

*Our mission is to introduce all people to  
Jesus Christ and the exhilarating power and  
undefeatable joy He brings to life!*

MAY 2021

# GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

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## Go, Make Disciples

*by Pastor Rebecca Craig*

**W**e are all familiar with Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples in Matthew 28 where he tells them to "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Well, we've got the baptizing part down. But what exactly does discipleship look like? What exactly is a disciple?

A disciple is a person who learns from another, and then turns around and teaches others. Most Rabbis had

"disciples" who learned from them, then in turn became Rabbis and taught others.

That's a pretty tall order when you think about it. Jesus has the expectation that Christians are to be disciples—that they will learn to become like, well, him... the teacher. Pastor Chad and I have been wondering how do we, as disciples who became teachers, go about educating a congregation of our own disciples without the structure of seminary classes? We recognize that discipleship means more than just an hour on Sunday mornings.

*(continued on page 2...)*

*God with us*  
**Immanuel**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive  
Palm City, FL 34990  
772.287.8188  
immanuelpalmcity.org



**Pastor Rebecca's**

# MONTHLY MESSAGE

*(...continued from page 1)*

But Bible Studies are poorly attended because people's lives are busy. And we can't personally give individual lessons for years to every member of the congregation that fits their schedule. So what's the next best option?

Well, Jesus taught his disciples in small groups. He started with twelve. We've long known that we need small groups here at Immanuel, but implementing them - that's been another issue.

We have something that Jesus did not, however: online media. Pastor Chad and I have the ability to record our teachings and make them available online for individuals and small groups to use and learn from. The challenge is - taking the time to put the curriculum together, then record it, edit it, and make it all available in time for the fall when we are hoping to launch the program.

Recognizing that "time" challenge, I've opted to use my two month Sabbatical (which starts May 5th) to work on a "starter set" series of videos that will help small groups become disciples

*(continued on page 3...)*



# FORWARD LOOKING



*by John McCluskey  
Council President*

Hello everyone! A lot is happening as we roll into spring. Attendance has been picking up at all our services as more and more of us get vaccinated. You can feel Immanuel and our world coming alive again. It is great to see many of our "at-risk" members returning to in-person worship when they feel

it is safe to do so. Our Pastors and Council are deep in discussions about when we can safely take the next step and make masks optional but not required. We are doing this cautiously as we have throughout the pandemic in order to keep everyone safe.

Doug Crawford and the fund-raising campaign is moving forward at a rapid pace but I will leave it to Doug to tell you more about that. Please look for his article in this newsletter.

You probably noticed all the construction equipment by the FDC late in March and early in April. The old roof was removed and the new roof has been completely installed as I write this note. We are in the late stages of getting the final approvals from the City and warranty documents from the Manufacturer. Dave Vanderslice and his team hope to have these approvals by the time you are reading this letter. Thanks to them for all their hard work to get this completed before our rainy season begins.

Dave's team is also working to complete estimates for the playground upgrades and the parking lot improvements. These projects will take more time to complete as we were not as far along with the bid process but also because we will have to wait for some of the money from the fundraising campaign to be received.

I look forward to seeing everyone back in the Sanctuary before too long.



## Prayer Chain Ministry

Did you know that you have faithful sisters and brothers in the Lord who look forward to the opportunity to lift you or someone you know before God in prayer? Call Deacon Cheryl (221-8939) to begin those prayers.

# NOT TODAY, SATAN



by Cheryl Gundersdorff  
Deacon

It is no surprise that the devil is the enemy of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and all of humankind. He brings all manner of evil into our world. He was not content with worshipping God with the angels in heaven. He wanted to be the object of worship and this is what got him kicked out along with others who followed his lies. In John 8:44, Jesus calls him a liar and the father of lies. Beginning with the Garden of Eden, the devil has been spewing his lies into our human realm and thinks he wins when people are influenced by those lies.

He thinks he wins when he gets people to harbor hate in their hearts and mistreat other people. He thinks he wins when he can get people to ignore God. He thinks he wins when he can discredit Christians to give Christianity a bad name to keep non-believers from embracing Jesus. He thinks he wins when he can get God's children to doubt and despair. Ultimately, the devil knows God wins. That is why he creates as much havoc as possible in the earthly realm.

