

Immanuel Evangelical Church

April, 2024



EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



“The Chosen Season 4”
exclusive screening begins April 7



Our church will host an exclusive screening of “The Chosen Season 4” on Sundays at 6:30 pm starting April 7. This free screening opportunity is made possible via a partnership between The Chosen and Outreach Films. Season 4 of The Chosen will be screened at select churches nationwide before it heads to online streaming later this year. Adults, teens, and families are invited to attend. The public is invited to join us.



Rev. Ron Shifley
Senior Pastor
Office 979-793-6282
Pastoral Emergencies
Cell 419-905-9844

Rev. George R. Kuebler
Pastor Emeritus

Deanna Shifley
Interim Youth Director
Office 979-793-6283
Cell 567-242-4490
Email: youth@iecneedville.org

Samantha Sebesta
Leaps & Bounds Director
Office 979-553-3357

Jackie Moody
Organist/Keyboardist

Debbie Palmer
Church Office Manager
Church Office 979-793-6125
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Mon-Fri 9:00 am -- 2:30 pm

Streetharts of Haiti mission
speaker to join us April 7

Wayne Huber will be joining us on Sunday, April 7 during worship to share about Streetharts of Haiti, one of the global missions that our church has supported for a number of years.

Wayne and his daughter, Hope, have gone on a number of mission trips to Haiti and



are deeply engaged in the Streetharts of Haiti ministry. Wayne will give us a synopsis of how the mission started, its current situation given the political unrest that has taken hold in Haiti, and the possibility of folks from Immanuel Church joining him on a mission trip to Haiti in January 2025.

Streetharts of Haiti is the global mission that our church will be raising funds to support in April. You can learn more about this mission via our Digital Missions Display center in the Main Lobby of the church.

Palm Sunday Donkey at hit with the kids during Holy Week 2024

Our Palm Sunday Donkey was a hit with kids of all ages as he was our special guest after worship on March 24. Families got a chance to get pictures taken with the donkey in a photo shoot by a volunteer professional photographer.

The Palm Sunday Donkey was sponsored by the Worship Committee with Keith Kostelnik and Johnathon Morton helping to coordinate the event. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Ron's Ramblings



What if Jesus had not risen from the grave?

At the heart of the Christian faith is that Jesus rose from the grave on what we call Resurrection Day (Easter Sunday). This fact is what the Apostle Paul calls the truth “of first importance” for the Early Church.

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to [Peter], and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

The question to be asked, or course, is what would have happened if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

In 2002 a stone ossuary (bone box) was made public in an article published by *Biblical Archeology Review* magazine. They claimed that the ossuary of James, the brother of Jesus had possibly been found and that it was inscribed in Aramaic, “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus.” While the revelation of this artifact caused a stir because it offered historical proof of Jesus’ family, the discovery of the bone box also shed some light on first century Jewish burial practices that many around the world had forgotten.

The gospels share the first stage of normal Jewish burial customs from that time. “Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body [of Jesus], wrapped it in the linen, and

placed it in a tomb cut out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.” (Mark 15:46)

If Jesus hadn’t risen from the grave, the body would then have decomposed and a year later the family would have returned and lovingly gathered his bones that were laid out in the tomb, and placed them into a stone ossuary inscribed his name on it and placed the bone box in a small burial niche which would have contained other ossuaries of family members who were also buried there.



The James Ossuary

That’s what happened later on to James the brother of Jesus. When tomb robbers stole his ossuary from a first century tomb outside of Jerusalem, they would have seen the bones still inside the bone box after all of these centuries later. That’s what archeologists discovered when they found the ossuary of Caiaphas, the High Priest, who had Jesus arrested and sent him to Pilate for Roman trial and crucifixion. Caiaphas’ bone box can be seen today in a museum in Jerusalem.

Yet, this was not Jesus’ story. The Gospel of Luke recounts that on the third day when Mary Magdalene and a couple of other women went to the tomb, they found the stone outside rolled away and his tomb empty. An angel at the tomb said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!” (Luke 24:5-6)

Jesus lives! He arose on the third day. His bones were never put in an ossuary. The resurrection of Jesus interrupted the family burial practices and the plans of Caiaphas. Praise God that we have a living Savior and his name is Jesus Christ!



Celebrating 100 years!

Olie Eixman celebrated her 100th Birthday with a party here at the church hosted by our Women’s Guild. Quite a few church members took part in the festivities on March 9. One special guest was Rev. George Kuebler, our Pastor Emeritus, who reminisced of working with Olie for many years when she was our church organist. He started serving our church on Ash Wednesday 1974 when Olie was a mere 50 years old.

