

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

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Sabbatical Review

by Pastor Rebecca Craig

It's both good to be back, and also I am lamenting, believe it or not, that two months was not long enough! (Ha!) Seems like it was over almost before it began, (Pr. Chad may have experienced the opposite, or so I've been told...) but I did get many things accomplished.

It was obviously a strange year to try and take a sabbatical. It was supposed to happen in 2020 but—the pandemic. So as I mentioned in my May newsletter article, Pr. Chad and I decided rather than waiting yet another year to go ahead and take it now. Instead of doing something educational for myself and/or going on some kind of spiritually-rejuvenating trip, we decided I would work on putting together educational videos for the congregation in the form of small group discipleship videos without all

the distractions and demands of daily ministry at the church.

While I did not get everything done I wanted to, I did get fourteen videos finished totaling about four hours. I have in the two months since finished up the final three videos and a study guide.

So what EXACTLY are these discipleship videos, you might ask? "Pathways" (as we've decided to call it) contains video-based sessions with a study guide containing both group and individual exercises that will lead participants through different methods of prayer, Bible Study, and discovering your spiritual gifts for service both in the church and the world. Our hope with what we're doing is that this will alleviate the problem of trying to find a time that

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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

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works for everyone to do adult education where the pastor can lead and teach. You'll now have your pastors teaching you in video form while you still are able to get together for fellowship in a small group setting—when it fits into *your* schedule. So we can be present with you—without actually having to try to physically be in twenty different places each week.

Now these videos are not the end. They're just an "introduction" to getting your small groups up and running. I plan on putting together ongoing supplemental videos and lessons once groups have finished the introductory sessions.

The beauty of what we are doing we feel is that it can help create both community and education without the necessity of having to meet in-person all the time. Now of course, if groups prefer in person, that's the best option. But we recognize that with both the pandemic and our large number of seasonal residents, that getting together in-person is not always possible. These are designed so

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HOUSE OF HOPE



*by John McCluskey
Council President*

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is taking additional precautions to avoid the Covid Delta strain. It was a tough decision to recommend once again wearing masks at our in-person worship services. Everyone had hoped we were done with masks but the significant ramp up in the number of cases required us to rethink this. Hopefully, this will only be for a brief period, and we can return to a more normal worship experience shortly.

Doug Crawford and the LIFT Campaign Committee have received pledges approaching \$675,000. Thank you to everyone for your support. The pledges will not only allow us to tackle the three main items, roof, playground, and parking lot but also to address a few other areas needing repair and to increase our building reserve fund. As you know, the FDC roof has been replaced. We have engaged an Engineering Firm to design the upgraded parking lot, but this will be a lengthy process given all the approvals required. The final estimates for the playground are expected during the month of September so this is moving forward nicely.

Marcie Balow and her Services team have been hard at work overseeing the Souper Sunday meal program. This was one of Immanuel's largest outreach programs before Covid but has almost doubled in size recently. We are currently serving between 70-80 meals each Sunday. The cost of providing the meals would have more than doubled as we now individually package each meal and provide bottled water. To control costs, Marcie was encouraged to reach out to House of Hope (HOH). They are a not-for-profit based in Stuart that provides food, clothing, furniture, financial assistance, information & referral, and life-changing case management services to Martin County residents in need. HOH has direct relationships with some of the larger companies in Martin County and use these relationships to gather food and other items to help individuals in need. They also provide food and supplies to other not-for-profits like Immanuel at no charge. This has allowed us to expand our Souper Sunday meals without "breaking the bank." One of HOH's primary funding sources is Publix who raises money 2-3 times per year by asking if their customers would like to contribute \$1 to charity. Next time you are asked, please say yes. You are helping support HOH and Immanuel's Souper Sunday.

Pr. Chad and Marcie recently arranged for a tour of House of Hope. We started at their farm where HOH grow fresh produce for their outlet store and for places serving the needy like Immanuel. The produce is fresh and has high nutrient content. They do not use any herbicides, so it is also very healthy. We then went to their main facility on A1A. HOH counsels and provides food for the needy at this facility. They assist over

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ARE WE EAGER TO LEARN?



by Cheryl Gundersdorff
Deacon

It is that time of year where once again the school bell rings and students are hopefully eager to learn new lessons. As children of God, we don't need a school bell but hopefully we are eager to learn lessons from God's Word and apply them to our lives.

I was thinking about the story of Noah recently and started connecting it to today's world. You may or may not agree with it, but keep in mind it is a somewhat loose analogy.

