

Be the light

GOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran



Pastor's Monthly Message

A Christmas Wish

by Pastor Chad Fair

A few weeks ago in worship I confessed that my mind seems to process things by relating them to sports or food. Which clearly makes this the best time of the year; Thanksgiving, holiday parties, Christmas cookies, the start of the NHL season, the NFL playoffs around the corner, and the final stretch of college football.

The season begs the question, what's your favorite thanksgiving dish? I'm definitely a carnivore but Thanksgiving is about the carbs and starches; mashed potatoes, cornbread stuffing, corn soufflé, sweet potatoes and of course GRAVY!!!! Gravy is the unifier. Gravy ties it all together. And dessert, we can't forget about dessert. In my family growing up pumpkin pie was THEE dessert of Thanksgiving. While I like pumpkin pie, I've grown to love a good sweet potato pie even more.

This might be shocking to some, but, neither food nor sports is my favorite part of this season. It's gathering around tables, connecting with family and friends and making new ones along the way. It's sharing what we're thankful for and making Christmas wishes. So here are a few thanksgivings and Christmas wishes.

I'm so thankful for the love and support of an amazing wife and kids and all of my family. I'm thankful for all that Immanuel is and all that we will be in the future. I'm thankful for our Stuart location and the opportunities that come with it. I'm thankful for the generosity of each of you even in a challenging economic

climate, our giving is up about \$30,000 over last year. I'm thankful for our place in the community with our Soup Kitchen, Family Promise, House of Hope, Tykes and Teens and the other organizations we involve ourselves with. I'm thankful for the growth we've seen in our young people thru confirmation and mission trips. I'm thankful I live in this place where the weather is warm and you can do a baptism on the beach...in NOVEMBER. I pray during this season we each take a moment to pause and give thanks for all that God has provided for us.

While I have much to be thankful for, I do still have a few Christmas wishes. Of course health and happiness is at the top of that list. I wish our community would take seriously the challenges of affordable housing and all that comes with it. I wish to see our entire congregation's presence in the community continue to grow. While I'm grateful for our soup kitchen, I wish fewer people needed it. Most of all I wish the kingdom of God that we read about in scripture, would become a reality; mouths would be fed, homeless would be housed and peace and justice would prevail. Imagine that for a second, I know it's hard, but imagine a world where the problems we face today are a thing of the past. No poverty, no war, just a community being a community, peaceful, merciful, loving and gracious. God gave us that possibility on the first Christmas; I want that this Christmas and every day after. ■

IN THIS
ISSUE:

p. 1
Pastor's Message

p. 3
Preschool Update

p. 4
Financials

p. 5-6
Ministries
& Groups

Staff Christmas Gifts

If you'd like to give our hard working church staff a little Christmas gift this holiday season, please send them that gift directly and do not put it in the offering plate.

The church no longer accepts donations on the staff's behalf.



Regular Weekend 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

Stuart

Sundays:

10:00 am Traditional

WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, December 10

ONE JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE FOR BOTH SITES AT 10 AM IN PALM CITY

Followed by Annual Meeting at 11 am

We will have a single worship service the morning of December 10th, which means no worship service at the Stuart site that weekend so that we may all be together to convene our annual meeting at 11 am.

To view the budget transmittal letter ahead of time, please feel free to pick it up in the Narthex in Palm City or in the Fellowship Hall in Stuart. Or you may download it from our website:

ilcbethelight.org/annual-report

We will still have our Saturday night, 6 pm worship service.

Bring your commitment/pledge cards to worship that weekend.

CHRISTMAS LOCK IN

DECEMBER 15TH
8 PM

- ✦ MIDDLE SCHOOL PICKED UP BY MIDNIGHT
- ✦ HIGH SCHOOL ALL NIGHT
- ✦ WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Poinsettia Orders

Order a poinsettia this Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one to be displayed during our Christmas Eve worship services. Cost: \$12/ea

Deadline: Dec. 17th

_____ # of poinsettias (\$12/ea) _____ Envelope # (if known)

_____ Palm City Site _____ Stuart Site

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In memory of _____

Your name: _____

*Palm City: You may pick your poinsettia up after the 11 pm service or Tuesday, Dec. 26th at the church.
Stuart: You may pick up your poinsettia following the 2 pm service.*

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

by Natalie Davis

Happy December, Immanuel Friends! We are moving right along, it's almost a New Year. The time has really flown by. In November, we enjoyed learning all about Fall and Thanksgiving. The children and the teachers shared a Thanksgiving feast, reflecting on the meaning of being thankful. The children have been practicing regularly for our upcoming Christmas Program which will be held on December 15th. In addition, our preschool has been invited to sing, on December 6th, at the Palm City Holiday Village. December is going to be Merry and Bright. Have a great holiday season Immanuel Friends.



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

Fall Painting Party



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.

	October 2023	YTD 2023
Given	\$46,864.31	\$411,815.80
Budgeted	\$56,675.00	\$498,740.00
Difference	(\$9,810.69)	(\$86,924.20)

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 10/31/2023	ILC & IELC
Income	\$1,051,511.55
Expenses	\$1,024,570.00
Difference	\$26,941.55

TRUNK OR TREAT



Youth Fun



IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Chad Fair

pastorchad@ilcbethelight.org

Pastor & Media Director

Rebecca Craig

pastorrebecca@ilcbethelight.org

Deacon

Cheryl Gundersdorff

cherylgundersdorff@ilcbethelight.org

Pianists

Sarah Miller, Joyce Milligan,

Roger Rossi

Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Peralta

brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org

Director of Early Learning Center

Natalie Davis

IELCDirector@ilcbethelight.org

Children, Youth & Family Director

Brittany Peralta

brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org

Office Manager

Shea Johnson

sheajohnson@ilcbethelight.org

Administrative Assistant

Sheri Muller

sherimuller@ilcbethelight.org

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

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 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

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, Dec. 11 at 3 PM 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: December 13



HARLOTS & Heroines

of the Bible

Every Wednesday*
5:30 PM • Stuart FH
Bring your own dinner
**Does not meet Dec. 13 or 29*

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



ALTAR GUILD

Christmas Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, AT NOON
AT THE HOME OF MARJ SMITH

Members bring a dish to share. Meat and drinks will be provided. (Directions to Marj's home are posted in the Sacristy.) A short meeting will follow the meal.

We are always looking for willing volunteers to help serve communion or care for the altar. Please consider joining us in serving our Lord.

Questions happily answered by Marj Smith at 772-286-8974 or Belinda Lowe at 772-634-0194



Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry

Sisters in Spirit will not meet in December.

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

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

Thank You!

I just wanted to thank everyone who either shopped or donated cash/check or used their Thrivent Action Team benefit for the "Snack Bags." You have made such a difference to so many people. Everyone says, "Thank you!" I hope and pray that we continue this ministry for as long as it is needed by members of our community. God Bless You All!

Need more information? Contact Karen Coombs: 772-475-3312





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

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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Christmas Eve

WORSHIP

The *Light* shines
in the
darkness
-John 1:5

2 PM - STUART
TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT
FOLLOWED BY POT-LUCK DINNER IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

4 PM - PALM CITY
CONTEMPORARY CANDLELIGHT
FAMILY SERVICE

6 PM - PALM CITY
TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT

11 PM - PALM CITY
TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT

All Palm City services will be livestreamed. All services will have communion.

No worship on Saturday, Dec. 23rd at 6 pm
& no Sunday morning worship on Dec. 24th.