

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

# GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

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## A Covid Survivor's Story

*by Pastor Rebecca Craig & Gail Armstrong*

**O**ne way or another, Covid has touched all of our lives. Whether it's simply the upheaval in our routines and how we go about our daily lives, had our business suffer, or have been affected personally by either having contracted it, know someone who has survived it, or were close to one of the 170,000 and counting that we've lost—it's affected you.

Sadly, we lost a charter member to Covid and have had many members come down with it to varying degrees of how ill they became. Some are still in the hospital battling it as I write this. I lost a cousin to it two months ago, and have upwards of over a dozen friends who have contracted it, many of whom are still dealing with the effects weeks and even months later—neurological problems, heart problems, kidney issues, respiratory problems, etc.

As I was preparing to start putting the newsletter together, one of our members who had and survived Covid reached out asking if she could tell her and her husband's story. I said of course she could. Many of you know her as she has been an active and involved member of Immanuel for many years. Gail Armstrong has served on council, worked in the church office, is a member of the chancel choir, and along with Karen Coombs organizes our Spring Rummage sale every year.

The following is her story...

*As some of my family at Immanuel might be aware, both Bob and I contracted Covid-19 in June – Bob first and me about a week later. Bob was sick enough the first week that I took him for the drive-thru testing at*

*(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)*

*Martin North. Only two days later we got the phone call that he tested positive for the virus. Four days after that he was not better and I took him again to Martin North where he spent one week with pneumonia. While hospitalized he was given a plasma transfusion which we know helped him recover more quickly at home. Today he is doing well and has oxygen to use "when needed".*

*As for me, I am now "back in action" feeling like my old self after being terribly sick. A few weeks ago I was tested for antibodies to Covid-19 and the result was "positive." So, I registered with OneBlood and they accepted me for giving plasma. This I did last week as I felt it was my Christian duty to give back for what was given Bob.*

*A serious note to all: This virus should not be taken lightly. It can be deadly, and we are both so grateful that we recovered. Wear masks! We all need to listen to this directive we hear on a daily basis from medical/scientific authorities.*

*Most important note to all: We cannot thank our Immanuel*

*(continued on page 3...)*



# WE'RE OPEN - SORT OF



*by John McCluskey  
Council President*

**H**ow is your faith holding up in this mess we are calling 2020? I, personally, find it challenging to self-isolate, listen to all the troubling news, try to tune out the election rhetoric and still grow my faith. My daily and weekly routines have been altered by the things we can and cannot do. Attending church on

weekends is one of the routines impacted. It used to be easy to attend the 6:00 service on my way home from work and then begin my weekend.

I have had to adjust to attending worship online on Sunday mornings. I feel fortunate that our team provides such a good worship experience online. But I missed worshipping in our Sanctuary. Trish and I were able to attend this service as she made our reservations early. We were interested to see how we would feel about joining a larger group than we normally gather with and how we would feel about "Worship Lite". The one thing we were not prepared for was how strong we felt God's presence when we walked in. It felt like the Holy Spirit was working overtime to fill the room with its Spirit and welcome us back!

I have to thank our Pastors for developing a seating plan that made us comfortable. They also scaled our worship back but maintained many of the critical parts of the Lutheran Worship. This may sound strange but I was also pleased that our Sanctuary was not filled to capacity. I take this to mean that many of you are comfortable with our online experience and/or are still concerned enough to decide not to attend in person at this time.

I hope each of you can continue to grow your faith until we can fully reopen. Your leadership team continues to monitor Martin County's progress in controlling this virus and work toward a full reopening. We are not sure how the restarting of the School System, ours and Martin County's, will affect our timetable.

