Immanuel
NOVEMBER 2026
GOOD NEWS
PALM CITY STUART

FINDING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

by Pastor Chad

As November arrives and Thanksgiving approaches, our thoughts naturally turn toward gratitude. We begin thinking about the people, experiences, and blessings for which we are thankful. We gather around tables, share meals, and perhaps take a moment to name the good things in our lives. Of course, we're also grateful for stretchy pants, whoever invented pumpkin pie and the post turkey nap.

But what if gratitude is meant to be more than something we practice once a year? What if gratitude is a way of living that changes how we see God, ourselves, and one another? Life isn't always easy. There are seasons of grief, uncertainty, disappointment, and struggle. Some days, finding something to be thankful for feels nearly impossible. God doesn't ask us to pretend everything is wonderful or to be thankful when the car breaks
down, the bills pile up, or someone eats the last piece of pie. Instead, God invites us to recognize that even in life's difficulties, we are not alone. Gratitude doesn't necessarily mean everything is good. It means we trust that God's goodness is still present.

One of the greatest challenges to gratitude is that we often become so focused on what is missing that we overlook what is already there. We notice what we don't have, what hasn't worked out, or what we wish was different. We compare our lives with others and convince ourselves that happiness is waiting just
beyond our reach. And thanks to social media, we can now compare our ordinary Tuesday with someone else's perfectly photographed vacation! But gratitude invites us to see life differently. It helps us recognize the extraordinary blessings hidden within ordinary moments: a conversation with a friend, a meal shared with family, a neighbor who checks in, laughter that interrupts a difficult day, or a community that comes together when someone is hurting. These moments may not seem extraordinary, but they are reminders of God's love at work in our lives.

Gratitude does something else. It changes the way we relate to others. When we recognize how much we have received, we become more willing to give. When we appreciate the kindness others have shown us, we become more intentional about showing kindness ourselves. Gratitude isn't simply about appreciating what we have. It's about allowing what we've received to become a blessing to someone else. Imagine what might happen if gratitude became a defining characteristic of our community. What if we spent more time recognizing the good in one another than pointing out our differences? What if we thanked those whose work often goes unnoticed? What if our appreciation for life's blessings inspired us to help those who are struggling?

A grateful community doesn't ignore its problems. It faces them with generosity, compassion, and hope. And let's face it, the world could use a little more of all three.

Finding God's Blessings in Everyday Life Cont.

This Thanksgiving season, I encourage you to try something simple. Each day, identify three things for which you are grateful. They don't have to be big things. Some of the most meaningful blessings are the ones we are most likely to overlook. And yes, coffee absolutely counts, even for those of us who don't drink it. We appreciate the caffeinated version of you.

Then take it one step further. Let someone know you appreciate them. Reach out to someone who may be lonely. Offer encouragement to someone who is struggling. Find a way to turn your gratitude into an act of love. Because perhaps the greatest expression of thanksgiving isn't found in the words we say around a table, but in the way we live when we leave it. When we live with grateful hearts, we become a little more of the light God calls us to be in the world.

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.

- **Family Promise Bed Races - Saturday November 14th.**

A great day to gather in the community and support an amazing cause!!

- **Middle & High School Youth Nights**

1st and 3rd Sundays 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 National Youth Gathering in July, 2027 please contact Pastor Chad.

- **Fundraiser - Christmas Wreaths**

Support our Youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Our Youth will sell Christmas wreaths and decor again this year. **All orders are due by November 9th.**

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

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





PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY MISS CINDY BROWN

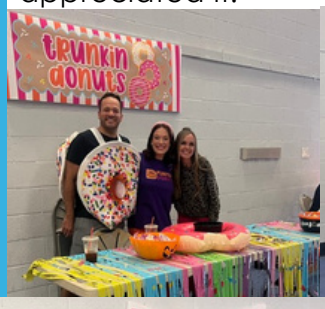
This has been a great month. We are learning about our community helpers and appreciating our police, fire, sanitation, doctors, nurses and all the people in our lives that help us.

The fire truck came and the fire fighters talked to the children about being safe. We were told to pick a meeting place, how and when to dial 9-1-1, don't be afraid of the fire fighters in their uniform and mask, and if there's smoke, crawl on the floor. Then the children were able to climb onto the truck and pretend to be real superheroes.

We have been learning about fall and pumpkin science. Leaves can turn many different colors and so our art represented just that. Pumpkins are the star attraction this month and we got very creative with them. Each child was given their very own little pumpkin, and we played, painted and glittered them up. Each class got a large pumpkin to play with.

Do pumpkins float? Yes, they do! We had the children make predictions and we were surprised that a big, heavy pumpkin could float. We also cut into the pumpkins to see what's inside. We removed the gook and separated the seeds for later.

Trunk or Treat was moved inside due to the threat of nasty weather, and it was a ridiculous amount of fun and a ton of candy. Thank you to all that participated. We can't do it with out you and the children really appreciated it.















