



Pastor's Monthly Message

Weird Things Happen When People Die

by Pastor Chad Fair

Weird things happen when people die. I don't mean physically or even spiritually but relationally. I have no clue how many funerals I have presided at but a few weeks ago was the first time I had done so for a family member. After nearly every funeral I've ever done people share stories about their loved one who died. They talk about how great of a person they were and things of that nature. For many people they learn things about the deceased they never knew. None of that is particularly weird, in fact it's really common. But my question is why do we wait until someone is dead to share those stories? Why do we wait until after they're gone to stand up and say what we appreciated about them?

My grandfather passed away and the church he attended recently closed so they didn't have a pastor to do the service. I don't recommend presiding at relatives' funerals but I wasn't comfortable not having a pastor for his service. And if I'm being honest, my grandfather and I weren't particularly close. It's a long story, too long for this article but my grandmother died when I was in third grade and he later remarried into a large family of 5 adult step-children and lots of grandkids. His time was divided so we didn't spend a lot of time together outside of the holidays. Then moving to Florida made it even more difficult. No excuses, just the reality of the situation. Well in typical funeral fashion, people started talking, and stories were shared. I had heard most of the stories before. My grandfather loved to

tell a story, even if it varied slightly each time he'd tell it. My grandfather was a talker, I know you're shocked that talking is in my genes. When we would have dinner or drop in for a visit he would always talk about his step-children and step-grandchildren. In a moment of confession, I'll admit it was a tad irritating, especially since we didn't spend a ton of time together. Well guess who he bragged about when they came over for dinner? I suspect in his own way he was doing what he could to try to blend these two families together. It didn't work, more because of our stubbornness than his effort. He tried, we really didn't although I guess we thought we did at the time.

The world is so divided these days and it's far too easy to fall back into old habits but it's never too early to start new ones. My dad and step-mother were friends with a couple since I was 8 years old. I played short stop and their son played second base all through high school and for several years our dads coached or helped coach our teams. About six years ago they got into a heated discussion about politics and hadn't spoken since. Guess who showed up at the funeral and the reception after? They sat and talked for two hours and made plans for visits in the future. They both talked about being nervous about talking again but that lasted about five minutes.

Then on the drive back to the airport I had an amazing conversation with someone who politically is much different than I am, I'm pretty sure we've never voted for the

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Pastor's Message

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same candidates in any election, ever. We both admitted that at the end of the conversation and agreed the world needs more civil conversations where both people are looking to understand rather than just looking to disagree.

Yes, weird things happen when people die. Maybe in the midst of grief people let their guard down enough to let the Holy Spirit work. Maybe rather than putting up walls, the vulnerability of that moment knocks down walls and builds bridges. In many ways we often see this after national tragedies as well. Of course there are exceptions that sometimes lead to conflict. But imagine what the world might look like if we regularly told people we love them, or we are proud of them. Imagine what the world might look like if we didn't segregate and divide based on politics, gender, sexuality, race, economic class or anything else. We wouldn't even recognize the world we live in. Dare I say it might even reflect the Kingdom of God? ■

Note: The following article has appeared the last four years in this newsletter. With our in-person worship attendance and offerings diminished and amid challenges meeting our financial obligations due to increased insurance premiums and historic inflation rates, we received a distribution of \$26,750 from the Clementine Zacke Foundation. It could not have come at a more opportune time.

CLEMENTINE'S LEGACY

Allow me to introduce you to Clementine Zacke. Clementine was born on September 13, 1914. She joined Immanuel Lutheran Church on December 4, 1987, almost one month before Immanuel became the first congregation of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Clementine died on January 25, 1997 at the age of eighty-two years.

But Clementine's story doesn't end there. Nor her relationship with Immanuel. Before her death she had the foresight to create a foundation and establish a trust naming Immanuel as one of its beneficiaries, including the Treasure Coast Hospice and several education entities serving Martin County students. For the last twenty-two years Immanuel has gratefully received annual distributions from the Clementine Zacke Foundation. The stipulation was that the funds were to be primarily used to support Immanuel's various youth programs and have allowed us to retain a Children, Youth and Family Director. Clementine felt that the youth were the future of the church and the world.

What will be your legacy? Immanuel offers many opportunities to leave a perpetual personal legacy or one honoring or remembering a loved one. In addition to naming Immanuel as a beneficiary in your will or trust, we have three endowment funds as well as our memorial fund. If you would like more information regarding your legacy, contact Ron Froehlich, Finance Chairman.



stephen MINISTRY®

Jesus instructs us to love our neighbor. Stephen Ministry, which has been in operation at Immanuel for nine years, is one way to do that. The ministry of Stephen Ministers has been a blessing to individuals by being a comforting presence during their difficult situations. It has also been a blessing to the Stephen Ministers themselves as they represent the arms of Jesus to those hurting. In order to continue and expand this ministry of care, we are beginning another Stephen Ministry training class in September. Take advantage of this opportunity to share the love that God has given you. You will find that being a Stephen Minister not only will be helpful to others, but it will be a fulfilling and joyful experience. Here is what some of our Stephen Ministers have to say:

“Helping someone in need through Jesus is a blessing.”

“It means sharing the love and blessings of Jesus Christ to those in need.”

“People who are hurting need to know that someone cares about them. Stephen Ministers care deeply.”

To learn more about this wonderful opportunity to love our neighbor, see either Deacon Cheryl, our Stephen Ministers (Janis Kerwin, Jerry Schuler, Ruth Ann Katilius, Jim Quinlan), or our pastors.



PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Hey Immanuel friends and families!