Until that time, stay strong in your faith, remain healthy and trust in God. ■

## 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](mailto:ilcmedia2655@gmail.com)

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY



Jessica Morejon

## YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

**B**ack to School!!!! Did I just really write that? By the time we have all read this monthly newsletter our youth (and their families) have been back to school for a minimum of two or so weeks. The newer process/routine may be different for the majority, however our God has not changed. He is still with each and every one of our families. Providing the same love. Providing the same grace. Providing the same peace and hope. He has not been derailed (VBS pun) from His promise to us! As He continues to make good on His promise – are we still as focused as we were in late February? Are we praying and seeking for His guidance rather than our own? Are we sharing our faith with neighbors, families, friends, teachers, etc.? If our passion has waivered, let us reach into the daily word and not only seek truth but distribute it. Seeing that we have been provided quite a good amount of time within our own “circles” extend your faith to those who would normally go unnoticed. A child, a mother, a father, a gardener, a postal worker – so many we take for granted. Make it a point to share His love, whether it be a simple truth or an actual sit-down conversation. I mentioned the word “routine” earlier, break free of your own – do something not within your checklist, schedule, or daily plan. A couple weeks ago during Sunday school I shared how God can have us (humanity) connect via our five senses. I asked the children to try this at home and/or school for homework and was rather giddy to hear how they accomplished the goals. Planting a mustard seed is all that is required – I believe that He is capable of orchestrating the rest. Now I challenge you to connect in faith outside of your routine! ■

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." - Psalm 96:2-4*

(...continued from page 2)

*family enough for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, emails and text messages of concerns and best wishes we received. You have no idea how meaningful your concerns have been as we navigated through this awful virus. Thank you and God bless you all.*

We are so immensely grateful that Bob and Gail are still with us to tell us their story. While we realize not everyone has agreed with Immanuel staying closed as long as it has been, and are not satisfied with only the Saturday evening abbreviated service, we hope you understand that the reason is we respect the severity of the virus and what it can do, especially to our most vulnerable members. It is our Christian duty and responsibility to make worship as safe as possible. We realize many of you are not afraid to contract it and possibly die, but we are also thinking about the safety of the people you might infect and the doctors and nurses who risk their lives treating you. That's why we have proceeded with the amount of caution we have. We are so grateful for Gail and Bob's recovery thus far and continue to pray for all those still battling the illness, its effects—and all those who have lost loved ones. ■

## First Confirmation Gathering



Sunday, Sept. 20th  
10:45 am



# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President  
John McCluskey  
john@floridaoutdoorsrv.com

Vice President  
Gary Winslow  
garwins@msn.com

Secretary  
Laraine Montgomery  
laraine14@comcast.net

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kim.shrum2011@gmail.com

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Vacant

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Communications  
Pete Morello  
shipperpete@gmail.com

Faith, Fun & Fellowship  
Karen Coombs  
klcoombs1@yahoo.com

Small Groups  
Vacant



# EARLY LEARNING CENTER

by Beth Tatem, Director



Welcome back!!! Hope everyone had a nice Summer. It was so nice to see all our friends back at school.

August was about "ALL ABOUT ME." Starting September 1st, we will be starting our curriculum.

Starting in September all our after school activities will be starting. This year we will have Soccer on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Thursdays will be Spanish class and Fridays will be Dance and Flag Football. If you are interested in signing your child up for any of these classes, please go online and fill out the forms.

Please note, we will be selling T-shirts in the school office. The price of the T-Shirts are \$12.00 or 2 for \$22.00. If you are interested in purchasing a T-shirt, please come and see Ms. Beth. Again, thank you to all of the parents, for their help.

Inside your child's cubbie you will find the Parent Handbook, please read it and return the inside sheet ASAP.

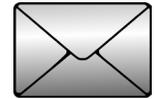
There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, Sept 7th, it is Labor Day.

