



Faithful Presence in a Time of Tension

by: Pastor Chad

Recent events in Minneapolis have once again drawn national attention to questions of justice, public safety, and the dignity of life. For many, these moments stir deep emotions—grief, anger, fear, confusion, and fatigue. For others, they reopen wounds that never fully healed. As people of faith, we do not look away from moments like these—but neither do we rush to easy answers. The world is complex and the answers seem impossible.

Scripture reminds us that God is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18) and that we are called to be people who “seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8). Those words do not offer simple solutions, but they do offer a faithful posture: humility, compassion, and courage. While scripture doesn’t often tell us what to do, it doesn’t call us to do nothing either.

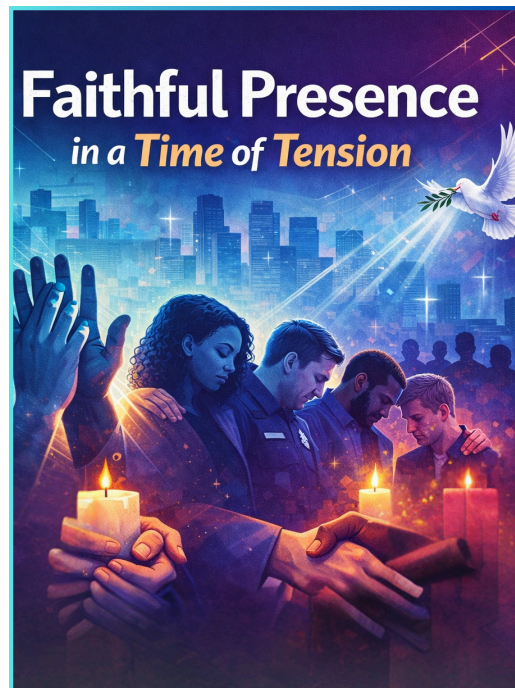
In times of tension, the church’s calling is not to inflame the division that has infested our country but to bear witness—to the sacred worth of every person, to the power of truth spoken in love, and to the hope that transformation is possible. We are called to listen deeply, to pray honestly, and to stand alongside those who are hurting. Make no mistake, our country is deeply wounded.

Faith requires long looks in the mirror reflecting on our role in the trials of the world. Faith does not mean avoiding hard conversations. Rather it means engaging those conversations with grace. It means holding one another in prayer, especially when our perspectives differ. Faith is a willingness to admit where we are wrong. And it means trusting that God is still at work—bringing light into places that feel heavy and uncertain.

If our country is to heal, it won’t be done by weaponizing our words. It won’t be done by holding weapons in our hands. It won’t be done by weaponizing scripture. The only way to heal is through love and compassion. Through grace and understanding. By shining a light of Christ into the dark places. By respecting the dignity of everyone. By recognizing that we are all created in God’s image.

People of faith, it is long past time for us to put away the political garbage and be the church. We must stop worshiping whoever your political golden calf is. If we are to be the Christian nation we claim to be, we need to start acting like it.

As a community, let us continue to pray for the people of Minneapolis, for community leaders and first responders, for those who are grieving, and for all who long for peace and justice. May we be guided by Christ’s call to love our neighbors, seek reconciliation, and live as people of hope.



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Altar Guild Meeting

FEBRUARY 11TH | 10 AM

ROOM 202: PALM CITY

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH COMMUNION OR CARE FOR THE ALTAR.

QUESTIONS HAPPILY ANSWERED BY MARJ SMITH AT 772-286-8974 OR BELINDA LOWE AT 772-634-0194.



PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY DR. PATTY

Dear Immanuel Parents & Church Family,

The month of February's theme is Learning, Love, and Little Hearts.

Happy February! This month will be full of opportunities for connection, kindness, and curiosity as we continue helping the children grow socially, emotionally, and academically through play-based learning.

The Fabulous Fours (VPK) class will be focusing on kindness, caring for others, and recognizing emotions, through stories, songs, and everyday interactions. Don't forget to ask them about their kindness tree in their class. The children will continue strengthening the 7 essential skills for school readiness: Confidence, curiosity, intentionality, self-control, relationships, cooperation, and communication. Ms. Krystal will be providing meaningful opportunities to participate in activities that requires the use of those skills.

