

# GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran



## Pastor's Monthly Message Seeds of Growth

by Pastor Chad Fair

A few weeks ago, our gospel reading from Mark was the parable of the sower and other parables about seeds. While I confess, I do not have a green thumb, I do have a basic understanding of the growing process. Plant a seed in nutrient rich soil, give it some water and sunlight and it will grow. Remember I said basic understanding, exactly how much water and how much sunlight depends on several factors and in our house, we rarely get that ratio right.

In Jesus parable he detailed various places that scattered seeds may land and how that affects if and how the seeds might grow. After examining the parable, we determined that creating "good soil" is one of the goals and responsibilities of the church. If we can create "good soil" then we will produce a hundred-fold.

What does producing a hundred-fold look like? Does that mean our congregation/worship community will grow 100%? Maybe, but I've never been one to focus on the numbers. Yes, the numbers tell a story but I believe the numbers are a side effect of other things, such as good soil. For instance, if we have a warm and welcoming environment (good soil) for people to practice and express their faith then people's faith will deepen and eventually numbers will result. I guess I'm saying the environment we create affects the fruit we produce.

Continuing this analogy, when seeds begin to grow much of the energy is happening underground, by forming a root system. As the root system grows the plant



then begins to push through the soil where we see the plant begin to sprout. In order for the plant to continue to grow above the surface, the root system must continue to grow below the surface. While the plant pushes deeper below the surface, it also continues to grow above the surface and eventually produces fruit. For us, we must root our faith below the surface in order to sprout and produce fruit.

Just like all seeds are different, so are we. Each seed needs varying ratios of nutrients, sunlight and water to produce fruit. Each one of us also needs different nutrients of faith in order to grow and produce fruit. So here are some things for you to ponder and then share with me.

How can Immanuel deepen your roots of faith? What opportunities can Immanuel provide to help you produce fruit? ■

IN THIS  
ISSUE:

p. 1  
Pastor's Message

p. 4  
Financials

p. 5  
Preschool Update

p. 5-6  
Ministries  
& Groups

# Around the Table



## Lenten Midweek

Wednesday nights, 6 pm • Stuart FH

Building community around the table and learning about our community.

Guest speakers and food provided.

## Calling all Mommys!

Are you a mom looking for a supportive community of like-minded women?

Do you long for a space to strengthen your faith while connecting with other moms?

If this is something you'd be interested in, please take this poll to see if there's a need & what times would work best for you to meet here at Immanuel





# Painting Party



Pick your own colors!

**Saturday, Feb. 17th**  
**1-3 pm • Stuart Fellowship Hall**

**Cost: \$20/person**

Proceeds will go toward the ELCA Youth Gathering  
Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team, all supplies have been paid for and 100% of  
the proceeds will go toward the Youth Gathering Fund.

**To register and pay for the Painting Party:**

Register & Pay Online: go to [ilcbethelight.org/paintingparty](http://ilcbethelight.org/paintingparty)

To register & pay with cash/check: Return this form with cash or check made  
out to Immanuel Lutheran, painting party in the memo

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

### President

Pete Morella  
shipperpete@gmail.com

### Vice President

Drew High  
drewhigh7@gmail.com

### Secretary

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kim.shrum2011@gmail.com

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### Service

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### Learning

Sandra Foley  
fschoolmarm@aol.com

### Property

John McCluskey  
John@Floridaoutdoorsrv.com

### Faith, Fun & Fellowship & Small Groups

Belinda Lowe  
lovymille@comcast.net



A presentation on the services offered to our community will be at Immanuel  
February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.

This event is open to the congregation and hosted by Immanuel's Stephen Ministry Team. Please RSVP by February 5<sup>th</sup> to attend. Contact Deacon Cheryl at 772-485-1954 or at gunders@bellsouth.net



#### Mobile

Text: IPCGIVE to 77977



#### Online

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.

	December 2023	YTD 2023
Given	\$60,251.58	\$507,421.57
Budgeted	\$56,675.00	\$589,420.00
Difference	\$3,576.58	(\$81,998.43)

### OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 12/31/2023	ILC & IELC
Income	\$1,241,683.77
Expenses	\$1,255,652.59
Difference	(\$13,968.82)



# Preschool Update

by Natalie Davis

Hey Immanuel Friends,

We are diving into 2024 and enjoying this beautiful weather. In January, our preschool started Fall registration for the 2024-2025 school year and it has been amazing. We are thankful for our Immanuel Families who are returning next year, and we welcome our new families who are joining us. Summer registration will begin in the next few weeks. The students have been working hard learning their colors, numbers, shapes, and letters. We are all excited for Valentine's crafts and parties, as well. Congratulations to our VPK teachers, Ms. Bonnie, Ms. Krystal and Ms. Natalie for exceeding the VPK expectations on their class observations conducted recently by the Early Learning Coalition.

We are super proud of all of our teachers and students. Happy February Immanuel.

## Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to ALL of our wonderful volunteers! This church would not be able to do all the amazing ministries it does without the help and participation of each and every one of you. Whether it's helping with worship, the soup kitchen, in the office, altar guild, serving on council or some other committee/team, providing meals for Family Promise, painting offices, maintenance, folding newsletters, cleaning kitchens, picking up food/bread, leading Sunday School, providing food for fellowship, counting offering...whatever it is that you do to help us be the body of Christ together, we THANK YOU!

### IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Chad Fair

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Pastor & Media Director

Rebecca Craig

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Deacon

Cheryl Gundersdorff

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

Pianists/Organist

Sarah Miller, Joyce Milligan,

Clarence Smith

Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Peralta

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Director of Early Learning Center

Natalie Davis

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Administrative Assistant

Sheri Muller

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Sexton

Mania Mejia

### 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  
Does not meet in Feb

### Hungry Men - Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays • 7 am  
Palm City FDC

## 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 • Location Varies  
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 1st, 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



## Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet on Wednesday, **February 14, at 10 AM in the STUART FELLOWSHIP HALL.** We are always looking for more volunteers to help with communion or care for the altar. Please come and check us out. ALL are welcome

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

## Deborah Circle

Do you have a desire to deepen your faith? Join the Deborah Circle Women's Ministry as we study our way through the New Testament. We meet the 2nd Monday at 3PM in room 201.

Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff at 485-1954 for more information and to RSVP.

## Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry



Want to deep your faith? Join the Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry Bible study. We meet the 3rd Tuesday at 7PM at Panera Bread Palm City. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 485-1954 for more information and to RSVP.

## 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)



## 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.

**No Word on Wednesday due to Ash Wednesday**



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
**HUNGRY MEN**  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD @ 7 AM  
IN THE FDC

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

We are grateful to God for bringing us three new Stephen Minister trainees. Please keep them in your prayers as they grow in their skills over the next five months.

People who are hurting need to know that someone cares about them. This is what Stephen Ministry is all about. Stephen Ministers truly care and are great listeners. To get you connected with a Stephen Minister contact your Stephen Ministry leader: Deacon Cheryl 221-8939.



## Music Ministries

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

### Bell Choir

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)

## 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



**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

*Ash*  
WEDNESDAY

*February 14th*

Stuart Location:  
Noon Service

Palm City Location:  
6:00 PM Service

