

Immanuel Evangelical Church January, 2026



EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



Kids perform Children's Christmas Program



Our elementary age children performed the skit "Palm Sunday in Bethlehem?" as their Children's Christmas Program on December 21. We want to thank the Christian Education Committee (Angie Kelly, Christy Legendre, Marla Sebesta and Kim March for directing this event and running multi-media projection. Special thanks goes out to Bobby Zwahr for being our Santa this year. The kids performed a funny, and meaningful program.

Ministry Teams reforming for 2026

The ministry of Immanuel Evangelical Church doesn't just happen by itself. It takes men and women of all ages with a servant heart for Jesus to work together to enable our church to teach the Gospel and share the love of Jesus Christ to people of all ages within our church, the Needville community, and around the world.

How can I get involved?

Sign, or recommit to an ongoing ministry team or committee. Sign-up sheets are available during the month of January on the Welcome Center table in the Main Lobby.

Ministry Teams include:

- Worship Committee
- Worship Projection Team
- Christian Education Committee
- Missions Committee
- Evangelism Committee
- Fellowship Committee
- Maintenance Team
- Church Cemetery Team
- Catacombs Chaperones
- Wednesday Children's Fellowship & Youth Fellowship Leadership Team
- Memorial Committee

Deadline to sign-up is February 1st.

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

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/Pianist

Debbie Palmer
Church Office Manager
Church Office 979-793-6125
Email office@iecneedville.org
Mon-Fri 9:00 am -- 2:30 pm

Ron's Ramblings

2025: the year of “David”

I have to admit, that King David has been one of my favorite heroes of the Bible ever since I was a kid. Who can forget the epic story of about the battle between David and Goliath. With one little stone—and faith in God—David not only took down a giant, but he proved that he was a man after God’s own heart.

This past year of 2025 has been the year of “David” as far as cinema has been concerned. In February Wonder Project/ Prime Video released the first season of “House of David” TV series starring Michael Iskander in the title role of David. Season two of “House of David” was released in October. Both seasons have received critical acclaim and were enjoyed by members of our church who watched the weekly episodes together as a Watch Party.

In December, the long awaited, and crowd funded animated movie, “David” was released in theaters. The film stars Christian singer and song writer, Phil Wickham, as the voice actor for the adult David.

Both the TV series and the movie have told the story of David as epic adventures. Both spotlight David’s weakness...he wasn’t a natural hero, and was initially overlooked as being one eligible to be the Lord’s anointed. Both “House of David” and “David” also portray David as being a man who was steadfast in his reliance upon the Lord, the God of Israel, as the source of his courage and strength. Indeed both the TV show and movie portray David as being a man after God’s own heart.

What’s excites me most about both the TV series and the animated movie is the way they’ve penetrated today’s pop culture. Suddenly a Bible story has gone mainstream. It’s suddenly cool to talk about heroes from the Bible again. Furthermore, both cinematic projects have helped drive people into the Bible as they’ve wanted to dig deeper into the real story behind the story that’s been depicted on the screen.

That was the intention of the creators of both “House of David” and “David.” Created by Christians, the creative teams for both the TV series and movie wanted to use their projects to share the truth of the living God of Israel to the masses.

It also helps that both Michael Iskander from “House of David” and Phil Wickham from “David” are outspoken Christians. Both have shared how these projects allowed them the opportunity to live out their faith both on screen and in song (as both actors have released soundtrack albums featuring songs written by the real King David in Psalms). Michael and Phil have been able to stir hearts for worship

through the songs performed in their respective film projects.

Indeed, though both the TV series and movie take some artistic license, they also help bring the Scriptures alive to a generation hungry to experience the real God. In 2025 there as been a significant uptick in Bible sales. This corresponds

with an uptick in church attendance by younger adults, particularly men, around the USA who are trying to find real meaning in their lives.

As the new year of 2026 arrives, I want to challenge you, if you haven’t already, to explore David, both in film and in Scripture. Let his life lessons, his faith lessons, and his Psalms speak to you and lead you in walking deeper and closer with the Lord during this new year.

May David’s own words from Psalm 26:2-3 be an inspiration for your relationship with God in the months ahead:

“Test me Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.”

In 2026 find ways to mirror your story with David’s so that those around you might find hope in the Lord. Amen.



