

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

MAY 2020

GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Rebecca Craig, pages 1-3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John McCluskey, page 2

DEACON'S DESK

Cheryl Gundersdorff, page 3

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Jim Peppers, page 5

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Jessica Morejon, pages 6-7

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Pastor Chad Fair, page 7

MINISTRIES & GROUPS

pages 6-7



Finding the Helpers

by Pastor Rebecca Craig

Fred Rogers once said that when he was scared as a boy by things he saw in the news, his mother would always tell him, "look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

We see scary things in the news every day it seems, but we also see the helpers. The doctors, nurses, and first responders putting their lives on the line without the proper protective equipment they need to keep themselves safe. Yet they do their job knowing they will likely get sick, and possibly die, as a result. The grocery store clerks who continue to stock the shelves.

These are the helpers we see and we are so grateful for them.

But there are a lot of helpers you don't see. In fact – if you're sitting at home self-isolating – you're a helper. You're helping others stay well and not putting those other helpers at further

risk. If you're wearing a mask when you do go out even though you show no symptoms, you're being a helper just in case you're one of the asymptomatic carriers.

You are also a helper to the church staff. Your ability to adapt to our new realities of online worship rather than gathering in the sanctuary has been phenomenal. We all know we would prefer the ability to come together, but in the absence of that, you have all stepped up with kind words, encouragement, and financial support. The pastors and staff have been humbled and overwhelmed by the congregation's ability to both adapt to our new circumstances as well as continue to step up and provide for the on-going ministries here at Immanuel.

Our first week of grappling with the

(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)

economic impacts of what this was going to do to all of us caused church leadership to lay out the worst-case scenario that involved furloughing employees and reducing salaries for those who were needed to continue working. Thus far, however, our giving has been strong and we have not yet needed to implement the worst-case scenario plans.

That's all because of you, dear church-goer. Your continued financial support has allowed us to keep paying our ministry staff and employees as well as the bills that of course keep coming in, not to mention continuing as many of the ministries as we are allowed to at this time. There are no words that can properly express what this means to us.

Even amidst these circumstances, we know that Immanuel's mission to share the good news of God's love in Christ Jesus is continuing to spread via our online services. People in Ohio, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New Jersey, the Carolinas, even other countries, have all been checking us out. Hundreds of people

(continued on page 3...)

ADAPTING & CHANGING



*by John McCluskey
Council President*

What an interesting time to be part of Immanuel's Leadership Team! By this time, I am sure everyone has an advanced degree in "social distancing" and hand washing. It will be good to see everyone safe and healthy when we can worship in our sanctuary again.

Immanuel has had to move our ministries online for over 4 weeks as I write this letter. In that time, we have had to consider keeping the sanctuary, school, office, and FDC open, partially open or closing them. Additional questions regarding how do we retain and compensate staff during this time needed to be addressed. These decisions have been difficult in a rapidly changing environment. I am very pleased with how the Immanuel Executive Committee and your Council has worked through these decisions. I am sure we will be revisiting these same topics when it is time to reopen.

One of the bright spots in this mess has been our ability to live stream our services. Fortunately, the Council approved ordering the equipment earlier this year and we were able to install it as this crisis was developing. Easter Services were not the same, but the message was – HE IS RISEN!! That is GOOD NEWS! I am glad we were able to share this message with everyone who joined our on-line service.

I look forward to more good news as we work through May. I pray we will be able to begin reopening next month. I am not sure what that will mean, fully reopen, limited group gatherings with smaller services, etc. We will continue to adapt in this changing environment. Stay tuned to our emails, app notifications and our website so we can keep you informed as we move forward.

Thank you for your prayers and your support! I look forward to seeing everyone again in the near (hopefully) future. ■

GRIEFSHARE GROUP ONLINE

Griefshare sessions are continuing, but have moved to an on-line format. Contact Pr. Dave Dangerfield if you are interested in participating. 561-756-2409 or dangerfd@comcast.net

STEPHEN MINISTRY

We are living in challenging times right now. Are you feeling overwhelmed and need to feel more of God's love? Stephen Ministry may be able to help. Having a Stephen Minister is being wrapped in God's love. If you would like to have your own Stephen Minister, please contact your Stephen Leaders, Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff, 221-8939 or Dr. Dave Hakala 219-0715

WHERE IS GOD?



by Cheryl Gundersdorff
Deacon

By the time you read this article I would have been on a cruise ship in the Baltic. As you know all too well, our normal routines and plans came to a screeching halt with the virus situation. It has given us more time to spend in God's Word, extended time enjoying our family, brought out more board games, and watching more movies.