The world at that time was full of evil (it is the same today). God warns Noah there is going to be a catastrophic event, a flood (COVID). Please keep in mind that I am not insinuating that God sent the virus. God tells Noah how to be safe from the flood by building an ark (wear masks, wash hands frequently, social distance, get vaccinated). Everyone other than Noah's family dies (4.3 million COVID patients die). Thankfully there is a rainbow, a promise and a new start to the story of Noah (someday for us things will be better).

As I said, this is somewhat of a loose analogy. The point is when we read the Bible, there are always lessons that God is eager for us to learn and apply to our lives. Why? So we can know him better, grow in our faith, experience his power especially in difficult situations, and further his kingdom here on earth. And to do all this with an inner joy that not even the devil can extinguish.

The Bible is full of lessons for us. Are we eager to learn them? ■

(... "HOH" continued from page 2)

7,000 individuals each month and distribute over 2.4 million pounds of food annually collaborating with partners like Immanuel.

September and October are the time of the year where Immanuel's Nominating Committee begins recruiting Council Members for next year. This year they will be looking to fill the President, Treasurer and the Chairpersons for Properties, Learning, Worship, Services and Stewardship positions. Everyone knows I keep busy running Florida Outdoors and I have to say I was very reluctant when asked to join Immanuel's Council. I have now been on Council for over 6 years and have grown in faith along the way. Working with the other Council Members and seeing how the Holy Spirit guides the group has been amazing. What a rewarding experience! Please take time to think and pray about how you can help Immanuel if you are contacted. ■

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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you and your group can meet just as easily virtually as in the same room or home.

Ultimately, we know that for a faith community to really thrive and be the body of Christ in the world, we must have connection to one another, in addition to connection to God. We believe forming these small groups rooted in the spiritual disciplines of study, prayer and service, will help form these deeper bonds that keep us connected to God and each other. Especially during the very trying and difficult times of a pandemic that just won't seem to go away. We know how easy it can be to disconnect when we aren't always physically around people.

I'm very excited to see the final product and put our discipleship small groups into action—not just here at church, but in the world. Just be prepared to be both challenged and changed as you will grow more deeply into your relationship with Christ and one another. We hope you are as excited as we are about starting on this venture with us as together we head down new Pathways. We will have more information on how to get connected in the coming weeks. ■



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President

John McCluskey
john@floridaoutdoorsrv.com

Vice President

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shipperpete@gmail.com

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FROM THE CHOIR LOFT AND ORGAN BENCH

by Jim Peppers

Cantor/Organist/Choir Director

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord! The Choirs are excited to return to serving and offering our gifts to God. The Bell Choir will return in September with rehearsals and offerings. However, after discussing the present situation with our leaders and my colleagues all over the world and the rising dangers of the pandemic and given the Delta Variant's danger, we will NOT be having Cornerstones or the Chancel Choir return until possibly sometime in October. Granted, it is with an abundance of caution and love that we have arrived at this sad decision. But, the risks are real and present and we cannot endanger each other in any way. Our Christian concerns for each other will not allow us to be careless. Let's all pray and do what is necessary to protect, care, and love each other. Let's pray that God delivers us soon from this. ■

We now have more ways for you to give!



Mobile

Text: IPCGIVE
to 77977



Online

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

	July 2021	July 2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Given	\$25,222.60	\$35,806.11	\$257,500.42	\$293,785.75
Needed	\$44,280.00	\$44,692.00	\$332,100.00	\$335,190.00
Difference	(\$19,057.40)	(\$8,885.89)	(\$74,599.58)	(\$41,404.25)

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

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

Through 07/31/2021	ILC & IELC
Income	\$529,024.53
Expenses	\$532,569.08
Difference	(\$3,544.55)*

*Does not include PPP Loan. PPP: \$91,290.00, Difference: \$87,745.45

CLEMENTINE'S LEGACY

by Ron Froehlich, Finance Chair

Note: The following article has appeared the last two years in this newsletter. During this time of crisis, with our worship attendance and offerings diminished and challenges meeting our financial obligations, we received a distribution of over \$27,000 from the Clementine Zacke Foundation. It could not have come at a more opportune time.

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 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, rfroeh1944@gmail.com.

Griefshare

Starting Tuesday, September 14th

1:30 & 6:30 pm in Room 201

Contact Barbara Olson if you would like to participate
bjblueeyes@gmail.com, 772-208-0284

Prayer Chain vs. Prayer List...What's the Difference?

You've probably noticed we have two different prayer ministries at Immanuel: the prayer chain and the prayer list. So what are they and how are they different?

The *prayer chain* is a confidential and private way in which people from the congregation are told of specific people to pray for. The people we pray for on the prayer chain are never publicized in any way.

The *prayer list* is the list of names we read during the weekend worship services during our prayers of intercession. To be added to the prayer chain, contact Cheryl Gundersdorff. For the weekend prayer list, contact Sheri Muller in the church office.

