



THE GIFTS OF VOLUNTEERING

by Paula Tsufis

At some point in our 43-year marriage, my husband, Marc, described me as a "Volunteer Queen." I took it as a compliment in that it spoke to the time and energy I devoted to volunteering. Much of volunteering came about when you have two children in activities and, as parent, organizations expected that you would contribute. Some of it came about due to our military family- I was an Army wife in addition to serving on active duty and in the Air Force Reserves for decades. When you are "uprooted" every 2-4 years to a new community or even overseas, volunteering is a great way to learn about your new community, use your skills, learn about employment opportunities and make some new friends. I have experienced all these same gifts in volunteer work with church communities ...and so much more.

Sacred Duty and Genuine Delight

Serving in the church is both a sacred duty and a genuine delight. As followers of Christ, we are called not only to attend church but to actively take part in its ministry and mission. Scripture reminds us that "each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10). God has uniquely gifted every believer, and volunteering is one of the most meaningful ways to honor God by using those gifts for the benefit of God's people.

Blessings Beyond Completing Tasks

Church volunteering offers blessings that reach far beyond completing tasks. When we serve,

we strengthen the body of Christ, build lasting relationships, encourage fellow believers, and grow in our own faith. Whether greeting visitors, teaching children, helping with worship, caring for facilities, preparing meals, or serving behind the scenes, every act of service contributes to the church's health and effectiveness. As Galatians 5:13 teaches, "serve one another humbly in love."

Align Our hearts with God's Purposes

Why should the church be our number one priority? Because the church is Christ's body, God's chosen instrument for proclaiming the Gospel and nurturing believers (Ephesians 4:11-16). While work, hobbies, and other commitments have their place, investing our time and talents in God's kingdom yields spiritual results. Jesus taught us to "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Prioritizing church involvement helps align our hearts with God's purposes and strengthens our connection to the family of faith.

Love for God and Others

As we volunteer, it is important to keep our priorities in order. First, serve from a growing relationship with Christ, not merely from obligation. Second, maintain balance by caring for family responsibilities and personal spiritual health. Third, serve according to your God-given gifts and strengths. Finally, remember that our motivation should always be love for God and others rather than recognition or praise. As Colossians 3:23 reminds us,

The Gifts of Volunteering Cont.

"Whatever task you must do, work as if your soul depends on it."

Thank You for Your Faithful Service

To all our current volunteers: thank you. Your faithful service often goes unnoticed by many, but it is always noticed by God. Your willingness to give your time, energy, talents, and heart makes an eternal difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our church and community. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ and for helping make our church a place where people can experience God's love, grow in faith, and find community. May God richly bless you for your dedication and service. Please join us on Saturday, October 24 for our Volunteer Appreciation Brunch so we can say "Thanks" in person.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY TIM RUSSO

Our Youth program is looking forward to a busy fall. Please mark your calendars for upcoming events and fundraisers.

- **Youth Group - Middle & High School**

Please join us the first and third Sunday of every month. Our next meetings are Sunday October 4th & 18th from 6pm - 8pm in Room 201. Bring a friend, come hang out, and grow in your faith

- **2027 National Youth Gathering — Minneapolis, MN**

If you're interested in attending the Youth Gathering in July, 2027. Please contact Pastor Chad ASAP. We will finalize the list of attendees in October and would love to have as many youth attend as possible!

- **Fundraiser - Christmas Wreaths**

Support our Youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Our Youth will sell Christmas wreaths and decor again this year. Keep an eye out for announcements as the holidays get closer.

- **Sunday Children's Church — Volunteers Needed!**

Children's Church lessons will continue once school resumes. If you're interested in leading a Sunday lesson, please reach out to Pastor Chad for more information and scheduling. We'll provide all the lesson materials and support you need.

Volunteers Needed

Help lead Children's Church during the Sunday 9:30 service.



Scan to sign up.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY MISS CINDY BROWN

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

I would like to introduce myself as the new Director of the program. My name is Cindy Brown and I am a 35 year veteran in this field. I am so excited to be here and I am looking forward to making memories and being a vital part of the children's lives.