Dennis and I recently watched the old classic *The Ten Commandments*. I sensed a connection between part of the movie and our present situation. Remember the background of the story? Joseph had been sold into slavery and taken to Egypt, where years later his esteemed position enabled him to bring his family of around a hundred people to Egypt to preserve them from the famine. Fast forward four hundred years and his posterity are still burdened in slavery and wondering where the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is. Doesn't he hear their cries? Where is this deliverer that he promised? How could he allow them to remain in their misery? They did not understand what was going on.

Was God really ignoring them all this time? Absolutely not! Did he care deeply for them? With all his heart! Unlike humans, God knows the future. The deliverer would come. Not to just lead a few hundred people to the Promised Land, but over a million! God knew their ensuing route would take them through enemy territory, lands to be conquered. He knew they would need enough men to form an army and be a formidable force marching across the desert. They could not do that with a small clan.

Many people today are questioning where God is in the midst of our world being shut down. Doesn't he care about those getting sick, the dying, and the financial upheaval? Absolutely he does! He is giving strength and wisdom to health care workers, wisdom to government leaders to help lessen the virus' impact, and enabling those who are financially secure to help those who are not.

While we cannot fully understand where this virus is taking our world, we can understand that as people of faith, God does see the future and he is already there. We can be confident that he walks with us every moment of every day. God's Word tells us time and again, "Do not be afraid." May the peace that passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds on Christ Jesus. ■

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

(...continued from page 2)

tuned in to our Good Friday and Easter services.

Our Soup Kitchen as well has been continuing to serve the ever-increasing demand and need for free meals, with so many forced into unemployment.

Our Quilts of Valor group has also graciously stepped up and offered to make masks for anyone who needs one – simply contact me if you are in need of a cloth mask (308-233-2289 or pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org).

When we do come together, it is worth understanding that it will be different. We will still not be able to hug and shake hands like we once did. We won't be able to cram together in a pew. We're still looking at what this will have to look like when we do open the doors to the sanctuary – and we also know that you will all be understanding as we navigate our way through that.

There are not enough words to express the gratitude we feel and how blessed we are to have such a wonderful church family that pulls together by, ironically, staying apart. It is a reminder as we approach Ascension and Pentecost that even though we can't see Jesus, we know he is present with us. We can't see you right now – but we know you are present with us. ■



Christ In Our Home Devotionals

are available for pick-up outside the church office door from 9am-noon M-F.



The Salvation Army still desperately needs your donations! You can drop donations off at 821 SE MLK Blvd, Stuart

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President

John McCluskey

john@floridaoutdoorsrv.com

Vice President

Gary Winslow

garwins@msn.com

Secretary

Laraine Montgomery

laraine14@comcast.net

Treasurer

Kim Shrum

kim.shrum2011@gmail.com

Finance

Ron Froehlich

rfroeh1944@gmail.com

Worship

Marcie Balow

mbalow45@gmail.com

Stewardship

Doug Crawford

dougc@mfps.us

Evangelism

Shelli Grimmelsman

sgrimmelsman@gmail.com

Service

Vacant

Learning

Andy Jankens

ajankens@yahoo.com

Property

Dave Vanderslice

ndslice@comcast.net

Communications

Pete Morello

shipperpete@gmail.com

Faith, Fun & Fellowship

Karen Coombs

klcoombs1@yahoo.com

Small Groups

Kate McCormic

Kate418@bellsouth.net

Thank You for Giving

from Ron Froelich, Chief Financial Officer

To those who have been faithful in sending in their offerings regularly either online or by U.S. mail, thank you. Although we have been able to reduce some expenses such as payroll and benefits and some of our creditors have deferred payments for a limited time, we still have significant expenses related to ongoing operation of our ministries and maintenance of our campus.

A dedicated group of volunteers count, record and deposit the offerings we receive each week. For those who are mailing in their offerings, you can help them and ensure that your offerings are accurately recorded by doing three things:

1. Use your offering envelopes and print your name on the offering envelope.
2. Print your envelope number on the memo line of your check.
3. Do not combine contributions for different purposes with one check. Use separate checks.