A full menu of classes for all ages

New for Christmas 2025



Children's Rotation Sunday School
Sundays 9:00 am
January Adventure: "The Three Wise Men"
Grades: preschool to grade 6



Teen Sunday School Class
Sundays at 9:00 am Food Pantry Classroom
Teens grades 7 to 12 invited!



Special thanks goes out to Bobby Zwahr and Jonathan Moody for designing and building the new wreath stand for the Wreaths Across America Dedication that was held December 13 at Immanuel Church Cemetery.

The event is a mission project of Cub Scouts Pack #129 that our church sponsors. The Scouts placed 38 wreaths on Immanuel veteran church members' graves to honor them over the Christmas season.

The Scouts also placed Christmas wreaths on the graves of area veterans at the Needville Public Cemetery. Additional wreaths were distributed to families whose loved ones are buried in other cemeteries.

Thanks to everyone in the congregation who donated funds to purchase the wreaths for Wreaths Across America.



Adult Sunday School Class
Sundays at 9:00 am Library Classroom
Adults of all ages invited!



Kids from the church hung Chrismon ornaments of the sanctuary during worship during the Hanging of the Greens ceremony on November 30.

Children's Fellowship Christmas



Members of Children's Fellowship celebrated their annual Christmas Party on December 17. Kids iced sugar cookies, made luminaries for Christmas Eve and went on a scavenger hunt throughout the church.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES



Vida Arlitt went to be with the Lord on December 7. Her funeral service was Thursday, December 11, 2025 officiated by Pastor Ron Shifley.

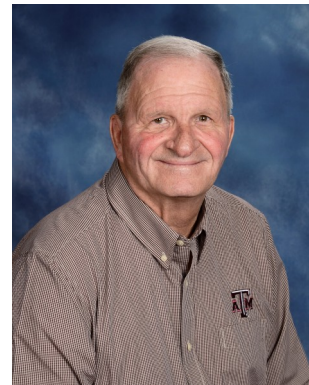
Please continue to pray for her family and friends during this time.



Crystal Woodard went to her heavenly home on December 16 following an Honor Walk. She lives on in various organ donations.


Her Memorial Service has been scheduled for Sunday, January 18 at 2:00 pm.

Please continue to pray for the Woodard & Hallgren family during this time of mourning.



Wayne Schmidt passed on to his heavenly home on December 24. His Funeral Service was held December 31 at the church.

Please continue to pray for Wayne's children, grandchildren and the whole Schmidt family during this time of mourning.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Church Directory Family Photo shoots

Sunday, Jan. 11 after worship

IEC YOUTH

Deanna Shifley, Interim Youth Director

Email: Deanna.shifley@gmail.com

Cell: 567-242-4490

Office: 979-793-6283



Members of our Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship performed the live streaming Christmas skit "The Mismatched Nativity" on December 10.

Children's Epiphany Party



Sunday, Jan 4; 6:00-7:30 pm

K-5th grade

Kids are asked to bring flashlights. Each child will receive a present at the end of the night. Please pre-register using the QR code above so we can prepare enough presents for the kids.

Teens celebrate Hanukkah



Our Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship celebrated the 4th night of Hanukkah by lighting candles, playing dreidel and eating donuts.





Our Leaps & Bounds ministry held their Christmas Program, entitled “Away in a Manger” on December 16. The little ones did a great job! Thanks to Bobby Zwahr for serving as Santa Claus during the after program fellowship.

Leaps & Bounds
Muffins with Mom
Thursday, January 15
at 8:30 am



A sincere **Thank You**
to John & Debbie Stern
for paying for the tree trimming
this past fall.

Women’s Guild holds Christmas luncheon



Women’s Guild held their Christmas Party on December 19. Sandra Zacek shared the “Gifts of the Three Wise Women for baby Jesus.”

January Missions/Outreach



Church members sorted tons of food donations collected for the NMA Christmas Distribution on December 18. The Distribution was held December 20. It was Immanuel Church's turn to host the mission event in 2025.

Leroy Miksch Sunday Fun Day

Benefiting the

Needville Senior Citizens

Sunday, January 25, 2026



4 piece fried chicken dinner with green beans, buttered potatoes, roll, tea and dessert \$15. Serving from 10:30-1:00. No presale tickets. Dine in or plates to go. Drive up available for Seniors with mobility issues.

Raffle tickets for homemade quilts and more \$2 each or a book of 6 for \$10. Tickets available at Prosperity Bank, Western Power, New First Bank, Kinfolks Antiques, and Lillie Kays.