The Kiwanis Club ladies and puppies are coming to read to our children two times per month and the children really look forward to it. They bring very interesting books and read with lots of drama. They are really wonderful. We had a very successful Donuts for Dads party on September 24th. Almost all of our Dads took the time out of their morning to grab a donut and coffee and be with their children. It was a real party. We went through 60 donuts and 100 munchkins! It was so much fun.

October is Fire Safety Month and we are fortunate to have a Dad who's a fire fighter come to do a demonstration for us on October 1st. He will show the children the uniform and equipment so they will not be afraid in the event a fire fighter needs to come to their home.

The fire truck and local fire fighters will be here on October 29th as well. The children will learn about when and how to dial 9-1-1, learn about safety in the home and what to do in case of an emergency.

October 30th is our Trunk or Treat... WooHoo! There will be costumes, candy and pumpkins. We will take over the parking lot. We couldn't do it without our wonderful parents and volunteers donating their time, talents and candy! We are grateful for all they do.

Please feel free to stop by anytime to say hello or email me at ielcdirector@ilcbethelight.org



Thanks Brunch!

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

If you've EVER volunteered for ANY REASON, this is for YOU!

Saturday, October 24, 2026

10:30 AM in the Faith Development Center

Hosted by the Congregation Council

THANK YOU

You make our church family STRONGER!

Altar Guild

We will meet on October 14th at 10 am in Room 202 of the FDC in Palm City.

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 Meeting

October 12th at 3:00pm
In Room 201 (Palm City).

Sisters in Spirit

meets October 20th
at 7PM (Room 203).

Our Bible study is
Determined:
Living Like Jesus
in Every Moment
(a study of Luke).

7th ANNUAL Family Promise of Martin County BEDRACES

SAVE the DATE!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

General Public: 10AM to 1PM
Teams, Sponsors + Vendors: 9AM to 1PM

600 SE FLAGLER AVE STUART, FL
Near Sailfish Ballpark

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.		
	June 2026	YTD 2026
Given	\$36,014.74	\$347,569.28
Budgeted	\$43,607.00	\$348,860.00
Difference	-\$7,592.26	-\$1,290.72

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	\$703,247.43
Expenses	\$632,766.33
Difference	\$70,481.10

Immanuel Quilters
is accepting nominations for a

Quilt of Valor

We invite our community to honor a service member or veteran with a handmade symbol of comfort and gratitude.

For more information or to nominate someone, please go to
<https://www.qovf.org/nominations-awards/>

Souper SUNDAY

Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Immanuel Dates:

Sunday, October 11th
Sunday, October 18th

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

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
VOLUNTEER FOR
THE SOUP KITCHEN

Stephen Ministry Meeting

October 12th at 2PM
Room 201, Palm City

HELPING HANDS

Monday, October 19th
Stuart Campus • Noon

Potluck Lunch

Guest Speakers:

Cheryl Gundersdorff
Immanuel's Layette Ministry

Judy Wakeman
December's Purse Project

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information:
Joy 267-320-1192 • Mary 570-280-6170

Thank you from Helping Hands!

With your generous support
we collected **\$545** in gift cards
for Helping People Succeed

FESTIVAL OF Giving

WHERE EVERY TREE TELLS A STORY

Presented by
Tracey MacLeod, Realtor®
ILLUSTRATED PROPERTIES

Immanuel's Auction Tree Theme "Lettuce Taco Bout Jesus"

Help us decorate our tree with
gift cards to local Mexican restaurants.

Proceeds to Benefit
Immanuel's Soup Kitchen

November 13th to 21st

The Children's Museum
of the Treasure Coast

More information at <https://www.childrensmuseumtc.org/festival-of-giving>

Reformation Sunday

WEAR RED ON OCTOBER 25TH

Happy OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Susan Pearson	Frances Anderson
Chase High	Logan Rinderknecht
Lyla Ebright	Diana McConnell
Joseph Pinter	Allison Greg
Lynn Beckmann	Bobbi Saylor
Ron Froehlich	Christine Brookshire
Jeanne Bateman	Roger Zielke
Christian High	Dot Adami
Debbie Rinderknecht	Belinda Lowe
	John Gustafson