It takes our volunteers five to six times longer to process contributions that arrive without offering envelopes because they have to look up the name on the check to find the envelope number and then fill out a memo slip containing all the pertinent information needed to accurately record the contribution.

Of course, another alternative is to use our online app provided by PushPay. More and more members are using this option as we all try to minimize contact with others during this crisis.

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

	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Given	\$39,427.35	\$54,425.25	\$116,857.46	\$148,463.96
Needed	\$55,865.00	\$55,400.00	\$145,249.00	\$144,040.00
Difference	(\$16,437.65)	(\$974.75)	(\$28,391.54)	\$4,423.96

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 03/31/2020	ILC & IELC
Income	\$230,932.49
Expenses	\$232,710.26
Difference	(\$1,777.77)



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT AND ORGAN BENCH

by *Jim Peppers*
Cantor/Organist/Choir Director

The most difficult decision weeks ago to cancel our weekly gatherings was also one of the most responsible decisions I have experienced in church life. It was difficult on many levels. We

gather together as The body of Christ, proclaiming the good news that is in the Word, Sacraments, Songs, Hymns, and Prayers that we offer as a valid sacrifice to the King of Glory. Now, given our circumstances and for the safety of The Church worldwide, we are not able to do that. Any church leader that defies that reality tests the situation and is not acting on behalf of the safety of the people and are rather being prideful and reckless with the welfare of Gods people and their lives.

So, now we at Immanuel are virtual. Empty pews, choir loft, cry room, etc. The sanctuary is empty but, full of your love by way of our new live-streaming. We reach our congregation and now the world. We ARE connected all over the world and I know it IS all over the world that our service is being watched. Preaching, praying, singing, organ music, praise band, all are different for your staff. You aren't there. All we feel is your love and prayers as we stay connected by this new technology. It feels different and strange to not hear glorious voices singing, reactions to the Pastor's sermons, hear responses, and feel the Holy Spirit move through the Sanctuary. But, now we are learning to communicate God's word and song through "the air waves." The Holy Spirit continues to move. For us, that is different and has been a learning curve. How do we best communicate God's message? What works best? Your input as a congregation is important. The communications that we, as the church staff, receive from you are important. We ARE staying connected. We ARE still The Church. Is it difficult to have church without people? YES! Are we ALL doing God's work? Yes! You sing our hymns, prayers, responses, in your homes as the body of Christ. We ARE connected with each other. Let us continue, together, to strive for the best way to stay connected in these challenging times. Pray, watch, listen, sing and most importantly, STAY HOME so that we can return with a burning in our hearts to once again worship our Risen Savior, Jesus! ■

IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor
Chad Fair

pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org

Pastor

Rebecca Craig

pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org

Deacon

Cheryl Gundersdorff

cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org

Organist & Choir Director

Jim Peppers, Cantor

jimpeppers@ilcpalmcity.org

Contemporary Worship Leader

Brittany Lustig

brittanyannelustig@gmail.com

Director of Early Learning Center

Beth Tatem

bethtatem@ilcpalmcity.org

Children, Youth & Family Director

Jessica Morejon

jessicamorejon@ilcpalmcity.org

Office Manager

Mary Alicea

maryalicea@ilcpalmcity.org

Administrative Assistant

Sheri Muller

sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org

Sextons

Indra GoPaul

indramarinagopaul@gmail.com

Garron Morley

garronmorley@yahoo.com

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

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.

To join the prayer chain or request prayer for a loved one call Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939



Prayer Requests

To add someone to the prayer list contact:

Sheri at sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org

To add someone to the prayer chain contact:

Cheryl Gundersdorff, 772-221-8939 or

cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org



ADULT EDUCATION

Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month

Suspended until further notice

Sisters in Spirit

3rd Tuesday of the month

7 pm @ Panera

Suspended until further notice

Adventures through the Bible

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Off-Site

FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE MINISTRIES

Flying Solo

40-65 Singles Ministry

All get-togethers have been suspended until further notice..