Live Auction begins at noon. 50/50 Raffle

Sponsorships welcome. Call Chris Janacek 281-468-9314

Live Auction, Silent Auction, Basket Raffle, and Bake Sale



Brotherhood provides winter coats for Needville kids

On December 15th the Men's Brotherhood distributed 108 winter coats to needy kids within the Needville school system.

The Brotherhood would like to thank the church family for their generous donations that helped make this important mission project possible.



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!



OMP 2025 Live Auction

Winner List

(Greater than \$23,000!!)



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH- 2025 OPEN MARKETPLACE RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1-\$1000 Gift Card-.....Terry McGuire
2-\$500 Gift Card.....Karen Zurek
3-\$300 Amazon Gift Card-.....Rhonda Jurek
4-\$250 Kavasovic's Meat Market Gift Card...
Sherry Wenzel
5-\$250 Gift Card-.....Avery
Schwaiger
6-\$250 Target Gift Card.....Bradley Stavinoha
7-\$200 Gift Card.....Suzanne
Mikeska
8-\$200 Gift Card.....Judy Johnson
9-\$150 Gift Card.....Caroline Macik
10-\$150 Gift Card.....Terry Noe
11-\$150 Gift Card.....Melissa Kostelnik
12-\$125 Kroger Gift Card.....Shelley Fletcher
13-\$125 Gift Card.....Kaylee Manville
14-\$100 Texas Roadhouse.....Leonard Altimore
15-\$100 Academy Gift Card.....Kevin Paweleck
16-\$100 GiftCharlie Griffith
17-\$100 Gift Card.....Keith Kostelnik
18-\$100 Gift Card.....Ben
Pustejovsky
19-\$100 Gift Card.....Wendy Brown
20-\$100 Gift Card.....Judy Ross