One fun fact, our Sanctuary was dedicated August 10, 1924. Olie is the only church member still around who would have attended the church’s dedication 100 years ago!



Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on March 22, 2024 with 15 members present. Sandra Zacek gave a report on the upcoming "Spring Get-Away Brunch". The Easter Breakfast plans were finalized. Roxy Graeber reported on the sale of the Easter Lillies. The Women's Guild will provide the March birthday cakes to SPJST and Reliable Oaks. A baked good silent auction will be held on April 14th during the Fellowship gathering at the church. Prayer concerns were read and prayed for. Birthdays and anniversaries were celebrated. Becky Oberhoff won the door prize. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Women's Guild

"Spring Get-Away Brunch"

Saturday, April 13, 2024

10 am - Noon

@ IEC

For ALL Immanuel Women
RSVP by April 1



Fellowship Committee monthly MOVIE MATINEE.

Tuesday, April 2,
2:00 pm

Please join us for an afternoon of relaxation as we snack on popcorn, drink lemonade, and enjoy the movie

"The Resurrection of Gavin Stone"



125th Anniversary | 100 Years in our Current Building



Save the date...

Sunday, June 2, 2024 we will be celebrating the 125th Anniversary of our Immanuel Evangelical Church family along with the 100th Anniversary of our church building.

That day we'll have special worship, a special meal, and play I.E.C. History Jeopardy Game.

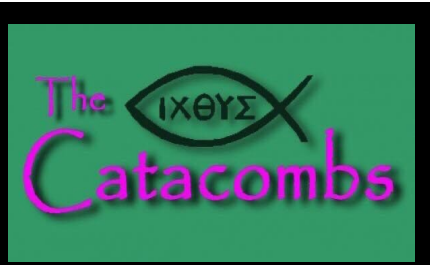
Bring your whole family and help us invite former members who have moved out of the area to join us for this grand event!

IEC YOUTH

Deanna Shifley, Interim Youth Director
Email: Deanna.shifley@gmail.com
Cell: 567-242-4490
Office: 979-793-6283



Knights! Castles! Princesses! Dragons! Join Princess Pride, Sir Brags-a-lot, and their curious band on an amazing trek in a very faraway land.
Powerful gospel message - amazingly cool songs - the hippest tracks.
Registration and volunteer forms are available on the church website and in the Main Lobby by the Church Office.



**Friday nights
8 pm
For teens
grades 6-12**

**Come enjoy the fun
and fellowship .**

**Invite friends!
Show them that you
can be a Christian
and still have fun!**

**Last month!
Ends May 3rd.**

Summer Church Camp
Warda, Texas

prodigal

2024 EA YOUTH CAMP

2ND-5TH GRADE - JULY 18-19 - \$50
6TH-12TH GRADE - JULY 21-24 - \$120

Youth send first mission funds to Ukraine



Our teens sent \$100.00 they had collected to the Hope Now Ministries which supports the Shpola Orphanage in Ukraine. The mission supports both elementary kids at the orphanage and orphanage alumni teens (15+ years old) who live in transitional housing.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR APRIL

“SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE”

Holy Week Recap



Members of our Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship took part in presenting the Good Friday Drama on March 29. Added to the drama this year was the scene where Jesus was tried by the Sanhedrin under the High Priest Caiaphas. Deanna Shifley sewed new costumes for Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea and the Temple Guard. New costumes were purchased for Pontius Pilate and Caiaphas. Special thanks goes out to Marla Sebesta, Nathan Gaskamp and Mike Richter for their help with the drama.



On Maundy Thursday, March 28, our church family gathered in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the Passover Feast. We retold the story of Moses and the Exodus while playing with our food: mixed nuts and raisins, hard boiled eggs, parsley and salt water & grape juice, flat bread, roasted lamb, cheese, grapes, and sweet bread. This year we had frog cupcakes as dessert which recalls one of the 10 plagues that God inflicted upon Egypt to help free the enslaved Hebrew people. A hearty meal was shared by all in attendance. Thanks to everyone who helped cook, serve and clean up after the dinner.



Our Maundy Thursday service on March 28 featured the drama “At The Table.” Church members portrayed some of Jesus’ disciples and others eyewitnesses of Jesus’ final days. Taking part in the drama were Corbin March, Dale Oberhoff, Bill Johnson, Melissa Kostelnik, Steven Britt, Marc Gadway, and Keith Kostelnik.

CROP Hunger Walk to be held in Needville on May 4

The Fort Bend County CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 8:00 am at Harvest Park here in Needville.

Seventy five percent of the funds raised by walkers will go to Church World Service to help fight global hunger in over 70 countries worldwide. The remaining 25% will return to Fort Bend County with half of those funds helping out the

Needville Community Food Pantry.