A good example is what goes through the devil's mind regarding the past year of COVID. He thinks, yea, churches are closed! Now people can't hear God's word and learn of His love. Ha-ha! I win. Not so fast there, you devil.

At our contemporary service we sing a song whose chorus is, "May you (Jesus) take what the enemy meant for evil and turn it to good." Churches around the world were closed for a while, but since when do closed doors stop God from reaching hearts? Jesus' reply to the devil would be that worship has now been put into millions of homes around the world via livestream and it will continue to do so. So there! You lose, God wins!

Throughout our lives we may face many situations where the devil tries to beat us down with his evil and lies, but do not despair. Not only does the Holy Spirit remind us that Jesus is always with us, he also reminds us through God's Word, that we know how the story ends. In case you need a little reminder---the victory is God's all the way through eternity! Jesus is the victor over sin and death and the Holy Spirit is always with us spurring us on to victory. "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."—*1 Cor. 15:57. Believe it, grasp it, and don't let go of it.* ■

## MONTHLY GOOD NEWS DEADLINE

The next deadline to submit items for the monthly newsletter is July 15th, 2021. Items received after the 15th may or may not make it into the newsletter. To submit items, send an email to: [ilcmedia2655@gmail.com](mailto:ilcmedia2655@gmail.com)

(...continued from page 2)

of Jesus Christ as we focus on methods of Bible Study, prayer life, and service. Which means, for the next two months, you won't be seeing me much around the church as I will be taking a sabbatical from my "normal" church work to concentrate on these discipleship materials. That means I will not be preaching nor will I be available for pastoral care, funerals, etc. Pastor Chad will shoulder the extra burden for those two months with some help from Deacon Cheryl and Pastor Dave Dangerfield as needed.

Unfortunately, that also means that this will be the last newsletter you get until August, as it was decided rather than trying to train someone on the programs used and pull together the materials for two months while I'm gone, that we can do without the newsletter over the summer. So don't wonder where your newsletter is next month when it doesn't arrive!

Please be sure to check the weekly and your email for updates on what is going on at Immanuel over the summer. I'll see you all again after July 5th! ■

## Thank You...

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to the following for donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Immanuel.

Betty Aderholdt  
Daryl Aderholdt  
Robert Beckmann  
John Griffen  
Carol Hughes  
Marlene Valpatic

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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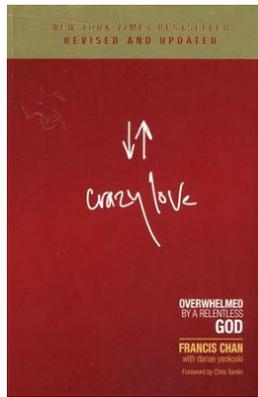
ndslice@comcast.net

Faith, Fun & Fellowship/Small Groups

Amber Castro

ambercastro@yahoo.com

# Summer Book Study



Starts Sunday, May 16th

7 PM via Zoom

Zoom ID: 864 8101 3401

Passcode: 929057

**Crazy Love: Overwhelmed By A Relentless God**

by Francis Chan

*Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts — it's falling in love with God.*



June 15, 2021

Call toll-free: 1-866-229-0469

Online: [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle)

Text: the word circle to 797979

**We now have more ways for you to give!**



**Mobile**

Text: IPCGIVE  
to 77977



**Online**

[immanuelpalmcity.org](http://immanuelpalmcity.org)



**Envelopes**

## MONTHLY GIVING REPORT

A report of our giving compared to the approved budget the congregation agreed to at the annual meeting. We're including last year as a comparison as well

	March 2021	March 2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Given	<b>\$32,795.34</b>	\$39,427.35	<b>\$105,155.66</b>	\$116,857.46
Needed	<b>\$40,240.00</b>	\$55,865.00	<b>\$130,780.00</b>	\$145,249.00
Difference	<b>(\$7,444.66)</b>	(\$16,437.65)	<b>(\$25,624.34)</b>	(\$28,391.54)

## OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 03/31/2021	ILC & IELC	PPP Loan
Income	\$206,231.47	\$91,290.00
Expenses	\$230,554.87	
Difference	<b>(\$24,323.40)</b>	\$66,966.60



*by Doug Crawford, Stewardship*

Humbled? In a word, yes!

“Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know” Jeremiah 33.3. This verse is one of many that extols the virtues of acting on our faith and calling out to God in times of need. In that spirit, despite obvious head-winds and questionable timing, Immanuel Lutheran’s Council voted to move forward with a fund raising effort so that essential & immediate facility needs could be properly funded without incurring any additional debt. Early calculations revealed, and church leadership correspondingly set, a “seemingly” optimistic fund raising target of \$400,000.00

With Executive Committee approval on January 18th of this year, the fund raising campaign officially began. In early February the assigned task force affectionately dubbed the campaign effort, the “LIFT” campaign, as we attempted to capture the theme and purpose; “Lifting Immanuel for Tomorrow”.

Fast forward to today, as we shift into the next stages of the “LIFT” campaign pledge-phase, the power of teamwork and individual commitment to something larger than ourselves powerfully comes to mind. Helen Keller’s words ring loud, “alone we can do little, but together can do much”. In the most incredible & humbling way, it’s remarkably clear that the “body of Immanuel” possesses this same spirit of teamwork and collective generosity. Membership feedback, and associated pledges submitted thus far, have been extremely positive and faith-bolstering to say the least! Suffice it to say that our congregation is on-board, bought-in, and to-date has demonstrated an extremely high level of commitment to the impactful and on-going ministries of Immanuel.

So it is with extreme gratitude, that we report the “LIFT” campaign is off to a most impressive start and is gaining traction weekly! The overall effort has been lifted-up by the aforementioned generosity and whole-hearted buy-in from all who have been approached thus far.

Everyone’s participation is vital, so please be patient and remain available if you have not yet met with a “LIFT” campaign task force representative. The task force is operating with limited manpower, but we’re working diligently to make contact and set appointments with 100% of Immanuel’s membership. We know that “team work makes the dream work”, so let’s all look for opportunities to get involved and contribute with our whole-hearts as we cross the finish line and Lift Immanuel for Tomorrow!

## IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Chad Fair

[pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org)

Pastor

Rebecca Craig

[pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org)

Deacon

Cheryl Gundersdorff

[cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org)

Organist & Choir Director

Jim Peppers, Cantor

[jimpeppers@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:jimpeppers@ilcpalmcity.org)

Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Lustig

[brittanyannelustig@gmail.com](mailto:brittanyannelustig@gmail.com)

Director of Early Learning Center

Beth Tatem

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Children, Youth & Family Director

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Zacary Tatem

[zacary84848@gmail.com](mailto:zacary84848@gmail.com)

## *Prayer Requests*

To add someone to the prayer list contact:

Sheri at [sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org)

To add someone to the prayer chain contact:

Cheryl Gundersdorff: 772-221-8939

[cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org)



## ADULT EDUCATION

### Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month  
3 PM • Choir Room

\*on hiatus until September\*

### Sisters in Spirit

3rd Tuesday of the month  
7 pm @ Church • Choir Room

\*on hiatus until September\*

### Immanuel 328

CHANGE: 1st & 3rd Sundays of  
the month "Crazy Love" Book  
Study starting May 16th  
via zoom

## FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE MINISTRIES

### Griefshare

Tuesdays 3:30 pm • Room 201

### 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

Info: Marj Smith, 772.286.8974  
or Alice Windle, 772.220.1590

\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Stephen Ministry

2nd Monday  
6:30 pm in Room 202

### Wednesday Bridge Group

Wednesdays at 1 pm  
Choir Room

### Supper 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

\*Carry-Out only until further  
notice\*

# REFLECTIONS on Faith and Finances

**F**irst-fruits giving means giving to God first and living off the rest. Of course, the opposite is to take care of the needs and wants of this life first and give God the leftovers. In the modern world, giving first is an absolutely essential key to giving generously. We live in a world in which advertising is very adept at turning wants into needs. Daily we are bombarded with thousands of messages telling us that we will be happier if only we purchase this product or that. These messages are very sophisticated, and they work. If you don't give to God first, you will shortchange God every time. You will use your money in pursuit of this dream or that dream, and God will get what is left. If you're going to give generously, you need to give first.

*—"Reflections on Faith and Finance" by Charles Lane*



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT AND ORGAN BENCH

*by Jim Peppers*

*Cantor/Organist/Choir Director*

**W**hat a joy to celebrate together safely our Easter. Last year we were confined to our homes for safety's sake. We are on the road to normalize our lives. We need to be mindful to continue to protect each other.