The thriving threes will be focusing on Theme 7 "On the go". They will learn about ways their bodies move, moving with the help of wheels and wings. Look out for some words they will be learning such as: "axle", "aviator", "harbor" and "destination". Ms. Daniella and Ms. Sharon will continue to work with the children on skills that are essential building blocks for healthy relationships and emotional development like: Taking turns, using kind words, expressing feelings, and helping friends.

The terrific twos will continue working on following routines; this provides security for them. They are learning about being thankful every day, by following Ms. Katherine and Ms. Jalissa's lead through modeling the expression of being thankful. This group will also work on independence. They will be taught how to do chores and then given the opportunity to do it by themselves. Thanks to their devoted teachers for their patience and kindness. Thanks Ms. Darlene and Ms. Katherine.

Reminders for this month: We will be closed on 2/16 in observance of President's Day. We will reopen on 2/17. Also keep an eye out on the weather, maybe keep a small jacket in the car and don't forget to check your child's folder daily. Children who are already a part of our Immanuel family can register for summer camp on 3/2. Our February birthdays are Jax Braden- 23rd



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY PERALTA

Hey Immanuel Youth and Families,

February is shaping up to be a meaningful and exciting month for our youth ministry as we continue to grow, dream, and listen closely to the voices of our young people.

Our Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday–Sunday, February 7–8, and we are looking forward to a special weekend of learning, worship, reflection, and community for our confirmands. Please keep our students and leaders in your prayers as they step away together to deepen their faith and build lasting connections.

We will also gather for Youth Group on Sunday, February 22nd from 6–8 pm. This will be an important night, and we encourage everyone to come be part of the conversation. During our time together, we will be sharing the newly released theme for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering and talking about what the Gathering is all about—why it matters, how it shapes faith, and how our youth can be involved.

This month we are also excited to begin launching a Youth Council—a student leadership team designed to give our youth a real voice in shaping the future of our ministry. This group will help dream, plan, and lead alongside our adult team, ensuring that our youth are not only participants, but partners in ministry. We believe their ideas, perspectives, and leadership are essential as we continue building a vibrant and welcoming program.

All of these opportunities and conversations will take place during our February youth group meeting, and we hope every student who is interested in being involved will join us.

✨ Parents and youth: invite a friend to join us! There's always room at the table, and we'd love to welcome new faces into our community.

"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." — 1 Timothy 4:12



LOVE FOR MINISTRY



SOUPER SUNDAY



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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.

	December, 2025	YTD 2025
Given	\$66,372.57	\$534,571.13
Budgeted	\$52,015.00	\$624,180.00
Difference	\$14,357.57	(\$89,608.87)

Operating Fund Income and Expenses

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

ILC & IELC	YTD 2025
Income	\$1,225,737.95
Expenses	\$1,175,793.57
Difference	\$49,944.38



Immanuel

ilcbethelight.org

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772.692.1171

SUPER BOWL FELLOWSHIP

Join us after worship on Saturday and Sunday,
February 7th & 8th, for a Super Bowl themed fellowship on
the front porch to learn more about volunteer
opportunities at Immanuel.



Questions? Contact Kim Shrum at 772-631-9630
or kim.shrum2011@gmail.com

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

ALL ARE WELCOME
Invite a friend!



FDC | 5:30-7:00 PM

Unbound

SHAPING MINISTRY FOR THE YEARS AHEAD

WORKSHOP WORSHIP

February 22nd | 9:30 AM in the FDC

WITH POTLUCK

JOYFUL NOISE GOSPEL CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 28TH | 2 PM

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH A
POWERFUL GOSPEL WORSHIP CELEBRATION—
AN AFTERNOON OF JOYFUL PRAISE, SOULFUL
MUSIC, AND SHARED HERITAGE.

FEATURING SEVERAL LOCAL ARTISTS!

IMMANUEL PALM CITY: SANCTUARY
CONTACT: BELINDA LOWE | 772-634-0194