spring with the youth and their families! Growing up and growing in faith, it's a beautiful thing to witness and be a part of.



# God as Our Security Base

BY PAULA TSUFIS

Years ago, I did the “CliftonStrengths” assessment where you learn what you naturally do best. One of my “strengths” is Learning. So this Lent I signed up for two courses, The Spirituality of Fundraising hosted online by the Henri Nouwen Society and Immanuel’s Hebrews Bible study hosted by Deacon Cheryl.

Henri Nouwen was a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian. His interests were rooted primarily in psychology, pastoral ministry, spirituality, social justice and community. Each of his books explores one aspect or another of the inner life and the way of the heart. His Spirituality of Fundraising is a stewardship “classic” that challenges church leaders (and members) to see fundraising as, first and foremost, a matter of the heart. From the perspective of the gospel, it is about our connection with self, God, neighbor, and the world around us. Fundraising is a concrete way to help the kingdom of God emerge.

What is the kingdom? Henri explains, “The kingdom is where God provides for all that we need. It is the realm of sufficiency where we are no longer pulled here and there by anxiety of having enough.” So counter-cultural, where worth is often defined by money and class, and self-reliance is valued above all else.



VAN GOUGH'S "THE SOWER"

In the book of Hebrews, the writer alternates between severe warning and strong encouragement to a discouraged Christian community. He encourages the community not to disregard God’s word: “Therefore, we must pay greater attention to what we have heard so that we do not drift away from it” (Heb 2:1).

So what have we heard? Jesus talked a lot about both the kingdom of God and money. He compares the kingdom to a mustard seed “which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. (Mk 4:31-32). Immanuel has been sowing “seeds” and exploring options through Lenten speakers on how to expand our ministry outward, making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Kingdom of God work.

Paul’s letter to the Ephesians talks about how small acts of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine. This letter offers a wonderful prayer to God for our whole community as we go forward:

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever (Eph 3:20).”

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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### 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 2024	YTD 2024
<b>Given</b>	<b>\$24,229.24</b>	<b>\$83,613.58</b>
<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>\$37,480.77</b>	<b>\$74,961.54</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$13,251.53</b>	<b>\$8,652.04</b>

### Operating Fund Income and Expenses

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

Through 12/31/2023	ILC & IELC
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$193,074.40</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$187,977.75</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$5,096.65</b>



**Immanuel**  
ilcbethelight.org

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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

**Rummage SALE**

Saturday April 6th 8am-2pm  
Palm City Campus  
FDC

DROP OFF ITEMS  
STARTING APRIL  
3RD IN THE FDC

**START the PARTY**

**VBS 2024**

REGISTER NOW!

ON OUR WEBSITE!  
JUNE 17TH-JUNE 21ST  
**Immanuel**  
Be the light

**Parent's Night Out**

April 26th 6-10 PM  
Forms in the Narthex

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES**

2nd Monday in room 201 at 3PM.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

2nd Monday in room 201 at 6:30 PM.

For more information, contact your Stephen Leaders:  
Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff: 485-1954  
or  
Jerry Shuler: 716-254-0784.