Some people ask why I face away from the congregation as I sing the hymns and liturgy; it is because I don't sing at you or to you but, with you about our collective adoration of the Risen Christ. We join our voices together, congregation both present and virtual. We proclaim the story over and over in the Christian tradition that dates almost 2000 years. But, actually that practice dates far before the time of Christ. The Lutheran cantor encompasses the entire responsibility of song in the Church. This tradition dates back 500 years. Singing together delivers our message of the words of Christ and his obedience to the Father. As is Christ's reward so will be ours to dwell together in heavenly bliss continuing to praise God with our heavenly choruses. Song carries our exposed soul to raise praises to God the Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

As we sing, let us be filled with truth and justice in the sincerity of our hearts love for God and each other.

# EARLY LEARNING CENTER



by Director Beth Tatem

Where is the time going? It's the last month of school. We will be sad to see all our VPK friends leave. Hope to have them come back and visit. All our VPK children are getting ready for their graduation. I will be making a power point of the children in their caps and gowns, and a small video to hand out to the parents. Our car line

graduation will be on May 26th at 9am which is the last day of school for the VPK children.

We will not be having a Mother's Day Tea party in May, so sorry.

At this time all the parent surveys should have been handed in, thank you for all the feedback.

We still have some spots left for our Fall program, so if you're interested please come by my office to get the registration papers.

Immanuel Early Learning Center's last day of school will be May 28th for the 2 yr olds and 3 year olds.

Teacher Appreciation week is May 3rd - May 7th.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you curious as to where the name Stephen Ministry came from?

Following Jesus' resurrection, the early church was growing daily throughout the region. Not only was the good news of Jesus Christ being shared, the early churches would live out Jesus' calling to love their neighbor by caring for their needs as necessary. Caring for its members became overwhelming for the church leaders which left less time to spread the gospel and focus on building the church throughout the region. They appointed seven men, which included Stephen, known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to tend to the daily needs of the congregations.

Today, Pastors, as good and compassionate as they are, cannot bear the weight of caring intimately for all those in the congregation who are facing challenging issues. Pastors are like firefighters. They are the first responders who handle the onset of a crisis and the immediate needs. Multiply that by the size of the congregation and you can understand their limited time to provide weekly on-going care for an extended duration on top of their other pastoral duties.

This is where Stephen Ministry arrives to provide on-going care for as long as is necessary for those experiencing challenging issues. Here at Immanuel, we have our own "Stephens" who are trained to care for our members for both short and long durations. We are one of many churches on the Treasure Coast available to help our congregation members as well as those in our communities.

If you are experiencing a challenge and would like to have a "Stephen" to help you navigate through it in confidentiality, contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff, 221-8939



## MUSIC MINISTRIES

### Contemporary Worship Team

Sundays @ 8 am • Sanctuary

Contact Brittany Lustig

brittanyannelustig@gmail.com

### Bell Choir

Saturdays at 4:30 pm • Sanctuary

### Chancel Choir

Sundays at 10 am • Choir Room

\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Cornerstone Singers

Saturdays @ 5:15 pm • Sanctuary

pdcjimmy@hotmail.com

\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Children's Choir

Mondays at 12:30 pm • FDC

\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Children's Chimes

Sundays at 10:30 am • FDC

\*Suspended until further notice\*

*Confirmation*  
*Sunday*  
**May 16th, 2021**  
**9:30 am**  
**Congratulations**  
**to this year's**  
**confirmation**  
**students!**



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive  
Palm City, FL 34990  
772.287.8188  
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### Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays:  
6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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## Watch our Livestream Services Every Weekend!

### Livestreaming & In Person Worship Times:

Sat. 6 pm - Casual Traditional Worship

Sun. 9:30 am - Contemporary Worship

Sun. 11:15 am - Traditional Worship

*Masks & social distancing required at all in-person gatherings.*

*All Services are now both in-person and online via our livestream.*

Watch on Facebook  
[facebook.com/immanuelpalmcity](https://facebook.com/immanuelpalmcity)

Watch on our App

Watch on our Website  
[immanuelpalmcity.org](https://immanuelpalmcity.org)

