

Living Advent: Bringing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love into the World

by: Pastor Chad

While the world speeds towards Christmas, for many churches it's the beginning of the season of Advent. As the season of Advent unfolds, Christians around the world prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ—not only in the story of Bethlehem but also in the ways God continues to be present in our lives today. Advent invites us into a rhythm of reflection, anticipation, and action, focusing on four central themes: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Hope: Advent begins with hope—the confident expectation that God's promises are true. In a world often shadowed by uncertainty, hope is more than wishful thinking; it is the call to actively participate in bringing light to dark places. Volunteering at a local shelter, mentoring a young person, or simply offering a listening ear to someone in need are ways we embody hope in our daily lives.

Peace: The prophets foretold a Messiah who would bring peace—not only as the absence of conflict, but as justice, reconciliation, and wholeness. During Advent, we are reminded that peace begins in our hearts and radiates outward. Practicing patience, resolving disputes, and engaging in community initiatives that foster understanding are tangible ways to enact this peace.

Joy: Joy is the deep, enduring gladness that comes from knowing God's presence in our lives. It is more than happiness; it is a spirit that persists even amid challenges. Sharing laughter, celebrating small victories, and cultivating gratitude in ordinary moments can spread this joy to those around us.

Love: The culmination of Advent is love—the embodiment of God's grace made visible in our actions. Love is most powerful when it crosses boundaries, reaching beyond our comfort zones to embrace the stranger, the marginalized, and the vulnerable. Simple acts such as donating to a local food pantry, visiting someone who is lonely, or advocating for social justice can transform communities and reflect God's love in action.

Advent is not only about waiting; it is about preparing the world for Christ's presence here and now. As we light each candle on the Advent wreath, let it remind us that our faith is meant to move beyond devotion into deeds. By living hope, peace, joy, and love, we become agents of God's kingdom in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and homes.

This season may our hearts and hands be open, so that the light of Christ we await in the manger shines through our words and actions. In doing so, we do not merely commemorate a historical event—we participate in the ongoing story of God's love in the world.



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Altar Guild Christmas Luncheon

DECEMBER 10TH | NOON

SOUTH RIVER CLUBHOUSE,
481 SW SOUTH RIVER DRIVE, STUART.

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

RSVP TO
MARJ SMITH AT 772-286-8974
NO TEXTS

PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE

BY DR. PATTY

Dear Immanuel Parents & Church Family,

In our Pre-school, the month of December brings excitement filled with delightful, joyful, and fun-filled learning. As we welcome December, we are reflecting on the true meaning of the season. Throughout the month, children will engage in activities that highlight the love of Jesus, the wonder of His birth, and the spirit of giving in age-appropriate ways.

In our VPK class, we are focusing on kindness and giving as we carry this month out by spreading kindness, love, and helping each other as Jesus did. The VPKers will have intentional acts of kindness assignments and activities as Ms. Krystal continues to encourage them and place the acts on their "Kindness Tree".

Our threes are immersed in learning about Christ's birth in a heartfelt, level understanding way. They are celebrating being thankful that Jesus is our gift from God. They are completing hands-on activities that reinforce these spiritual values and early learning skills as Ms. Sharon, Ms. Daniella, and Ms. Jalissa bring the message that Jesus is the reason for the season.

The twos are filled with joy as they learn Christmas songs and create holiday crafts. They are progressing right along. They continue to learn what the season is all about through songs, activities, and stories told by Ms. Darlene and Ms. Katherine. As we close the year, we celebrate the growth of every child—spiritually, socially, and academically—and we look forward to a blessed new year filled with purpose, joy, and continued learning in God's love.

Reminders for this month: We are excited about our "End of the Year Camp," which will be 12/22-23 and 12/29-31. For more information, contact the school's director. The school will be closed on 12/24-26 in observance of Christmas. We will close early on 12/31 in observance of New Year's Day. Don't forget to bring in your child's updated shot record and health information if it is completed this month. Our December birthdays are: (Students): -Everley Mann-12/6, Diego Peralta-12/26, Ava Underhill-12/21, Cooper Perry-12/2, Lillyanne Anderson-12/30 (Teachers): Ms. Jalissa-12/7 and Ms. Katherine-12/24.



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY PERALTA

Hey Immanuel Youth and Families,

The Christmas season is here, and our youth have so much to celebrate! This month is full of opportunities to gather, serve, and share in the joy of Christ's birth.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, December 14th, and we're so proud of our confirmands as they continue to take this important step in their faith journey. Please keep them in your prayers.

Mark your calendars for Deck the Halls on Sunday, December 21st at 12:30 pm! We'll be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas and celebrating with our annual White Elephant exchange—all youth are invited to join in the fun. Bring a small, silly gift and come ready to laugh and spread some holiday cheer!

We're also preparing for our Children's Chime Choir for Christmas Eve, and there are still spots available! If your child would like to join, please reach out soon so we can include them in the upcoming practices.

This is such a beautiful season to pause and remember the heart of it all—God's love made real in the gift of Jesus. As we deck the halls, sing the songs, and share the laughter, may we hold that light close and share it with others.

With Christmas joy,
Brittany

🌟 Parents and youth—don't forget to invite a friend to join us! Our group is always open, and we'd love to welcome new faces into our community.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:6



Poinsettia Orders

Order a poinsettia this Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one to be displayed during our Christmas Eve worship services. Cost: \$12/ea
Deadline: Dec. 14th

# of Poinsettias (\$12/ea):	Envelope # (if known):
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm City Campus	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuart campus
In honor of:	
In memory of:	
Your name:	

Palm City: You may pick your poinsettia up after the 7 pm service or on Friday, Dec. 26th at the church.
Stuart: You may pick up your poinsettia following the 1 pm service.

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Congregational Annual Meeting

December 14th

following the 10 AM service

Palm City Campus



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.

	October, 2025	YTD 2025
Given	\$34,555.24	\$414,419.09
Budgeted	\$43,362.50	\$433,625.00
Difference	(\$8,807.26)	(\$19,205.91)

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	\$1,032,472.24
Expenses	\$972,580.69
Difference	\$59,891.55



Immanuel

ilcbethelight.org

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STUART

2200 NW Federal Hwy
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772.692.1171

"Twas the Night Before Tea-Mas

Christmas

Tea

Tickets
\$15

Saturday, 6th December | 1:59 PM
Immanuel Palm City

SANTA'S WORKSHOP



Children's Christmas Chimes

SIGN UP

Music with
Ms. Brittany

THE FAITH FOUNDATION

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

DECEMBER 7TH
AT 9:30AM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. JUDE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

HOSTED AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF PALM CITY
2655 SW IMMANUEL DR

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS



ARE IN THE LOBBY

DECK THE HALLS

AFTER ADVENT

DECEMBER 21ST

12:30 PM

Christmas Eve *Worship*

Stuart

Palm City

Palm City

1 PM | 4 PM | 7 PM

Traditional

Contemporary

Traditional

All services will be candlelit and serve communion. All Palm City services will be livestreamed.