



Pastor's Monthly Message

Best & Worst Moments

by Pastor Chad Fair

I grew up dreaming of playing professional baseball. I was good...but not good enough. After finishing my college career, I continued to play in our local summer league but I never really lingered on the fact that major league baseball was an unrealized dream. I played because I loved the game. Recently I came across a stat that put my childhood dream into perspective. Major League Baseball has been around for 147 years and there have been about 23,000 players who played professional baseball. The smallest stadium by capacity is Progressive Field with a seating capacity of 37,830 people. That means that everyone who has ever played professional baseball would fit in one stadium with room for about 14,000 more people. Over time I have learned to appreciate all the life lessons baseball provided.

In MLB history there have been 24 perfect games pitched (no batter gets on base via hit, walk, error or hitting a batter), 322 no hitters, 968 1 hitters (twice the first hit was surrender with 2 outs in the ninth inning). Digging deeper into the stats it gets more interesting.

How many of you have heard of Bob Hendley? With a career 48-52 record why would you have?

How about Sandy Koufax? If you know anything about the history of baseball you likely have heard the name. He's a hall of famer and regarded as one of a handful of the best pitchers ever.



On September 9th, 1965, the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs by a score of 1-0. That day Sandy Koufax threw a perfect game including 14 strike outs. The losing pitcher that day gave up just one run in the fifth inning on a walk, a sacrifice, a stolen base and error. The first and only hit of the game came on a blooper over the first baseman's head two innings later.

The pitcher that day...Bob Hendley. Baseball, like life, can be cruel. A bad bounce, a broken bat, a bad throw and the chance at immortality is gone. I can't imagine the frustration of pitching the best game of your life and still losing. In the moment, I can imagine the heart break. But taking a step back, I also imagine the pride of competing toe to toe with one of the greatest of all time.

The difference between moments of jubilee and heart

(continued on page 2...)

IN THIS ISSUE:

p. 1-2
Pastor's Message

p. 2
President's Message

p. 3
Deacon's Message

p. 3 & 5
Stewardship

p. 4
Financials

p. 6-7
Children, Youth & Family

p. 8 & 9
Council Spotlight & Preschool

p. 10-11
Ministries & Groups

Pastor's Message

(...continued from page 1)

break are sometimes miniscule. Too often what is remembered during our time on earth is the snapshot of our best or worst moments. But in reality, none of us should be defined by our best or our worst moments.

That's the beauty and importance of being rooted in our faith. In Christ we aren't defined by the snapshots of our life but rather by gracious acceptance as children of God.

One last baseball question. Which MLB pitcher has the most career losses (316)?

Here's a hint, the award for the best pitcher in each league every year is named after the guy who holds the record for the most losses. Sounds crazy right? Is it any crazier than God sending his Son to die for our failures. No matter how many. The answer to the question...Cy Young. ■

Don't forget
Reformation Sunday
is Oct. 29th
WEAR RED
to worship



President's Message

Fall for Jesus

by Pete Morello, Council President

Fall for Jesus, he never leaves us. I am a dad and I love "Dad Jokes," so I felt it was a great time to fit one into the newsletter. The saying, although corny, is very true. Fall is the season when days get shorter, and the temperature gets colder. For us here in Florida it is a sign that we can spend more time outside without coming down with heat exhaustion, so there will be many events here in Martin County. I am looking forward to our Trunk-or-Treat event and Chili Cook-Off. That was a great time last year and although my family's chili did not win it was a contender for the top prize. I am also looking forward to the Family Promise Bed Races which are so much fun and last year Immanuel won first place!

This is the time of year when our snowbird friends make their way back and we get to reconnect face to face. Fall for us is the beginning of our fellowship season, not like up north where the cold can keep groups from gathering. I love the Fall in both places up north and down south, but I would much rather have a Florida winter than a New England one. I am looking forward to spending time with the members of the congregation not just at worship but at the many local events where we can follow Immanuel's mission and "Be the Light," even if it gets darker earlier. After all, the light is needed most when it's dark! Another bright spot this fall is that the construction of the parking lot is moving forward. I know there is not a lot that has been done that we can see but there has been work done underground and with the county to make sure we get the parking lot we need.