IMMANUEL STAFF

Lead Pastor

Chad Fair

pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org

Pastor

Rebecca Craig

pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org

Deacon

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cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org

Organist & Choir Director

Jim Peppers, Cantor

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brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org

Director of Early Learning Center

Beth Tatem

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Children, Youth & Family Director

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maryalicea@ilcpalmcity.org

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Sheri Muller

sherimuller@ilcpalmcity.org

Sextons

Leeona Reid

Text: 772-444-5148

Zacary Tatem

zacary84848@gmail.com

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

cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org





Brittany Lustig

YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

Back to School! It's that time of year everyone. This Summer has just flown by and now the 2021-2022 school year begins. We blessed the backpacks on August 8th. We talked about our anxiety and fears and how God will blow his peace on us. "Peace be with you." Pastor Chad blessed the backpacks and they started school the following week. We loved to see all of our youth's "Back to School" pictures! On August 15th we met with families to kick-off our Confirmation program for this upcoming school year. This September the youth will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the ELCA Youth Gathering. If you have soccer practice? No problem! Just swing on by to grab some for take-out and go on your way. If you'd like to dine-in, you also have that option as well. The youth will be working hard in the kitchen to provide a wonderful meal for you and your family. You can purchase a ticket from myself or our other ticket volunteers for 10 dollars a person. Our 8th grade-

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CHILDREN, Y

Youth Spaghetti Dinner

2022 Youth Gathering Fundraiser Event

September 10th, 5-8 PM
Faith Development Center

\$10/person
Take-Out Option Available

Tickets go on sale
August 14th/15th



HS Disney Outing



YOUTH & FAMILY

Back to School



(...continued from page 6)

high school students met for our first Youth Gathering meeting. If you are interested in going to the Youth Gathering in 2022, please contact me or Pastor Chad. The registration deadline is November 1st. We're getting very excited to continue our fundraising and planning this wonderful gathering for our youth ministry program. God has blessed us with amazing youth in this congregation, and I for sure feel blessed to be a part of their lives. ■

Upcoming Events

- Spaghetti Dinner
September 10th
- Youth Sunday @ 9:30 am -
September 19th
- Confirmation Class
September 19th
- First Communion, Tuesday,
Sept. 21 @ 5:30 pm - Pizza
dinner provided. Rm 203
- Fall Festival Oct. 15-16
- Youth Gathering
Registration Deadline
November 1st



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Leeona Reid
Sexton/Custodian

Leeona Reid is our newest addition to the Immanuel staff as our sexton/custodian. Originally from St. Louis, MO, Leeona had a difficult childhood and was raised throughout the state of Florida. Her Martin County roots are from her grandmother who stepped in from time to time to help raise her.

Leeona has four children of her own - three boys, one girl, and now one granddaughter.

She's a retired executive chef and her previous job was in a National and State Park concessions where she traveled and trained in food safety at various parks in the country. She also owned a cleaning company for ten years.

Leeona gave up the expense of apartment living and resides in "Gypsy," her shuttle bus that she renovated herself into a mini-RV. You've probably seen it sitting in our parking lot from time to time when she's been at work. Clearly someone who can turn their own vehicle into a living space is handy to have around Immanuel. Be sure to welcome her when you see her around campus.

REFLECTIONS on Faith and Finances

The clue to being a cheerful giver is found in the words surrounding Paul's statement that God loves a cheerful giver.

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

In the words that surround Paul's appeal for cheerful giving, Paul talks about generous giving, he talks about intentional giving, he talks about regular giving. The key to being a cheerful giver is to practice the other stewardship values. If the first five stewardship values characterize your giving, you will be cheerful in your giving. If they don't, you won't. It is that simple.

"Reflections on Faith and Finance" by Charles Lane

**Family Promise
2nd Annual**



BED RACES
October 23rd 2021

Ending Childhood Homelessness
One Family at a Time

If you are interested in joining the Immanuel team for this year's Family Promise Bed Races, please contact Pastor Chad at pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



by Director Beth Tatem

School started out with a BLAST!! Let's all have a great year.

Our curriculum will be starting in September. Bring your DAD to school day will be on Sept 10th at 11:45. Please come join us for lunch.

Reminder we are selling T-Shirts in the school office if you are interested in purchasing one, the cost is \$12.00 for one or \$22.00 for two. Pizza for the month of Aug is \$9.00. Sept will be \$12.00. If you have not returned your inside sheet of the Parent Handbook, please do so.

Starting next Friday we will be having Spirit Day, so if your child has a school t-shirt they may start wearing them on Fridays.