**2025 Open Market Place Final Profit:
\$44,426.58**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's
success!

NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS NOMINATED FOR 2026

Art Klawitter
Kimberly Lawler
Jo Ann Morton
Suzanne Mikeska
Jarrod Stasney

**New Consistory members will be voted
on at the Annual Congregational
Meeting on February 1, 2026**

ITEM	DONATED BY	PURCHASER
ARTIC 65 Qt Cooler/ ADULT beverages, TX Cheeseboard, Dry Sausage, Cheese	Friends of Immanuel	Albright
Cactus Picture	Becky Tabler	Lindsey McElrath
Glassware Picture	Becky Tabler	Ralph Albright
State of Texas Quilt, Pillows, Bathroom Set	Becky Tabler	Holly Robles
BBQ Meal for 25 People Brisket,Pork Ribs, Chicken and Sides -McRackin BBQ	Chad Lemmond Fin Advisor E D Jones &McRackin BBQ	CD Kalinowski
4 Day 3 Night Stay at Bayhouse in Rockport Tx on Canal, Sleeps 12, Exclude July 4	Dr. Wayne & Becky Ley	Coastal Services Snake Creek Construction
1 Gallon Homemade Noodles	Shirley Hlavaty	Ryan Zwahr
Coconut Cream Pie	Dr. John & Debbie Stern	Danny Zwahr
Ladies Adult Basket, Goodies including a	Joyce Zwahr	Shirley Hlavaty
1 Gallon Refrigerator Pickles	Yvonne Lingnau	Melissa Kostelnik
James Avery "Deep in the Heart" of Tx	Morton Family	Ralph Albright
James Avery "Deep in the Heart" of TX 14k	Morton Family	Becky Taveler
House Cleaning Basket including a 3 hour	Samantha's Cleaning Service	Debbie Wendt
1 Gallon of Homemade Peanut Brittle	Virgil & Elizabeth Leus	Pug Schmidt
1 Gallon of Homemade Pecan Brittle	Virgil & Elizabeth Leus	Cindy Nulisch
1 Gallon of Homemade Noodles	Virgil & Elizabeth Leus	Zwahr
Stihl Battery Powered Blower	Lynn & Patsye Roesler	Grant Leus
Pit Boss Pellet Grill	Aaron & Hailey Volz	Brad Brown
Trough Bench	Thomas & Rhonda Jurek	Sherry Schmidt
Inshore Fishing Trip – Up to 4 People	Captain Randy Macik	Melissa Kostelnik
Red Velvet Cake	Rodney & Shelia Elster	Cathy Sablatura
6 Ft. Folding Woodgrain Plastic Top Picnic	Bobby & Mary Zwahr	Sherry Schmidt
Large Steel Garden Cart w/ doll	Bobby & Mary Zwahr	McGuire
Folding Cloth Cart including rechargeable	Bobby & Mary Zwahr	Sandra Meuth
Electric Hammer Drill	Bobby & Mary Zwahr	Sandra Meuth
Stihl Battery Powered Trimmer/Chain Saw	Dr Winkley Dentistry Needville Texas	Curtis SS small engine
Adult "Pamper Me" Mystery 22 Qt Wheeled	Sage & Lauren Hlavaty	Gina LaRoche
Apple Strudel	Shirley Hlavaty	Jeremy Simmons
Cream Cheese Roll "A"	Donald & Debbie Lindemann	Tom Nowak
Cream Cheese Roll "B"	Donald & Debbie Lindemann	Bugh Schmidt
Kavasovic's Fancy Pack of over 45 lbs of	Keith & Melissa Kostelnik	Debbie Wendt
Kavasovic's B-B-Q Pack of 25 lbs of Pork and	Keith & Melissa Kostelnik	Sheila Elster
2 Adirondack Chairs	Tommy & Debbie Wendt	Ed cabey
1 Gallon of Homemade Cookies	Tommy & Debbie Wendt	Tammy Miller
Basket of Homemade Canned Goods	Tommy & Debbie Wendt	Marsha
Landscape Rock with Cross	Pastor Ron & Deanna Shifley	Joe Schwaiger
1 Dozen Spinach Cream Cheese Kolaches	Cody & Bianca Mach "Oh Bite Me	Patsye Roesler
1 Dozen Cream Cheese Kolaches	Cody & Bianca Mach "Oh Bite Me	Oberhoff
Corn Hole Game	Joe & Brandi Schwaiger	Ed Cavey
German Chocolate Cake	Jack & Kim Hull	
Wooden Planter Box	Jack & Kim Hull	
Poppyseed Lemon Cake	Jack & Kim Hull	
Homemade Doll	Bill & Diane Johnson	
Our Immanuel Church with Bible Verse lasered on Mesquite Wood "A"	Greg & Kimberly Antrich in Memory of Glen Schroeder	Ed Cavey
Our Immanuel Church with Bible Verse lasered on Mesquite Wood "B"	Greg & Kimberly Antrich in Memory of Glen Schroeder	Brian Zwahr
Texan's Jacket, Texan's Jersey, and Texan's Picture	Gene & Sharon Roberson and Ed & Glennys Cavey	Ray Oberhoff
1 Dozen Homemade Cheese Kolaches "A"	Carolyn Kaluza, Linda and Cynthia	Debbie Wendt
1 Dozen Homemade Cheese Kolaches "B"	Carolyn Kaluza, Linda and Cynthia	Donald Zachek
2 Dozen Homemade Sausage Kolaches	Carolyn Kaluza, Linda and Cynthia	Cindy Nulisch
Fire Pit/Grill	Needville Feed – Mike & Cindy Nulisch	Charles Oberender
Gas Grill	Seniors Sunday School Class at Methodist Church	Morton Western Power
Boat Picture	Friends of Immanuel	Jeremy Simmons
Cup, Hat & Gift Cards	Leaps & Bounds	Gina LaRoche
Pecan Basket	Atkinson Pecans	Debbie Wendt
Poppyseed and Cream Cheese Roll	Paul & Linda Freund	Charles Oberender
Poppyseed and Cream Cheese Roll	Tom Nowak	Lynn Roesler
Jester Doll	Glennys Cavey	Crystal Harvey
Boat Picture		Jeremy Simmons
cupcakes		Nowak
Rolling Tables	Keith & Melissa Kostelnik	Ed cabey
Round up		Greg Zwahr
Hammer Drill	Donated Back	Jeremy Simmons
Nothiing Bundt Cake		Meuth
coconut cake, cookies		Paul Fruend
Cookie/cake		Bill March
mashed potatoes, gravy		