Remember "Fall for Jesus, he will never leave us!" "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" so he will never leave us. (Hebrews 13:8) So let's keep Jesus in our hearts this fall season by, surrounding ourselves with others who love Jesus, Pray without ceasing, Find ways to serve others, and Being thankful that we have each other. ■



COMING SOON!

If you're interested in joining our handbell choir, contact Sandy Foley at 772-240-6753



Deacon's Message

Ohana

by Cheryl Gundersdorff, Deacon

I recently read an Associated Press article regarding the devastating fires in Maui that states, “But even in places overwhelmed by despair and devastation, the Hawaiian spirit known as ‘ohana’ endures. In the Hawaiian lexicon, ‘ohana’ is a sensibility, a way of thinking that means family, belonging, community and so much more—solace in a time of calamity. It is a unifying principle in an increasingly fragmented world...As the movie “Lilo and Stitch” define it, ‘ohana’ means family, and family means nobody is left behind or forgotten.”

Isn't that what a community of faith is all about? Family, friends, neighbors, community, all coming together to support one another in times of troubles. As Floridians we are very acquainted with the ‘ohana’ concept when hurricanes, with all their fury, bear down on us. We reach out and help one another.

There are other “storms” of life people face as well, such as poverty, hunger, homelessness, divorce, passing of a loved one, shootings, major health issues, unemployment, injustice, wars ravaging nations, living in a refugee camp.

As a community of faith, how are we living out ‘ohana’? Both individually and communally we can be involved in areas of ministry to love and assist those in need. We can donate through our finances and time. We can walk along side someone as they navigate their circumstances, such as our Stephen Ministers do. We can volunteer at Immanuel’s Souper Sunday to feed the hungry. We can support Family Promise to solve homelessness. We can support the Salvation Army, Care Net, House of Hope, ELCA Lutheran ministries locally and around the world. We can send a get-well card, bring a meal to a neighbor, check up on someone we haven’t seen in a while. The list goes on.

‘Ohana’ sums up Jesus’ command to love our neighbor wherever they may be. Let’s be the light and let our love flow. ■



Stewardship Message

Heavenly Visions

by Paula Tsufis

Aug 22 text: I don't think his death is imminent, that will be God plan, we will help him as best we can to go to Heaven.

Sept 7 text: George is in Heaven. He took his last breath at 8:24 pm.

Recently a close friend of mine’s father-in-law entered memory care and hospice two weeks before a wonderful second wedding that had been planned since January. I received regular updates via text. I thought of it as a time of deep beginnings and also endings and was glad the family could be at his deathbed with all the sorry and joy inherent. I was struck though that our understanding and vision of “Heaven” is very different. So why might this be important?

This year’s lectionary centers on the gospel of Matthew. Luther Seminary’s Enter the Bible offers the kingdom of Heaven as one of the important theological themes in Matthew. “The understanding of the “kingdom of heaven” (Matthew regularly avoids the name of God) is central to Matthew’s story. John the Baptist comes preaching, calling for repentance,

(continued on page 5...)



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Starting in October, at the Stuart location, a grocery cart will be placed outside the Sanctuary on Sunday. This cart is to collect food donations and when it is full Carol Heiss brings it to House of Hope. We have a lot of hungry people in Martin County and Immanuel helps with the soup kitchen but food is needed every day so if you can help please help fill the grocery cart.

And don't forget we have the Salvation Army bin in the Palm City office. Donations go to either the Salvation Army or House of Hope.

We now have more ways for you to give!



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.

| | August 2023 | YTD 2023 |
|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Given | \$34,371.59 | \$320,211.21 |
| Budgeted | \$45,340.00 | \$396,725.00 |
| Difference | (\$10,968.41) | (\$76,513.79) |

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

| Through 08/31/2023 | ILC & IELC |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Income | \$811,606.23 |
| Expenses | \$849,900.87 |
| Difference | (\$38,294.64) |

Stewardship (...continued from page 3)

“for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (3:2). Jesus’ preaching imitates that call (4:17). In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus interprets discipleship and God’s blessings in terms of kingdom talk (5:3, 10, 19, 20). The disciples in turn are sent out in a mission with the same message of the kingdom (10:7).”