## Make it simple! Give online!



**Mobile**  
Text: IPCGIVE  
to 77977  
or download  
our app

**Online**  
immanuelpalmcity.org  
Click the "make a  
donation" button



**Envelopes**  
mail to  
the church

## 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

	July 2020	July 2019	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Given	<b>\$35,806.11</b>	\$28,687.63	<b>\$293,785.75</b>	\$310,002.32
Needed	<b>\$44,692.00</b>	\$44,320.00	<b>\$335,190.00</b>	\$332,400.00
Difference	<b>(\$8,885.89)</b>	(\$15,632.37)	<b>(\$41,404.25)</b>	(\$22,397.68)

## OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 07/31/2020	ILC & IELC
Income	\$470,303.50
Expenses	\$493,022.86
Difference	\$22,719.36



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT AND ORGAN BENCH

by *Jim Peppers*  
*Cantor/Organist/Choir Director*

It is such a special experience to have returned to the sanctuary with people in attendance instead of empty pews. One of our Chancel and Cornerstone's members had to come around and see if it was me playing the organ. I have NOT had a hair cut since early March. It's just not a safe thing, I feel, to do at this time. So, Pastor Chad and I are observing the Levitical law of not cutting our hair. It's a race to see who has the "ponytail" first. These are strange and challenging times. The staff is so grateful to the congregation that you have adapted, although difficult. For the foreseeable future life in our congregation has changed and will change in order to protect each other. Now there is a different school of thought but, if we error on the side of caution and save one life because of our unselfish sacrifices, then it will be all worth it. Pray for all of us. Beg God to intercede on our behalf that this evil will not separate us from the love of God or each other.

It is with a heavy heart that our wonderful Madrigal Dinner this year will be postponed until next year. It is just too much of a risk to be confined in rehearsals and in our hall for this celebration. Again, we have to put safety above what our selfish desires to return to what is "normal" to us. It is not a time to be careless. If we don't follow the numbers, physical distancing, mask wearing, cleanliness, and scientists, then we will never have college football, baseball, and yes, our sacred worship in our sanctuary any time soon. We need to never inflict what each of us might be carrying and give it to anyone whose health is compromised. Pray, love, be safe and if you feel comfortable come to Saturday Evening and/or watch the live stream on Sunday Morning. Help Sing, God does hear us all. ■

## 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

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Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Lustig

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Director of Early Learning Center

Beth Tatem

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Jessica Morejon

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Sextons

Indra GoPaul

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

Garron Morley

[garronmorley@yahoo.com](mailto:garronmorley@yahoo.com)



## In-Person Worship Saturdays, 6 pm

No singing.

Masks required.

Outdoor communion

RSVP by Wednesday each week:

287-8188 or [pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org)

## 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 or

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



## ADULT EDUCATION

**Deborah Circle**  
2nd Monday of the month  
3 PM • Choir Room

**Sisters in Spirit**  
3rd Tuesday of the month  
7 pm @ Church (Rm TBD)

**Re-Focus on Scripture**  
Wednesdays, 7 pm via zoom

**Immanuel 328**  
2nd & 4th Sundays of the month  
via zoom

## FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE MINISTRIES

### Griefshare

Tuesdays, 4-5 pm via zoom.  
Contact Pr. Dave Dangerfield  
561-756-2409

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

3rd Wednesday of the month  
6 pm • Room 203  
\*Suspended until further notice\*

### 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 and 4th Mondays  
6:30 pm in Room 202

### Thursday Bridge Group

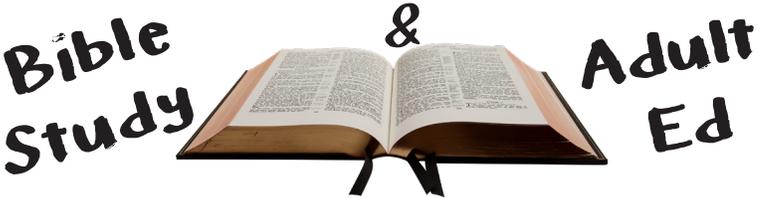
Thursdays at 1 pm • Choir Room  
\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Souper 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\*

## Bible Study & Adult Ed



### Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry

Welcome back ladies! We continue with our study of Experiencing the Heart of Jesus. **Please note that we will be meeting at the church instead of Panera so we can maintain social distancing.** Masks required. See you September 15th at 7PM, room to be determined. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff (221-8939) for more information

### DEBORAH CIRCLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Welcome back ladies! Our Bible study of the gospel of Matthew continues beginning September 14th at 3PM in the choir room. Of course we will be social distancing, wearing masks and only meeting for about an hour. Contact Deacon Cheryl 221-8939 for more information

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing.

