



Blessed are the Peace Makers

by: Pastor Chad

I would venture a guess that over the last few days you've heard the phrase "peace through strength" uttered over the airwaves by countless pundits and politicians after the United States dropped bombs on a nuclear facility in Iran. I'm not a pundit or a politician, but as a pastor I do have some thoughts, or rather scripture has some thoughts, on this theory.

The psalmist in Psalm 20:7 writes, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." We, as people and a nation at large, are too willing to put our faith and trust in violence and dominance. This isn't new. It's always been that way. It just doesn't fit with the notion that we are a Christian nation. In Paul's letter to the Romans he writes in chapter twelve, "Do not repay evil for evil...if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Paul goes on to say, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." This idea was picked up by Gandhi when he said, "An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind."

The world is a complicated place, and yet I can't help but wonder if our solutions to the problems of the world don't make it even more complicated. God warned the Israelites that they should not have a king. They didn't listen and it got more complicated. The prophets called people to turn back from their violent and evil ways or they would face destruction and they chose destruction more often than not. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane told Peter before he was arrested, "Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword." The Bible repeatedly calls us away from violence and toward peace.

Nearly every presidential address regardless of their political party, ends with the words, may God bless the United States of America. President Trump's address to the nation, from the White House after bombing the sites in Iran made the same statement. However, Jesus addressing the crowds in his sermon on the mount said, "Blessed are the peace makers." We as a nation have a rich history of trying to bomb our way to peace. Perhaps rather than dropping bombs we can gather together and drop to our knees in prayer.

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Altar Guild

THE ALTAR GUILD DOES NOT MEET IN JULY OR AUGUST, BUT WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SERVE COMMUNION AT ALL SERVICES AT BOTH LOCATIONS.

IF INTERESTED, LET EITHER PASTOR KNOW, OR CALL MARJ SMITH AT 772-286-8974 TO GET ON THE SCHEDULE.



PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Dear Immanuel Friends & Families,

Happy July, Immanuel Friends and Families! June was simply amazing and full of excitement. We kicked off summer camp with a visit from our petting zoo friends, where we fed the goats, bunnies, chicks, and ducks. Kona Ice brought us frozen treats to help cool us off from the Florida sun. We bounced and played in the bounce house. Movie day was a hit, and so was our ice cream party.

We joined Ms. Brittany's youth at VBS and had the best time. The snacks were delicious, the games and crafts were fun, and Ms. Sandy shared inspiring stories with us every day. She taught us the meaning of 5 simple letters, L A L L J, Live And Love Like Jesus. We made memories to last a lifetime.

As we move into July, we have a full calendar planned. Summer Camp has been a huge success, and we are super proud of our school. If you know of anyone interested in teaching VPK or a younger class, please reach out to me, as we are hoping to continue to expand the preschool. As always, we appreciate your support. Have a great July!

Sincerely,
Ms. Natalie and Staff



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY PERALTA

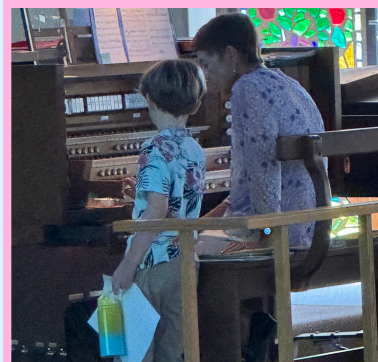
Hey Immanuel Youth and Families,

Wow! What an incredible start to the summer! VBS: Live it Out was an absolute blast, and we're still glowing from the joy and energy that filled our church all week long. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated supplies, offered their time, or lifted us up in prayer. Your support made a huge impact! A special shoutout to Ms. Natalie and the Immanuel Preschool staff—thank you for jumping in with such enthusiasm and helping make the entire experience unforgettable for our kids. Also a huge thank you to all our volunteers and Ms. Sandy for teaching us how to Live it Out!

Our first Youth Group gathering of the summer was also a big success! It was filled with laughter, games, meaningful conversation, and a whole lot of heart. We're already looking forward to our next meetup later this month—stay tuned for the date and details!

Summer is just getting started, and we're excited for all the ways we'll continue to grow in faith, fun, and friendship together. Your families and children are so incredibly special to me, and I'm blessed to be able to be a part of their lives. Sending you all so much love and prayer, and don't forget to go live it out and shine Jesus' light.

"L A L L J: Live And Love Like Jesus!" -Ms. Sandy



VBS!



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

our volunteers have some health issues!

contact the church office!

filling in the pew pockets

picking up bread and goodies from
Publix Saturday mornings
(Off of Martin Downs Blvd)

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.

	May, 2025	YTD 2025
Given	\$35,573.05	\$204,465.53
Budgeted	\$43,362.50	\$216,812.50
Difference	(\$7,789.45)	(\$12,346.97)

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	\$528,296.11
Expenses	\$432,195.21
Difference	\$96,100.90



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2655 SW Immanuel Drive
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772.287.8188

STUART
2200 NW Federal Hwy
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772.692.1171

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


OR CURRENT RESIDENT

 **July 6th**
One Service
 **10 AM**
 **Palm City**


Let's celebrate the **4th**
on the **6th!**
**Bring a dish to share and
enjoy our barbecued chicken.**

Canned & dry
goods will
be collected for
House of Hope
Food Pantry.



 **Living a Life of Servanthood**
Senior VBS
July 14th-18th
Immanuel Stuart

**10:00 am
to
1:00 pm**



Register by emailing: pastorrosa@ilcbethelight.org

**thrivent
MEMBERS**

If you have not used your Action Team, please consider applying for an Action Team card because we need your help with the Snack Bag program. We seem to be giving out more "Snack Bags" every week. Please do not leave the "money" unused.

For those of you, who have already used your Thrivent Benefit, Thank you! For those of you who donate items for the "Snack Bags", another Thank you! We cannot continue this program without your support. The people who receive these "Bags" are very appreciative and thank us every week. Immanuel's Souper Sunday or Immanuel Early Learning Center would also appreciate help.

To apply for an Action Team, call the Thrivent home office at 800 -847-4836. For additional information call me, Karen Coombs, at 772-475-3312 or your Thrivent representative.