For several years I’ve participated in the Northeast Minnesota synod lay leader program. One of the books we’re reading this year is Kingdom Come: Why We Must Give Up Our Obsession with Fixing the Church--and What We Should Do Instead by Reggie McNeal. The author states there is a reason Jesus taught us to pray “thy Kingdom come...” and not “thy church come.” In Kingdom Come, church ministry consultant Reggie McNeal reveals why it’s crucial to realign the church’s mission with God’s ultimate Kingdom agenda.

I find this approach to ministry today very exciting and refreshing as a stewardship leader. People give financially to a compelling church “vision.” The Kingdom of heaven on earth is now and into the future where God’s values and vision for humankind rule and we are all invited to participate. We don’t have to wait until after death for this wonderful opportunity to share in God’s restoration plan for ourselves, our church and our community. This is definitely Good News! ■

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Stuart: Roger Rossi

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Sexton

Vacant

Fall Painting Party



Saturday, Nov. 11

1-3 pm

Stuart Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$20

11x14 all supplies
provided

Proceeds will go toward
beautification efforts at the
Stuart site. Snacks & Punch
provided or BYOB

Sign up online & pay w/ pushpay or paypal
ilcbethelight.org/paintingparty

Checks made payable to Immanuel w/ painting party in memo

Must pay in advance to secure your seat.

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

Children, Youth & Family

Boys' Life



EVENT 16 HEAT 2 L: 20 6:45
Boys 500 Free

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 Njeru, Prince | LNPk :45.41 | 6:29.77 |
| 2 Fiore, Bradon | MART :38.79 | 6:19.70 4 |
| 3 Wyatt, Jackson | MART :32.57 | 5:43.11 1 |
| 4 Sperr, Ethan | MART :35.71 | 6:05.76 2 |
| 5 Lopez, Alexander | LNPk :36.45 | 6:09.81 3 |



IMMANUEL
YOUTH LIFE





Children, Youth and Family

Trunk-or-Treat!

by Brittany Peralta, Youth Director

Hello Fall! It's always my pleasure to write to my Immanuel family. I just wanted to start this newsletter article by exclaiming my gratitude to everyone who wished, loved, and gifted me a wonderful wedding and marriage. I have never felt so surrounded by God's love the way I feel within our congregation. We truly are a big family, and from the bottom of my heart, thank you all.

This October we'll have our "Trunk-or-Treat"! If you'd like to help volunteer to decorate and work a trunk, we'd be so appreciative. We hope to line Immanuel with a ton of smiling faces and a whole bunch of candy! During this event, we'll have our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off! If you'd like to participate as a cook, please let me or Pastors Chad/Rebecca know! (we also have sign-up sheets for all things regarding the Trunk or Treat event in the narthex of the Sanctuary). If you're unable to be at the event but still want to help, you can always contribute by donating candy or helping Immanuel sponsor a bounce house. It takes a ton of work to set up and break down these events as well. If you're willing to help with that part of the event we would be extremely grateful.

Confirmation is in full swing and we are super excited to be officially fundraising for the 2024 Youth Gathering. Our youth are wearing their faith on their sleeve and can't wait to talk to you all about it. The Gathering will be in New Orleans during the Summer. We can't wait to watch them grow throughout this year, fundraise with their whole hearts, and learn about God's boundless love. Be on the lookout for our fundraising events. We have a big goal, but we know with their determination and hard work, we'll get these kids to Louisiana next Summer! ■

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO
the table

BE
MYLE
Young Adult Gathering

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trunk-or-Treat:
October 27th

Confirmation Class:
October 15th

Youth Gathering:
July 16-20, 2024

Council SPOTLIGHT



Jodi Dudeney
Stuart Representative

I was born the oldest of three children in Sharon, Pennsylvania. My siblings and I grew up in the country on an apple orchard. Our dad was a fireman and did construction in his downtime. Our mother was a stay-at-home mom. We relocated to Plantation, Florida when I was a teenager so that we could be closer to our other relatives. I graduated from South Plantation High School and went on to college at Baer University and attended evening classes at Sheridan Vocational College. My husband and I married in 1982 and our daughter was born in 1985 and is now 38 years old with two of her own children, a daughter and a son. The following year we relocated to Port St. Lucie and decided to call it home. Our son was born in 1991 and is now 32 years of age with two daughters of his own. My daughter and her family also live in Port St. Lucie while my son and his family reside in Georgia. I've been

(continued on page 9...)