God's Work, Faithful Hands

What a joy it was to gather for our "Thanks a Brunch!" Volunteer Appreciation Event. Hosted by the Immanuel Congregation Council, the morning gave us an opportunity to pause, share fellowship around the table, and celebrate the many people whose faithful service helps make Immanuel a vibrant and welcoming church family.

To every volunteer, thank you. Whether you serve in worship, music, education, hospitality, outreach, property care, leadership, or behind the scenes, your gifts and dedication make a difference. Through your willingness to serve, lives are touched, faith is nurtured, and Christ's love is shared in our congregation and community.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the Congregation Council and the many volunteers who helped plan and host this special event. From invitations and decorations to food, music, program leadership, and hospitality, countless hours were given to create a meaningful celebration of those who serve.

The laughter, conversations, and fellowship shared throughout the morning reminded us that ministry is never the work of one person alone. It is God's work carried out through faithful hands and willing hearts. We are deeply grateful for every volunteer who helps make Immanuel a place where people are welcomed, cared for, and encouraged in faith. Thank you for all you do. You are a blessing to this congregation.

~ **Brunch Planning Team**

















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.

	September 2026	YTD 2026
Given	$30,181.74	$ 377,751.02
Budgeted	$43,615.00	$392,475.00
Difference	-$13,433.26	-$14,723.98

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	$766,112.29
Expenses	$753,596.17
Difference	$12,516.12

Mission Support Sunday: Looking Ahead with Faith and Generosity

As we prepare for Mission Support Sunday on November 15, 2026, we are reminded of the Apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 5:9: "Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true." The message encourages us to recognize how God's light is already shining through our congregation in meaningful ways.

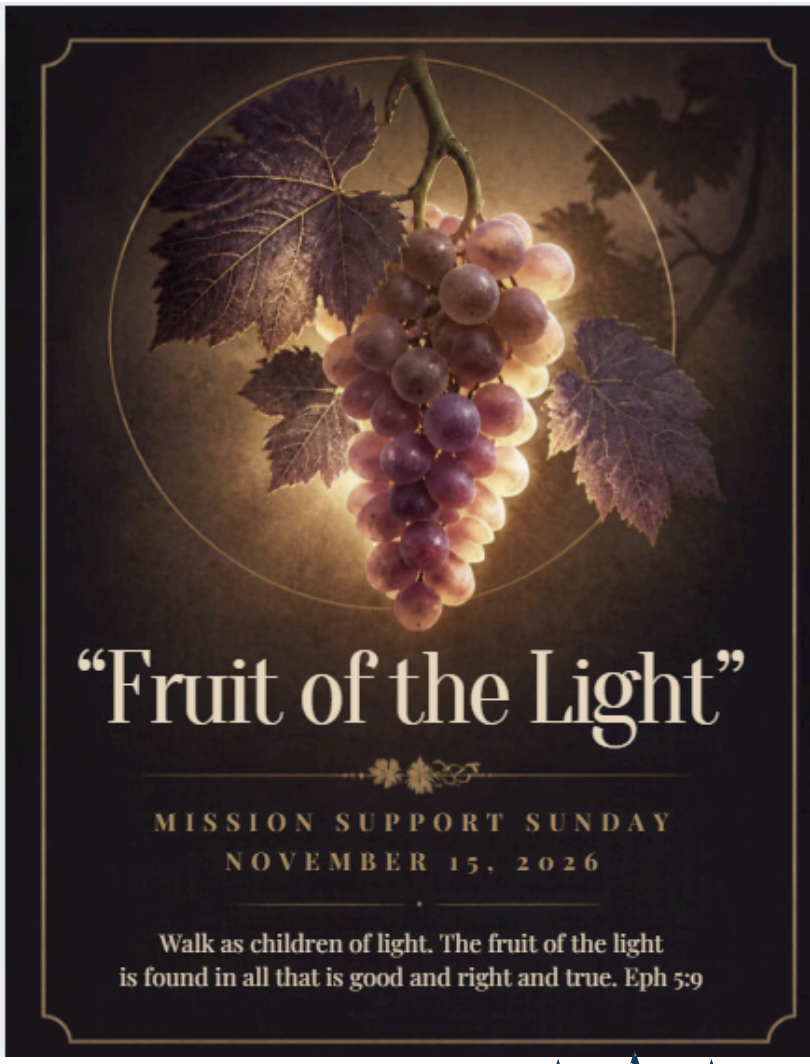
Throughout the year, our church community has demonstrated this "fruit of the light" through faithful worship, service, and outreach. These ministries touch lives in countless ways, including providing community meals, feeding and housing families experiencing homelessness, supporting compassionate Alzheimers caregiving, lifting prayers for those in need, and nurturing children through Christian preschool education.

