

GOOD NEWS



The Importance of Advent: A Season of Hopeful Waiting

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter the Advent season, Advent wreaths of evergreen appear. Advent is a time of preparation, of waiting, and of hope—a season deeply rooted in the rhythms of our faith and central to our journey as followers of Christ.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." During these four weeks leading to Christmas, we are invited to pause and reflect on the coming of Jesus in three profound ways: His humble birth in Bethlehem, His daily presence in our lives, and His promised return in glory. Each of these reminds us of God's faithfulness and love for a world in need of redemption.

But why wait? Why not skip ahead to the joy and celebration of Christmas morning? That's what the rest of the world does.

Advent teaches us that waiting is not wasted time—it's sacred time. In a culture that prizes instant gratification, Advent pulls us back to the slower, more intentional pace of faith. We light the candles one by one, week by week, marking the progression of hope, peace, joy, and love. We lean into the promises of God with hearts tuned to His Word, trusting that even in the waiting, God is at work.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). In Advent, we acknowledge the darkness—the brokenness of our world and our own lives—and we turn to the One who brings the light of salvation. It's a time to open our hearts in prayer, to mend relationships, to serve our neighbors, and to make space for the Christ child to enter in.

For our Lutheran tradition, Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas. It is a sacred reminder of God's promise to bring renewal and redemption. The season calls us to trust in what we cannot yet see—to trust that God is Immanuel, "God with us," and that God's love continues to transform our lives and our world.

This year I want us to focus on just that, God's love transforming lives and the world. So rather than just skipping Advent and moving on to Christmas, we're going to do something a little different this year. The year we will hang wreaths and set up an Advent tree rather than a Christmas tree. What's the difference? We'll use the same tree, but the decorations will be different. The Advent decorations will be gift cards. We'll have blank gift cards on the tree for you to take and load at the store and bring back. Then those cards will be delivered to Family Promise. God's love transforming lives and the world.

But when will we turn the advent tree into a Christmas Tree? We will transform the tree with our normal Christmas decorations after worship on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 22nd.

BY PASTOR CHAD

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Anyone interested in helping serve communion or taking care of the altar at either location, please reach out. If you have been thinking of joining us, this would be a good time to check us out!

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



PRESCHOOL UPDATE

BY NATALIE DAVIS

Hey Immanuel friends,

Happy December!!! The holiday season is here, and we are full of excitement and joy at Immanuel Preschool! November was such a special month, filled with gratitude and love. We had a wonderful time preparing for Thanksgiving and sharing what we're thankful for with each other.

Now we're diving headfirst into all things Christmas! The children have been working hard on their Christmas music and show, and we can't wait for you to see it. Their enthusiasm and creativity are shining through in every song and rehearsal!

We're also celebrating the season with festive crafts, holiday stories, and plenty of fun activities to keep the spirit of Christmas alive in the classroom. It's such a blessing to see the joy and wonder of the holidays through the eyes of our amazing preschoolers. Wishing you all a season full of love, peace, and happiness.

Have a fabulous December!

We've Been Invited!

TO SING!

Palm City's Holiday Village

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
MAPP ROAD
6 PM



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

BY BRITTANY PERALTA

The most wonderful time of the year is here, and our hearts are overflowing with Christmas joy! December is always such a magical season, and it's a blessing to see our community come together to celebrate and share the love of Christ.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped "deck the halls" and prepare our space for the advent season. From hanging wreaths to twinkling lights, you've made our church feel warm and welcoming for all who walk through our doors. It's truly a gift to see our community's heart and creativity shine in every detail as we wait for Baby Jesus!

I also want to take a moment to thank all the amazing volunteers and youth group leaders who have dedicated their time and energy throughout the year. Your work has touched so many lives, and we couldn't do it without you. Whether it's guiding our youth, organizing events, or simply showing up with a helping hand, you are a vital part of this ministry.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let's remember to carry the spirit of Christmas with us: love, hope, and kindness. May your December be filled with joy, laughter, and the peace that comes from knowing we are surrounded by His love.

With Christmas blessings,
Brittany



Poinsettia Orders

Order a poinsettia this Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one to be displayed during our Christmas Eve worship services. Cost: \$12/ea
Deadline: Dec. 15th

of Poinsettias (\$12/ea): _____ Envelope # (if known): _____

Palm City Campus Stuart campus

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Your name: _____

Palm City: You may pick your poinsettia up after the 11 pm service or on Thursday, Dec. 26th at the church.
Stuart: You may pick up your poinsettia following the 2 pm service.

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ALTAR GUILD | CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 11, at Noon

At the Home of Marj Smith.

Members bring a dish to share. Meat and drinks will be provided.

(Directions to Marj's home are posted in the Sacristy.)

A short meeting will follow the meal.

Christmas Eve Worship

2 PM - STUART

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT
FOLLOWED BY POT-LUCK DINNER IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL

4 PM - PALM CITY

CONTEMPORARY CANDLELIGHT
FAMILY SERVICE

6 PM - PALM CITY

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT

11 PM - PALM CITY

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT

All Palm City services will be livestreamed. All services will have communion.

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.

	October 2024	YTD 2024
Given	\$32,213.98	\$411,817.04
Budgeted	\$38,250.00	\$411,187.50
Difference	-\$6,036.02	\$629.54

Operating Fund Income and Expenses

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

ILC & IELC	YTD 2024
Income	\$1,104,262.67
Expenses	\$1,071,917.33
Difference	\$32,345.34



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2200 NW Federal Hwy
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Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Stuart, FL
Permit No. 144

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



"LOVE, LOSS & WHAT I WORE"

FEATURING LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ACTRESSES
Gloria Allen, Nancy Ferraro, Tina Jensen, Liz Nesson,
Caryn Schneider, Stacey Spencer, Carolyn Worline

Beautifully written by superstar sisters Nora and Delia Ephron based on a book by Ilene Beckerman, the story of women and their love/hate relationships with clothes would seem on first blush to be a rather shallow one, but it is, in fact, the exact opposite. Subtly interpreted by the *Love Loss Ladies*, this is a funny, sad, serious, tragic tale that every woman will relate to. Men who think this isn't for them will leave feeling they have been given a treasured glimpse into the struggles women face daily, as symbolized by the clothing women wear and don't wear and can't wear and can't stop wearing.

The play is comprised of a sequence of essays built around a series of drawings made by Ginny. In between, we meet many women of all shapes and sizes, from all walks of life, whose real stories are shared with the audience.

Sunday, December 15, 2024
Immanuel Stuart Campus Sanctuary
Brunch at 11:15 am | Performance at 1:30 pm

Tickets \$10 available after Worship Services at both locations and at the door
Contact Roberia Virta for more information 772-284-8418

**thrivent
MEMBERS**

Please remember to use your Action Team benefit before the end of the year. The following programs can use your help: Snack Bags, Soup Kitchen, Immanuel Early Learning Center (our preschool) and perhaps an event of your choice.

Please do not leave the "money" unused. For those of you, who have already used your Thrivent Benefit, Thank you!

For additional information call me Karen Coombs @772-475-3312
or your Thrivent representative.

Celebrating the Birth of Christ
Christmas
Tea

Tickets \$10

Saturday, 14th December | 1 PM
Immanuel Palm City

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**
DECEMBER 8TH

1

ONE SERVICE @ 10 AM

POTLUCK TO FOLLOW