The Missions Committee is challenging our church to recruit at least a dozen walkers to represent our congregation the day of the walk and for them to seek out financial sponsors. It would be great if our church could raise around \$1,000.

If you’d like to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk, participant envelopes are available in the church office.

SAVE THE DATE.....
OPEN MARKETPLACE IS COMING!!
OCTOBER 13, 2024
@ Columbus Hall!

Brian Zwahr and Cindy Schulze are Co-Chairmen
of our annual fundraiser.

We have a committee of ten people
who have begun planning this event.

At this time, our greatest needs are someone to volunteer to be in
charge of the basket raffle and the publicity.

If you can help with either of those items, please contact
Brian (979-533-2611) or Cindy (832-344-7176).

Stay tuned for more information that will be coming
in future newsletters and announcements in church.

IEC FINANCIALS FOR MARCH			
TOTAL INCOME: \$32997.10			
(Bldg use \$7500)			
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$22,144.98			
BUDGETED AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES: \$21,225.83			
ATTENDANCE WORSHIP			
	ONLINE	FB	YOUTUBE
MAR 3	97	100	5
MAR 10	95	116	5
MAR 17	76	185	9
MAR 24	141	129	5

Missions/Outreach

Strethearts for Haiti is a mission that Immanuel Evangelical Church has supported for 10 years.



We will have speakers, **Wayne Huber and his daughter, Hope**, in church April 7 to share their experiences of serving at this mission.

Haiti holds the unenviable position of being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. At least 80% of the population lives in poverty, including a large number of street

children.

Street children are defined as children three to sixteen years of age for whom the street has become home. They have lost their families through natural disasters, illness or abandonment due to financial hardship. Abusive, dysfunctional, poverty-stricken dynamics at home often leave little alternative.

Since street children generally do not have protection, supervision or direction, they are vulnerable targets for exploitation, disease and addictions due to hunger and abuse. Typically, they resort to theft and violence as a means to an end. They are frequently exploited sexually, which is a topic not often discussed in Haitian culture. While it may not be “acceptable” it happens constantly.

Strethearts works as a change agent for street kids in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, helping to redirect the course of their lives by providing for fundamental needs along their path from childhood to adulthood. They don't believe in institutionalizing children. Each child steps into an individualized life plan when they enroll. The key to self-improvement starts with each child's acceptance of who he is and developing his plan for the future.



There are three phases of Strethearts:

Night Shelters - *Establishing a Home*: The Night Shelter; the most basic care for those 14 and under who have not yet chosen to leave the street life behind. Each evening, they can enter the Phase One facility and be given a bed and locker. These are given on a 1st come, 1st serve basis. The boys receive a meal each evening if they come in before 8:30 PM – this is an incentive to get them off the streets early.

Heart House - *Earning an Education*: The Children's Center; Boys aged 6-15 who have shown commitment to leaving the street life behind can move into our Phase Two center. In Phase Two, the boys are enrolled in school. They live at the facility full-time and are responsible for helping run the house. They participate in sports and fine arts activities depending on their interests and are expected to complete one community service project each month.



Transition Program - *Entering the Workforce*: The Young Leader's Apartment Complex; boys aged 16-21 enter into the apartment complex where they gain guided independence in preparation for graduation at 21. The same programs are offered as in Phase Two at a more advanced level. At this stage, the boys are being prepared to have the skills to live as contributing members of their community with the goal of impacting Haiti in a positive way.

Our IEC Mission Committee appreciates your support of this important mission. Reminder that the yellow Mission envelopes for donations are in your pew. Please place your envelope in the offering plate.



NEEDS FOR MONTH OF APRIL: BREAKFAST ITEMS

Cereal
Pancake Mix



Missions' Offerings

April's Missions
Goal: \$1,000.00

April's Focus: Strethearts for Haiti

News from the Lily Pad

April 2024

Thank you to everyone for your participation in our football pot and tamale sales!
We appreciate all the support!

Spring pictures will be April 18th with
Gebhart Photography.

Needville Youth Fair is here!
Can't wait to be in the parade on April 20nd!

Donuts with Dad April 25th. Woohoo!!!

We can't believe the year is almost over! Summer, here we come!

As always, we are so blessed to be able to have such a full calendar of wonderful events! Thank You to our Board Members for always lending a helping and guiding hand as well as our Leap Frog Parents, we would not be here without you all!

Our April Memory Verse is:
With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

Leaping for Education—Bound by Christ



Thank you to
Needville Family Dentistry and
Debby Wendt for taking time to
share with us!