To learn more about how Stephen Ministry can be of help to you during a difficult time in your life contact your Stephen Ministry leaders, Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 or Dr. Dave Hakala 219-0715



### Prayer Chain Ministry

Need prayer? The prayer chain ministry team is honored to pray for you or someone you know. All prayer requests are confidential. Call Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff (221-8939) to get those prayers started.



# RE-FOCUS *on Scripture*

**Wednesdays at 7 pm via zoom**

Join us every Wednesday evening as we take a deeper look at the previous weekend's text and message.

Meeting ID: 882 1905 0873  
Passcode: 157323

## Immanuel 328

*"For in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female." - Galatians 3:28*

Join us every second & fourth Sunday of the month as we discuss the church's role in addressing racism, sexism and other justice issues in our society.

Zoom ID: 864 8101 3401  
Passcode: 929057

## FOOD BAG DONATIONS FOR SOUPER SUNDAYS



We have started to distribute food bags at Souper Sunday again. So, we will be accepting donations of the following items:

Items should be easy open (pull tops). Suggestions: Vienna sausages, cheese and cracker snacks, tuna salad, chicken salad, cereal/protein bars,

fruit cups, etc. Small toiletries are also accepted. We will place items into quart and gallon size resealable bags. Thank you in advance for participating in this project to assist the hungry in our community.

Need additional information?

Contact Karen Coombs at  
772-600-7272

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

**Contemporary Worship Team**  
Wednesdays @ 5 pm • Sanctuary  
Contact Brittany Lustig  
brittanyannelustig@gmail.com

### Bell Choir

Tuesdays at 6 pm • Sanctuary  
\*Suspended until further notice\*

### 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\*

## DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION EVERY SUNDAY\*

(\*Weather permitting)

Following the 9:30 service  
until 11 am.

Following the 11:15 service  
until 12:45 pm.



The Salvation Army still desperately needs your donations! Immanuel is a drop-off location for non-perishable foods weekdays from 9 am - noon.



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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

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Permit No. 144

### Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays:  
6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## Watch our Livestream Services Every Sunday!

*Here's where you can tune in to our Sunday morning Livestream! Followed by drive-thru communion.*

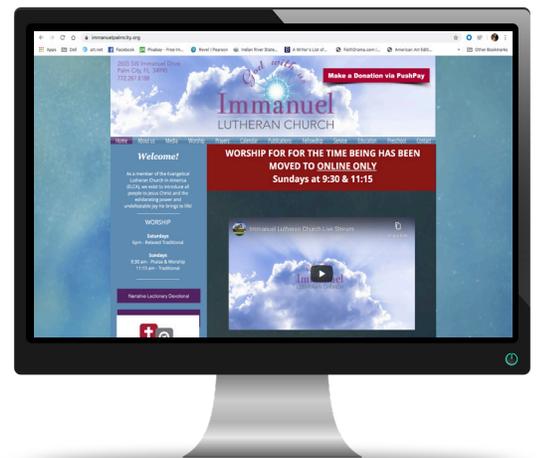
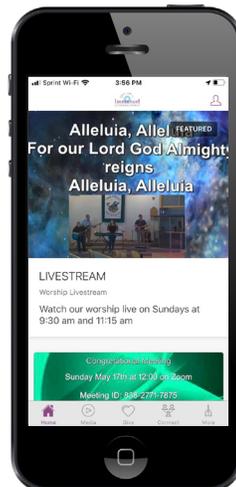
Watch on Facebook

[facebook.com/immanuelpalmcity](https://facebook.com/immanuelpalmcity)

Watch on our App

Watch on our Website

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



### Sunday Morning Livestreaming Worship Times:

9:30 am - Contemporary Worship

10:30 - Zoom Sunday School/11:00 - Zoom Youth Group\*

11:15 am - Traditional Worship

*(\*Zoom Meeting ID codes & passwords are displayed just before and after the 9:30 am service.)*