Happy Summer! We have been very busy having fun during summer camp. There have been so many amazing activities like Disney week, Patriotic celebrations, Storybook week, Rodeo and Lego week. Our waterplay days have been the best, especially when we get a visit from the Bubble Truck and Kona Ice. Our last week of camp will be filled with learning activities about animals and nature.

As summer begins to close, our teachers are preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. They are working hard to create a great learning experience for all our friends. We have also added a new classroom for our three-year-old program.

Meet the teacher will be held on August 8th and school starts August 10th. We are excited for our new school year.

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HEARING BETTER

Immanuel's Memorial Fund Committee recommended, and the congregation council approved, the purchase of a new wireless hearing device system for the Palm City sanctuary. This system replaces the old system which was decades old and could no longer be repaired. The new system uses the latest technology to assist worshipers who have trouble hearing to better participate in our worship services.

Immanuel's Memorial Fund is the repository of donations made to honor and remember those who have died in the faith. The funds are used to maintain our two memorial gardens and to enhance our worship experience.

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.

	June 2023	YTD 2023
Given	\$31,729.07	\$245,105.67
Budgeted	\$45,340.00	\$294,710.00
Difference	(\$13,610.93)	(\$49,604.33)

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 06/30/2023	ILC & IELC
Income	\$592,879.40
Expenses	\$642,770.76
Difference	(\$49,891.36)



Both Immanuel sites have been hosting Family Promise families since the program opened up after COVID. You may not know that besides supporting families in the shelter rotation, several families are receiving services and support. Preventing families from becoming homeless are helped in the Diversion Program; a Mom and two daughters are living in the Promise Home; and families have been helped with the HUMI Program (Help Us Move In).

Families in the program are diligent in their efforts to work their way out of homelessness. However, sometimes their resources fall short; donated grocery gift cards can help a family pay for their weekly groceries or purchase shampoo, soap and other needed toiletries; donated gas gift cards will ensure the families have fuel in their vehicles to make it to work. A gift card of any amount is greatly appreciated. The families do not receive the gift cards directly but they are distributed by Case Manager April as she knows each family's situation and can pass them out equitably. If you wish to donate cards please give them to Belinda at Immanuel Palm City, or Roberta at Immanuel Stuart. We are blessed to be God's hands to do His work.



Due to an Action Team, we were able to pay for all the supplies for our painting party on July 29th. All proceeds therefore were able to go toward updating the Family Promise Room in Stuart.

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

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Adult Education

Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month
3 pm • Rm 201

not meeting during summer

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

No August mtg

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 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](http://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: August 9

HARLOTS & Heroines of the Bible



Every Wednesday*
5:30 PM • Stuart FH

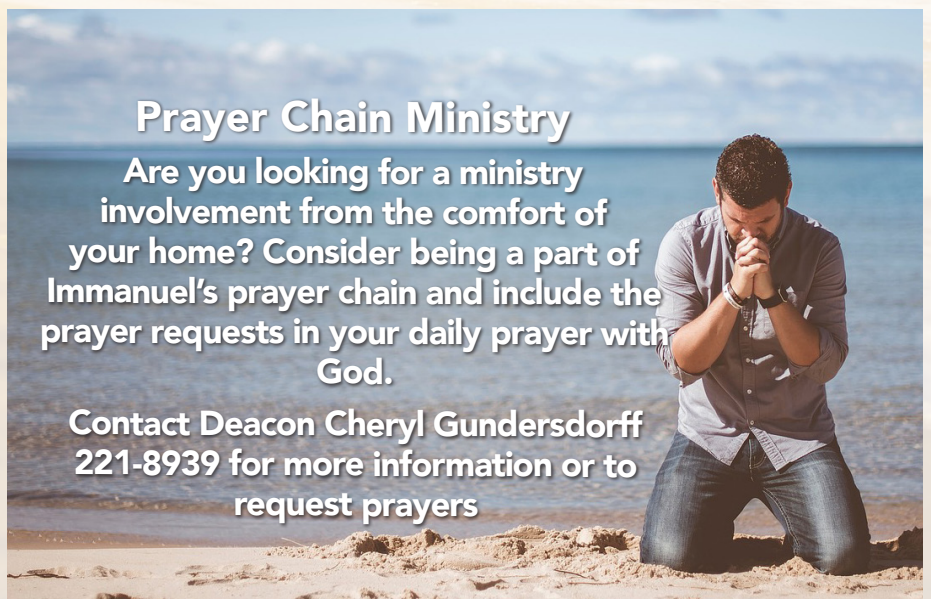
Bring your own dinner

*Does not meet August 9th due to Word on Wednesday
at Townies

Prayer Chain Ministry

Are you looking for a ministry
involvement from the comfort of
your home? Consider being a part of
Immanuel's prayer chain and include the
prayer requests in your daily prayer with
God.

Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff
221-8939 for more information or to
request prayers



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 Meeting

The Altar Guild does not meet in August, but we are always looking for volunteers to help with communion at all services at both locations.

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 221-8939 or 485-1954 for more information and to RSVP.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What is the mission of Stephen Ministry? To share Jesus' unconditional love by supporting and ministering to people in need and assuring them of Jesus' healing power and presence. To learn how Stephen Ministry can help you, contact Stephen Ministry Leader Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 or 485-1954, ask a Stephen Minister wearing a blue name badge, or our pastors.



Music Ministries

Contemporary Worship Team
Sundays @ 8 am • Sanctuary
Contact Brittany Lustig
brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.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 Lustig
brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

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

Blessing

**of
the**

Backpacks

August 6

9:30 am

