



From the Deacon's Desk

BY CHERYL GUNDERSDORFF

How many of you walked into or outright jumped into mud puddles as a kid, even when you told not to? Maybe you are still tempted to do it. When we approach a mud puddle, we may be curious about how deep it is and test it with the edge of our shoe. We might even walk through it cautiously so as not to slip and fall, but our shoes get even muddier. Or we jump with abandon into the mud puddle thinking it is fun only to find ourselves covered with mud.

Sin is like mud puddles. We know we should avoid the sin but sometimes our curiosity overcomes our sense of right. We give in just a little or walk right into it. We might even throw caution to the wind and jump with abandon right into it. What a muddy mess we become! Our sin becomes a stain we cannot wash out.

Thankfully there is a stain remover to make us clean again. He gave up his royal throne and glories of heaven and was born in a lowly unclean manger in the messiness of human birthing. He walked the messy road of humanity for only a few decades, though remained Himself holy and righteous while loving, teaching, and healing.

Then in the ultimate degradation, obediently entered into the horrific torture of beatings and crucifixion on a cross. But that's not all. Though placed in a tomb, He did what no one expected, even though He predicted it. He defeated sin and death and the tomb burst open to new life. Hallelujah, Jesus!

He didn't do all that for Himself. He did it for us, His treasured creation covered in sin. He came to cleanse us from our moral muckiness. Not just our muddy shoes. Our whole being-body, soul, heart and mind. Our muddy stains are gone and we are made right with God.

Yes, we may still test the mud puddles of sin, though hopefully it is less and less with each passing day as we grow into the person God created us to be. Thank you, Jesus, for cleansing us and giving us a place in eternity with you. Now, let's live like resurrection people.

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ALTAR GUILD MEETING

The Altar Guild will meet on
Wednesday, May 8, at 10 AM in
the STUART FELLOWSHIP HALL.

We welcome ALL interested
volunteers to help serve
communion or care for the altar.

For more information, call
Marj Smith at 772-286-8974 or
Belinda Lowe at 772-634-0194.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY NATALIE DAVIS

Dear wonderful friends of Immanuel,

May is here, and the end of school is near. We have had such a great school year. Parents' night out with Mrs. Brittany and her amazing helpers was a huge success. Over 35 kids, and we had the best time. Dance parties, games, crafts, playground adventures, and delicious snacks made it a night to remember. VPK graduation is approaching, and we are practicing to get ready for our big day. As the year comes to a close, we will celebrate all we have learned, the friendships formed, and the memories made. We will miss each and every one of our graduates and look forward to our littles moving up. Summer is almost here, and camp will begin. Stay tuned, friends, as summer is sure to be the best yet. Happy May to all of our Immanuel friends and families.

Love always, Mrs. Natalie & The Preschool Staff



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY PERALTA

This past month has been a wild ride of joy and events! Our game night was a blast, and some of our younger youth got to play games with our pastors and older congregation members. Seeing our Immanuel community come together for fun and TACOS was a blessing! We had laughs and made some incredible memories. We can't wait for our next game night!

We continued the month with a parent's night out, and the preschool kids, mixed with Immanuel's youth group, rocked the house! Crafts, nail painting, corn hole, snacks, and more. I want to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Natalie and the preschool teachers who donated their time to make the event an incredible experience for all the kids. Thank you, Mrs. Natalie, for helping me organize it and inviting all your preschool friends. There's never a lack of love here for those children. We sure LOVE to love on them and have some fun.

We are so excited to see some of our youth getting ready for baptisms and confirmation Sunday in May! It's going to be a faith-filled May with huge milestones for these kids. I am so blessed to be a part of their journey of getting closer to God and spreading that light wherever they go.



CONFIRMATION



Growing Together

BY BRITTANY PERALTA

Hey there, wonderful Immanuel families of our congregation! As your dedicated youth director, I'm always thrilled to see the love and support you pour into your children's lives. But you know what's even more amazing? We can have an incredible impact on our young ones when we come together to explore and nurture our faith as a family (church family included).

I know life can get crazy busy, and finding time to focus on spiritual growth as a family might seem like a tall and impossible order. But trust me, the rewards are well worth the effort, and I'm here to navigate it all with you and your family! When we prioritize faith as a family, we deepen our connection with each other and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

How can we make this happen in a natural and enjoyable way for everyone involved? Let's start by embracing the idea that faith exploration doesn't have to be rigid or boring. Instead, let's infuse it with joy, laughter, and a spirit of adventure.

One way to get the ball rolling is by incorporating faith into our everyday routines. Whether it's sharing stories from the Bible over breakfast, praying together before bedtime, or discussing the sermon on the drive home from church, these simple moments help weave faith into the fabric of our daily lives.

But why stop there? Let's think outside the box and get creative with our faith adventures! Mrs. Amy, Pastor Chad, and I are dedicated to creating faith-filled experiences for your child and family. With youth group happening once a month for each age group, confirmation, Children's Church, game nights, parent's night out, mission trips, and retreats, we are prepared to shower your children with love and teach them about the incredible, overwhelming love of Jesus. These experiences will deepen our children's understanding of compassion and service, strengthen their relationship with Jesus, and grow their faith tenfold!

I know change can be daunting, and starting small is okay. The important thing is that we're taking steps, however tiny, to prioritize faith as a family. So, let's lean into this journey together, supporting and encouraging one another every step of the way. Immanuel is here for you, and we're ready with highlighters and glitter pens to figure out the schedule that works best for our Immanuel family.

Remember, our faith isn't meant to be lived in isolation. It's a journey we embark on together, hand in hand, as we grow and learn alongside each other. So, let's embrace this opportunity to strengthen our family bonds and nurture our faith in the process. Let's dive in and watch our faith flourish as we journey together as a family united in love and devotion.

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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.

	March 2024	YTD 2024
Given	\$53,292.53	\$136,906.11
Budgeted	\$46,850.96	\$121,812.50
Difference	\$6,441.57	\$15,093.61

Operating Fund Income and Expenses

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

Through 12/31/2023	ILC & IELC
Income	\$327,706.13
Expenses	\$288,109.33
Difference	\$39,596.80



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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We can always use help serving as worship assistants, whether it is as a member of the altar guild, communion assistant, greeter, reader, choir member, bell ringer, musician, or ushers. We especially need volunteers now to serve as ushers at the 11:15 a.m. worship service. Written duties and instructions are provided, and if we have enough volunteers, you are only asked to serve once a month. And it doesn't take any additional time, as you would be here at worship anyway!

Call Ron Froehlich at (772) 283-7351
for more information or to volunteer.

START
the
PARTY
VBS 2024

REGISTER NOW!

ON OUR WEBSITE!
JUNE 17TH-JUNE 21ST
Immanuel
Be the light

BYOB
BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE

Immanuel encourages
you to bring your own
Bible to worship.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

2nd Monday in
room 201 at 3PM.

3rd Tuesday at
Panera Bread at
7PM

STEPHEN MINISTRY

2nd Monday in room
201 at 6:30 PM.

For more information, contact
your Stephen Leaders:
Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff:
485-1954
or
Jerry Shuler:
716-254-0784.