April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm <i>Movie Matinee</i> "Resurrection of Gavin Stone" 2:00 pm	<i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30pm <i>Bells Choir Rehearsal</i> 5:30 - 6:00 pm <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm <i>Evangelism</i> 3:00 pm <i>Christian Education Committee</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens</i> 11:00 am <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship/Communion</i> 10:15 am <i>The Chosen Season 4</i> 6:30 pm		<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm <i>Fellowship Committee</i> 2:00 pm <i>Leaps & Bounds Board</i> 7:00 pm	<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30 - 2:00 pm <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30pm <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm <i>Worship Committee</i> 7:00 pm <i>Missions Committee</i> 8:00 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens</i> 11:00 am <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm	<i>Women's Guild Spring Getaway Brunch</i> 10 - 12:00 pm
	Pastor Ron - EA Board Meeting					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship/Perfect Attendance</i> 10:15 am <i>The Chosen Season 4</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:00 pm	<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm <i>Brotherhood</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30pm <i>Bells Choir Rehearsal</i> 5:30 - 6:00 pm <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm <i>Consistory</i> 7:00 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens</i> 11:00 am <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am <i>The Chosen Season 4</i> 6:30 pm		<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm	<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30 - 2:00 pm <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30pm <i>Bells Choir Rehearsal</i> 5:30 - 6:00 pm <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth</i> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm <i>NMA Clergy</i> 10:00 am <i>EA Convocation Planning Team</i> 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens</i> 11:00 am <i>Women's Guild</i> 2:00 pm <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm	
28	29	30				
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship/ABC</i> 10:15 am <i>The Chosen Season 4</i> 6:30 pm		<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30 - 2:30 pm				

PRAYER LIST

Sandra Muegge
 Mark Paweleck
 Jeanette Balcerowicz
 Karen Zurek
 Olie Eixmann
 Vida Arlitt
 Corlis Delling
 Tommy Lovel
 Harvey Mager

Waymond Schulze
 Randy Ognoskie
 Kenneth Raska
 Clarence & Erna Thielemann
 Caroline Kost
 Joy Kramer
 Darlene Mensik
 Randall Schmidt
 Delbert Wendt

Lucille "Ceil" Blunck
 Donna Britt
 Kenneth Warncke
 Carolyn Kaluza
 Cecil Tielke
 David Zwahr



PRAYER LIST GUIDELINES

It is an **honor and privilege to pray** for the needs of those on our prayer list. Prayer requests will be listed for six weeks unless the church office is notified. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to sharing in both your concerns and your joys!

**Please update the office if still needing prayer.



- 02 JUSTIN & SAMANTHA SVATEK
- 03 VIRGIL & ELIZABETH LEUS
- 10 GERALD & WANDA MILLER
- 14 CODY & ROBIN EVERSOLE
- 17 WILLIAM & KIM MARCH
- 19 JOHN & JILL OTTO
- 20 CODY & BIANCA MACH
- 22 WADE & TERESA BOSSE
- 25 MATT & LAURA CASASSA
- 28 MICHAEL & SHIRLEY RICHTER
- 30 OLIVER & BRENDA KUNKEL



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Jeremy Macik
Joseph Casassa | 16 Angie Kelly
Bruce Oberhoff
Grant Kelly |
| 2 Kirk Schmidt | 17 Jill Otto |
| 3 Rusty Moody | 19 Gerald Miller |
| 4 Jason Fletcher
Bobbie Richter | 21 Brian Bacica
Emersyn Raska
Sandra Dorr |
| 5 Garren Schmidt | 22 Mason Todd |
| 6 Dave Goodbread | 23 Dianne Sebesta
Donna Moody |
| 7 Raymond Schmidt
Donald Lindemann | 24 Grady Legendre
Katie Lovel
Emmett Kelly |
| 8 Randall Schmidt | 25 Rhonda Jurek
Troy Mills |
| 9 Clinton Mikeska
Joy Miller | 26 Cindy Nulisch
Tammy Miller |
| 10 Justin Bosse | 27 Tucker Novosad
Patrick Kelly |
| 11 John Stern | 29 Mildred Novak
Whitney Griffith |
| 12 Demi Wendt Singletary
Chloe Schwaiger
Madison Casassa | 30 Shirley Richter
Ryan Simmons
Cody Simmons |
| 13 Ginny Kramer | |
| 14 Jewel Lovel | |
| 15 Clarence Thielemann
David Dick III | |

Love and sympathy



Erwin Fred Lingnau, Jr went to be with the Lord on March 8, 2024. His funeral service was held at Immanuel on March 13 with Pastor Ron officiating.

Please continue to pray for Yvonne and his family.

Offering by Credit or Debit

To give by debit or credit card, you can scan this QR code.



It will take you directly to an app to make your donation.

Thank you for your support!

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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