Saints Alive

All get-togethers have been suspended until further notice.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

3rd Wednesday of the month

6 pm • Room 203

Suspended for April

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

Suspended until further notice

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY



Jessica Morejon

YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

So many emotions flowing since our last newsletter, dare I say many simultaneously! Nonetheless the one I chose to continuously side with, share or even really pay attention to, GRATITUDE. Yes, the sense of

thankfulness is my choice for the start of the day and the last thought before I tuck in. I am thankful to have all those reading this as part of my life story. I am thankful that you allow me into your family and even share your offspring on a weekly/daily basis. I am thankful for your kind words during what has been an ever-changing season of uncertainty. It amazes me to see the amount of peace and unity our Immanuel family has displayed in these circumstances. I am grateful for each and every one of the moments that I get to spend (even if not physically present) with each other. If there is ever a time to hear how appreciated you are, this is it! Thank you for being part of my memory bank and providing yet another reason for choosing daily gratitude, amongst all others, in the sea of emotions. Like many, I too patiently await the day where we commune together once again. Stay well Immanuel family, peace and love!

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Zoom Sunday School



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

by Pastor Chad Fair, Lead Pastor

It has been way too quiet around here with the Early Learning Center being closed due to the Coronavirus. If your house is anything like mine, the opposite is true as the last few weeks have forced conversations and decisions we never thought would be necessary. Ultimately the health and safety of our children and staff dictated our decision to close. As we look at the calendar and realize graduation is right around the corner we are again forced to have many of those same conversations. How do we celebrate VPK graduation and keep everyone safe? It is safe to say that graduation will look different than in years past. Packing our Faith Development Center just isn't an option when we consider the number of people and safety concerns. However not celebrating this milestone isn't an option either. We are currently considering a multitude of options; from doing graduation via Zoom, to celebrating one class at a time on campus. We will continue to monitor the situation and brainstorm ways to celebrate this occasion. Thank you for your understanding and please stay safe...we can't wait to see everyone again.



How Can YOU Help Send Our Youth to the 2021 Youth Gathering?

SPONSOR! Do you have a business that is willing to sponsor this mission with a lump sum donation? See Jennifer Trent and/or Pastor Chad for ways that we can help promote your business in exchange for supporting this particular mission.

DONATE! Feeling generous and moved by our spiritually engaged youth? Write a check specifically to this mission by writing Youth Gathering in the memo line of your check or pushpay. Donate over time or in a lump sum.

PRAY! Are you interested in adopting a youth member? You would pray for this child, send them encouraging notes and treats, high five them in church and just let them know that you are there to support this child on their faith journey. Each youth member needs a non-family related sponsor! Sign up sheets in the narthex!

SERVE! There will be lots of opportunities to help our youth and serve! Many options are being discussed by the committee including an art night, VBS aftercare, spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast and various fundraising sales. If you're interested in serving this mission, sign up in the narthex and you will be contacted!

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

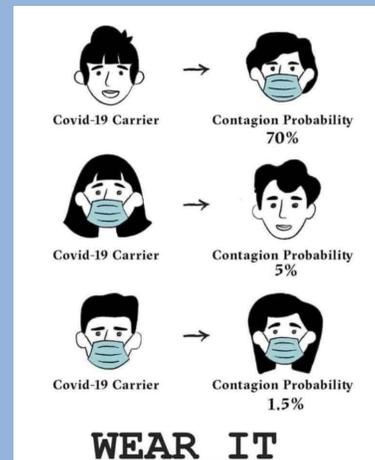
Chancel Choir
Sundays at 10 am • Choir Room
Suspended until further notice

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

NEED A MASK?



If you are in need of a cloth mask to wear when you go out in public, please let us know. Some of our Quilts of Valor ladies are willing to sew some if you need them. Please contact Pr. Rebecca if you would like to request one.
308.233.2289
pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org



LUTHERAN CHURCH
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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

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

Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays:
6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

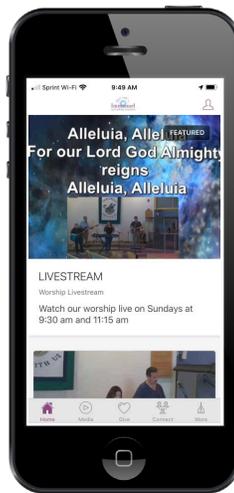
Watch our Livestream Services Every Sunday!

For the time being we are planning on having to worship online via livestream. Here's where you can find us.

Watch on Facebook
facebook.com/immanuelpalmcity

Watch on our App

Watch on our Website
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.)*