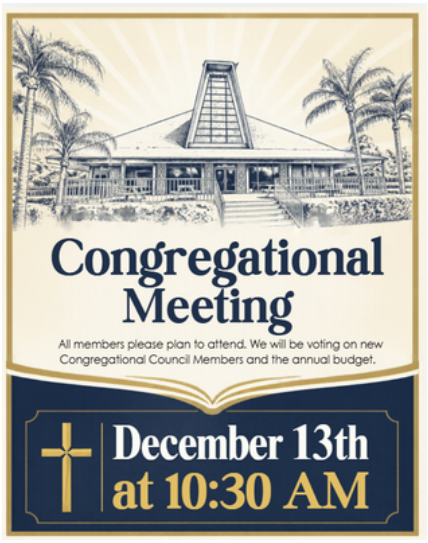
As we look toward 2027, church leaders are inviting members to prayerfully consider their financial commitment to the congregation's mission and ministry. We recognize that many families continue to face financial challenges. For those whose circumstances allow, we encourage even a modest increase in giving to help sustain and expand the church's impact.

Here's what you can do ….

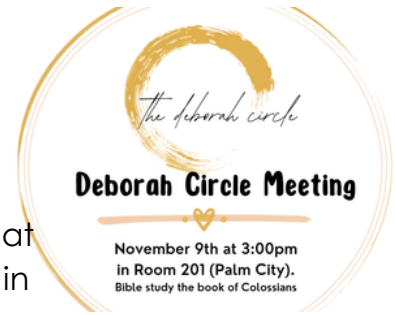
- Pray about your financial commitment to the church's mission for 2027.
- Consider increasing your giving if your circumstances allow.
- Complete the Estimate of Giving form for 2027 you received in the mail. Additional copies will be in the Narthex.
- Return your form to the church, or on Mission Support Sunday, November 15th, as a sign of your commitment to God's work through the congregation.

Together, through our prayers, service, and generosity, we can continue to grow ministries that reflect God's goodness, righteousness, and truth in our community and beyond.











Attention Thrivent Members

If you have not used your Action Team, please remember that if you are a Benefit member you can apply for two Action Teams per year. An associate member can apply for one Action Team per year. Please do not let your Action Team go unused. Your Action Team will expire the end of the year. Please do not leave money unused. If you do not know what group would benefit, check with Pastor Chad or, Karen Coombs.

For those of you, who have already used your Thrivent Benefit, Thank you! Immanuel's "Snack Bags", Souper Sunday or Immanuel Early Learning Center would also appreciate help. In order to apply for an Action Team, call the Thrivent home office at 800 -847-4836 or apply online.

Another benefit from Thrivent Financial is the "Choice Dollars" program. Please make sure that you designate your "Choice Dollars" to the organization of your choice.

For additional information call Karen Coombs @772-475-3312 or your Thrivent representative.











Advent Craft Workshop & Potluck

November 21st

12:00pm in the FDC

Scan to RSVP

Deck the Halls

November 22

in the sanctuary

after the 11:15 Service

Pizza and drinks will be served for lunch

Thanksgiving Pie Social

November 25th

6 PM

Stuart Campus

Letters M-Z of the alphabet to bring pies

Immanuel Lutheran (FDC)

Invites you to celebrate the birth of Jesus

Christmas Tea & Luncheon

December 12, 2026

12 Noon

Tickets: $20/per person

Proceeds to benefit National Youth Gathering

Featuring a Live Nativity

Santa's Workshop

$5.00 Raffle

Sponsored by GFWC Hobe Sound Women's Club

RSVP/Purchase Tickets by December 1

Belinda Lowe

772-634-0194

Lovymille3@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran (FDC)

2655 SW Immanuel Drive

Palm City, Florida

Deborah Circle Layette Ministry

Helping welcome little ones with love!

Immanuel's Deborah Circle Layette Ministry provides packaged layettes to Care Net Pregnancy Center in Port St. Lucie. Each layette includes a receiving blanket, a onesie (size 3–6 months), a pair of socks, a diaper (size 1–6 months), and sometimes a hat. Items are packaged in a 1-gallon zip-top bag.

How You Can Help

Receiving blankets, onesies, socks, and hats may be new or gently used and in good condition. Below are some convenient places to purchase these items.

SHOP LOCALLY

- Dollar stores
- Walmart
- Sam's Club, BJ's and Costco
- Once Upon A Child

SHOP ON AMAZON

- **Receiving Blankets:** Luvable Friends 7-Pack
- **Onesies:** Gerber 8-Pack
- **Baby Socks:** Boys' Socks | Girls' Multi-Pack

Prices may vary by design.

Join Us!

Deborah Circle Bible study **meets on the second Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m.**

Following the study, members assemble the layettes.

Layette items may be dropped off in the Church narthex.

Thank You!

For your support of the House of Hope Food Pantry. Your donations make a difference!

Helping Hands and Thrivent have selected the mothers at Safe Space for their Christmas Project.

Purses for a Purpose

If you have a new or gently used purse to donate, please leave it in the collection box in the Narthex.

Christmas Luncheon details to follow.