All the after school programs will be starting in September. If you still need a sign up sheet, please come to Ms. Beth's office.

Reminders:

- Please remember the parents will not be allowed in the building at this time until further notice.
- If you are late dropping your children off please bring them to Ms. Beth's office.
- Please do not be late picking up your child from school.
- 12:15 for the 18-24 month olds to the 3's (Half day)
- 12:30 for the VPK (Half day)
- Tuition is due the first Monday of every month for the half day children and Monday of every week for the full time children.
- There will be no school on Monday, September 6th for Labor Day.

Watch our Livestream Services Every Weekend!

Livestreaming Worship Times:

Sat. 6 pm - Casual Traditional Worship
Sun. 9:30 am - Contemporary Worship
Sun. 11:15 am - Traditional Worship

Visit our website at immanuelpalmcity.org or download our app to watch. All services are now both online & in-person. Please remember we are requesting people wear masks for our in-person worship once again for the health & safety of all.

BRIDGE GROUP

If you're fully vaccinated, join us Wednesdays in the choir room at 1:00 pm to play bridge. Anyone who would like to play is welcome.



Prayer Bear Report



Where have the prayer bears been this past year? They've been in lock down for safety against Covid-19. Now they are back and ready to work for the congregation once again. Please take one to show your love and kindness and God's love to someone who is ill, hospitalized or just needs to know you care. Of course, they are great for happy occasions as well!



Join Pastors Chad and Rebecca for their weekly podcast discussing the weekly text more in-depth. Available on our website or on our app.

ADULT EDUCATION

Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month
3 PM • Choir Room

Sisters in Spirit

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

FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE MINISTRIES

Griefshare

Tuesdays 1:30 & 6:30 pm
Room 201
Starts Sept. 14

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

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

*Carry-Out only until further
notice*

Bible Study & Adult Ed



Deborah Circle Women's Ministry

Welcome back, ladies! We will continue our Bible study of the book of Matthew, September 13th at 3PM in the choir room. All ladies of Immanuel are invited to join us. Contact Deacon Cheryl 221-8939 for more information.



Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry

Welcome back ladies! We will be continuing our Bible study on Experiencing the Heart of Jesus. All ladies of Immanuel are invited to join us. We will meet September 21st at Immanuel. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff (221-8939) for more information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you experiencing a difficult time of life right now? Do you need someone who will listen and walk with you during this time? 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 Leader, Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff, 221-8939.



Prayer Chain Ministry

So many people are in need of prayer, especially during these difficult times. Our Immanuel prayer chain is always available to pray for you or those you know in need of prayer. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 to request prayer or to become a member of our prayer team.





Souper Sundays

Every Sunday we partner with other local religious and non-profit organizations to help feed the hungry with our Souper Sundays Soup Kitchen. Anyone needing a well balanced, healthy meal for dinner is welcome. Immanuel Lutheran volunteers serve every third and fifth Sunday. To volunteer, contact Marcie Balow at 283-0982 or mbalow45@gmail.com

FOOD & TOILETRY BAG DONATIONS FOR SOUPER SUNDAYS



We are continuing to distribute food & toiletry bags at Souper Sunday. We will be accepting donations of the following (NEW, not used) items:

Food Bags: Tuna salad (boxes or foil bags), Chicken salad (boxes or foil bags), Jif to Go, Filled snack crackers (peanut butter or cheese filled), Breakfast bars, Fruit cups,

Keebler/Ritz Crackers (Snack packs).

Toiletry Bags: (Travel size preferred) Soap (bar or liquid), Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/brushes, Hand lotion, Small combs, Wet wipes, Hand sanitizer.

Contact Karen Coombs at
772-600-7272

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Contemporary Worship Team

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

Bell Choir

Saturdays at 4:30 pm • Sanctuary

Chancel Choir

Sundays at 10 am • Choir Room
Will resume in Oct

Cornerstone Singers

Saturdays @ 5:15 pm • Sanctuary
pdcjimmy@hotmail.com
Will resume in Oct

Children's Choir/JAM

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm • FDC



The Salvation Army still desperately needs your donations! Immanuel is a drop-off location for non-perishable foods weekdays from 9 am - 3 pm

New Member Class

Thursday, Sept. 30th
6 pm • Rm 201

Sign up in the Narthex or email
pastorchad@ilcpalmcity.org



LUTHERAN CHURCH
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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

Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays:

6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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



FALL Festival



October 15th • 4 - 8 pm

**Trunk-or-Treat • Fairy Hair • Face Painting • Bounce House
Games • Food**

Rummage Sale in FDC (Oct 15th & 16th)

(Please bring items for the Rummage Sale starting Oct. 10 and drop off in the FDC)