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				01 New Years Day	2	3
				Church Office CLOSED	Sr. Citizens 11:00 am Catacombs CLOSED	
4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10
Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Epiphany Party 6:00 pm		L&B 8:30-2:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm	Food Pantry 9:30 - 12:00 pm Children's Fellowship 4:00-5:30 pm Bell Choir 5:30-6:00 pm Youth Fellowship 6:00-8:00 pm	L&B 8:30-2:30 pm Missions Committee 6:00 pm Worship Committee 6:30 pm Christian Ed 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	Sr. Citizens 11:00 am Catacombs 8:00-11:00 pm	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Directory Photos after worship	Cub Scout Leader Mtg 6:00 pm	L&B 8:30-2:30 pm Leaps & Bounds Christmas Program 6:00 pm Brotherhood 6:30 pm NMA Food Basket Sorting	Children's Fellowship 4:00-5:30 pm Bell Choir 5:30-6:00 pm Youth Fellowship 6:00-8:00 pm	L&B 8:30-2:30 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	Sr. Citizens 11:00 am Catacombs 8:00-11:00 pm	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Crystal Woodard Memorial 2:00 pm		L&B 8:30-2:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm	Children's Fellowship 4:00-5:30 pm Bell Choir 5:30-6:00 pm Youth Fellowship 6:00-8:00 pm	L&B 8:30-2:30 pm	Sr. Citizens 11:00 am Catacombs 8:00-11:00 pm	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sr. Citizen Fundraiser 10:30-1:00					Sr. Citizens 11:00 am Catacombs 8:00-11:00 pm	

PRAYER LIST

Mark Pawelek
Tommy Lovel
Keith Warncke
Brandon Beck
Family of Byron
Wittenben
Cindy Schulze
Sue Hurta
Cecil Tielke

Prayer is powerful!!
And Effective
James 5:16

Cecelia Blinka
John Spears
Harvey Mager
Joyce Christ
Barbara Schroeder

Erna Thielemann
Clarence Thielemann
Nathan Gaskamp
Robert Hallgren
Ellvina Loehr
Carolyn Kaluza
Crystal Woodard Family
Wayne Schmidt Family

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.**

Happy Anniversary!!!

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 JONATHAN & JACKIE MOODY
GREG & KAYLEE MANVILLE
- 19 TONY & KRISTI NOVOSAD
- 30 DAVID & CARRIE ALTRECHE

IEC sponsors Girl Scout troop

Starting in December 2025 Immanuel Church has begun to sponsor Girl Scout Troop 154041.

Tamara Bishop, Girl Scouts leader writes, "Troop 154041 is currently open to 5th-8th grade Girl Scouts. The girls meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm at Immanuel Evangelical Church.

We are also looking to form a new Kinder—4th grade troop meeting every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm at Immanuel Evangelical Church. To launch this troop we need two registered adult volunteers (training and support provided. Interested in joining or volunteering? Email leader@gstrop-154041.com Thank you for supporting all Girl Scouts you see out in the community."



- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 David Dick, Jr.
Ray Oberhoff | 19 Madelyn Griffith |
| 4 Joan Wendt
Quinn Svatek | 20 Kaylee Weidemann
Calvin Hedt, Jr |
| 6 Jeri Rodgers | 21 Bridget Goodbread
Hudson Goodbread |
| 7 Kyle Raesner | 22 John Otto
Elizabeth Leus |
| 8 Braxton Svatek
William (Bill) Johnson | 24 Anna Gadway |
| 9 Pauletta Klemstein
Vanessa Miller
Florence Gaskamp | 25 Yvonne Lingnau |
| 10 Clarence Warncke, Jr. | 27 David Thielemann
Elvina Loehr |
| 11 Tina Holik | 29 Corbin March |
| 12 Sheila Elster | 30 Olivia Tiemann |
| 13 Debbie Legendre
Jayse Mach | |
| 14 Kevin Lovel | |
| 15 Mike Nulisch | |
| 16 Dana Hawkins | |
| 17 Alexis Richter | |

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

979-793-6125 E-mail address—office@iecneedville.org

P.O. BOX 505

9018 CHURCH STREET

NEEDVILLE, TEXAS 77461-0505

www.immanuelevangelicalchurch.org

Find us on Facebook @ Immanuel Evangelical Church Needville Texas

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From the Office..

CHURCH
DIRECTORY

- * If you need to **update your address or any family information**, please fill out the Member update form outside wall off the church's office. Turn in ASAP to ensure your information is correct for the 2026 directory.
- * NEW!!! **If you need a reimbursement** for items/services you paid for (for the church), please fill out a reimbursement form and put in my INBOX—on my desk
- * (both forms are located on the wall outside of the office)
- *

Thank you for your help!

Family Photo Shoot

**Sunday Jan. 11
Following Worship**