Thank You

Dennis and I extend our gratitude for all of your prayers, cards, texts, and well wishes during my recent unexpected surgery and recovery. Thank you for loving us!

Blessings, Deacon Cheryl

I would like to thank my team for helping me with soup kitchen pick-up: Jerry Schuler, Roger Zielke and Doug Behnke. For Marcie Balow and Karen Coombs for serving soup kitchen meals to the homeless every Sunday, and a big thank you to Marcie Balow, Jerry Schuler, Wilma and Rex Noble, Sr., for a very nice cleaning of the whole kitchen. I know it was a lot of work for them all. I want to also thank Pastor Chad for helping me pickup on Saturday while Doug and Roger were on vacation and a big thank you to Pastor Rebecca for doing the newsletter every month and the folding team: Marj Smith, Carol Hughes, Wilma Noble, Billie Miller and Marlys Dickmeyer. Without them I can't do all by myself.

Thank you and lots of love,
Kim Neal



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS & SNACK BAGS

Do you know that you are eligible for an Action Team Benefit every year? Benefit members are eligible for two Action Teams, Associate members are eligible for one.

If you have no plans consider helping with our Souper Sunday "Snack Bags."

We need your help to continue this ministry.

For additional information,
please call Karen Coombs
@ 772-475-3312.

Thank you so much!



Early Learning Center Fall Festivities

by Natalie Davis, IELC Director

Happy September Immanuel friends. It's been an amazing month. Fall is coming and we are already decorating the rooms and making crafts. Apples, acorns, and fall leaves all around. On Friday, September 8th, we enjoyed Donuts with Dads. It was a special morning sprinkled with happiness. Donuts, fruit, laughter, and quality time making memories was had by all. The teacher's worked hard preparing for this day and looked great in their Donut Party shirts. The kids made the best donuts crafts too! Next week is fall pictures for all students. Ms. Gigi at Palm Tree Portraits always puts a smile on the kids faces. Weekly Chapel and music gathering with Ms. Brittany are in full swing, as well as daily learning of our ABC's and 123's with our awesome teachers. We also welcomed Ms. Sarah to our staff. Everyday we continue to make Immanuel a great preschool and we thank you for your continued support. ■



Council Spotlight (...continued from page 8)

in the medical field for the last 24 years and work for a gastroenterologist in Stuart, Florida. I have been attending Immanuel of Stuart since the later part of 2018. My hobbies consist of bowling, reading, crossword puzzles and arts and crafts with my granddaughter. ■

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 • 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

Ministries & Groups

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: Oct. 11



HARLOTS & Heroines

of the Bible

Wednesdays*
5:30 PM • Stuart FH
Bring your own dinner
**Does not meet October 11.*

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 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



Music Ministries

Contemporary Worship Team
Sundays @ 8 am • Sanctuary
Contact Brittany Peralta
brittanyperalta@ilcbethelight.org

Bell Choir

Practices Tuesdays @ 6 pm
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



Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 @ 10 AM in the Sanctuary in Palm City. We will have a "hands on" instruction session covering set up for communion and baptisms. Please join us. We welcome ALL interested volunteers.

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

Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry



Do you want to know Jesus more than you do now? Join the ladies of Sisters in Spirit as we get to know Jesus through the Experience the Heart of Jesus Bible study. We meet the 3rd Tuesday at 7PM at Panera Bread in Palm City. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 485-1954 for more information and to RSVP.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Lonely? Sad? Discouraged? Going through a tough time?

Having a caring Stephen Minister can help.

It's confidential and free.

For more information contact Deacon Cheryl, a Stephen Minister wearing a blue badge, or our pastors.



Share a Shawl



Do you know someone who could use some extra love of Jesus? Shawls knitted or crocheted by members of Immanuel are in the baskets in the Palm City lobby for you to share with them. Immanuel's prayers go with the shawls that they may feel the warmth of His loving presence.



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

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

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

&



FRIDAY, OCT. 27TH

6 PM - 8 PM

PALM CITY LOCATION

**Trunk or Treat • Costume Contest
Trunk Decoration Contest • Games • Chili Cook-Off**

Looking for candy donations. Please see the items listed in the Narthex & Stuart Fellowship Hall. Sign up for Trunk decorating, Set-up/Break-down teams, & chili.