

# Immanuel Evangelical Church

## May, 2026



EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



## Easter Egg hunt



Rain showers during Holy Week could not dampen the spirits our kids who participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter Breakfast on April 5. Kids hunted for eggs in the back yard of the church. Easter eggs were supplied by the Christian Education Committee. Special thanks goes out to the Women's Guild for serving the Easter Breakfast of biscuits & gravy, kalaches, and fresh fruit! We appreciate all of the helping hands that made Easter special.

## Rite of Confirmation is May 24, Pentecost



The 8th Grade Confirmation Class will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation and their first communion on Pentecost Sunday, May 24.

The day will begin at 9:00 am with a continental breakfast and Confirmation Jeopardy Game in the fellowship hall. Teens will be quizzed on Bible trivia, church history, the Heidelberg Catechism and more.

At 10:15 am we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation during worship.

## Catacombs ministry has impact on wider Church

Catacombs, our Friday night teen outreach ministry, has averaged 47 youth during the months of March and April.

Among all the teens who have attended Catacombs during the 2025-2026 school year, 29 youth are members of Immanuel Evangelical Church. 41 have no church home. The remaining youth attend 14 different area churches. Those churches are: Creekside Church, River Point Church, St. Michael's Catholic Church, Grace Christian Fellowship, Needville Global Methodist, The Source Church, First Colony Church of Christ, First Baptist (El



Campo), Living Waters Church, Hope Unlimited Church, St. Mark's AME Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Calvary Church (Hungerford), and the Baptist Church (Rosenberg).

We are humbled to have parents from all of these different area churches entrust their sons and daughters into our care on Friday nights and to be able to serve the wider Body of Christ in this way. Our Catacombs ministry reflects what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8, "And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia... your faith in God has become known everywhere." We too are impacting the wider church for Jesus!

**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@jecneedville.org

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

**Jackie Moody**  
Organist/Pianist

**Church Secretary**  
Church Office 979-793-6125  
Email office@jecneedville.org  
Mon-Fri 9:00 am -- 1:00 pm

# Ron's Ramblings

## Expecting the unexpected

On April 22, 2026 I did something I never expected to do: I ate at a McDonald's restaurant located in Needville, Texas. It was Opening Day and I decided to support the new eatery (like I had when Sonic, Rusty Cowboy, Simple Simon's Pizza, and Taco Bell opened in the last couple of years). To get the new McDonald's off to a good start, I enjoyed a big breakfast in the morning, and then, Deanna and I went back the same day for lunch just to celebrate a thing I would never have expected to do when we moved into town 7 years ago.

When we moved to Needville in March/April of 2019 we would never have guessed that 4 new restaurants would open up in town within a year's span of time.

Sure, we'd heard the predictions at a Needville ISD meeting that growth was coming to town, but the changes seemed like an impossible dream.

The same could be said about the Early Church. The risen Christ told his disciples "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name **to all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:45b-47) These words of Jesus too fantastic to believe. Still, Jesus said the day of the Lord was coming. "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:29)

Then it happened. "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and... they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest of each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2:1-4)

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost the Church was born, 3,000 people believed in Jesus as Savior and were baptized that day, and the Gospel began to move all around the globe: just as Jesus said.

After Pentecost, Jesus' disciples began to expect the unexpected as the Christian Church grew like wild fire in the decades to come.

Indeed, within 30 years the Gospel spread from Jerusalem to the center of the Roman Empire: Rome itself, and beyond.

As I reflect on the explosive growth of the Early Church, I'm reminded how impossible it must have seemed when Jesus first told the disciples that this would all happen when they received the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm sure they thought "if" instead of "when." Yet with God all things are possible. Jesus said, "You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:48)

Today, here in Needville, we are seeing the "unexpected" growth of our community that school officials and some city planners had "expected" all along. The question is this: Does Jesus' promise of global sharing of the gospel still ring true here in Needville, Texas?

I believe that God still wants to do BIG things in sharing His saving grace with the world. Just as He waited until the ingathering of pilgrims to descend upon Jerusalem for the Pentecost festival, we are seeing an ingathering of new faces here in town.

Pilgrims are coming from all over to make Needville home: whether we are ready or not. Just as Peter had the chance to preach to over 3,000 people on that Pentecost morning in Acts 2, God is maneuvering souls into our community to hear the Gospel in the right timing of the Holy Spirit.

God is setting the stage for the Church of Jesus Christ to help make a huge impact for the Kingdom. Yet, are we willing to let our church family be "clothed with power from on high" to make that happen? Like the prenatal church who gathered in the upper room waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit so long ago, we too need to gather in prayer, asking for God to clothe us with His power to reach those who He intends for us to reach. We need to expect the unexpected.

"You are witnesses of these things." Amen.



# Women's Spring Luncheon rocks the 1950's



Women, young and old, enjoyed a great time of fellowship at the Women's Spring Luncheon on April 18 as they stepped back in time to reminisce about the 1950's.

Becky Oberhoff led a presentation on what our church was like in the 1950's and some of the important things that happened within our church family back then.

Sandra Zacek and Pastor Ron led a 1950's music quiz game in which snippets of famous 1950's songs were played and the ladies sang the remaining song lyrics.

A 1950's soda shop lunch was served with fresh grilled cheeseburgers, chips and ice cream root bear floats on the menu.

Ladies danced to "The Twist" and "Rocking Robin." Everyone attending got to take home a "one of a kind" 45 record hot pad as their souvenir which were made by Diane Johnson. W. Lee Hedt showed off his classic car.

The planning committee would like to thank all of the ladies who attended and helped lead this fun fellowship day.



## Adult Sunday School Class

Sundays at 9:00 am Library Classroom

Adults of all ages invited!



## Children's Rotation Sunday School

Sundays 9:00 am

May Adventure: "The Second Coming"

Grades: preschool to grade 6

# IEC YOUTH

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



Our junior and senior high youth presented the 6th annual Good Friday Drama on April 3, 2026.

Teens participating included: Front row: Travis Stenbridge, Corbin March, Ava Casassa, Emerson Raska, Charlie Shifferly; Row 2: Grant Kelly, Wesley Kostelnik; Row 3: Hallie Bienek, Jayden Zwahr, Reese Legendre, Ainsley Fletcher, Adeline Laroche, Cadey Chapman, Abrigail Fletcher, Harper Goodbread, Keegan March (as Jesus Christ), Addison Fletch-

er, Chloe Schwaiger, Kaisen Hodges and Ryan Stenbridge.

Adults assisting in the production included: Jackie Moody, Mike Richter, Nathan Gaskamp, Deanna Shifley and Pastor Ron.

Thanks to all of the teens for their hard work in sharing the story of Jesus' trial, crucifixion and burial. Y'all made Holy Week and Easter very memorable.

## 2026 EA Summer Camps

### Youth Mission Trip (grades 9-12)

Sunday to Thursday June 14-18

Location: New Braunfels, TX

Cost: \$250.00 per person

Register at [evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthmission](http://evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthmission)

### Youth Camp (grades 6-9+)

Sunday to Wednesday July 13-15

Location: Camp Lost Pines, Warda, TX

Cost: \$175.00 per person

Register at: [evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthcamp](http://evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthcamp)

### Kids Camp (grades 2-5)

Thursday to Friday July 16-17

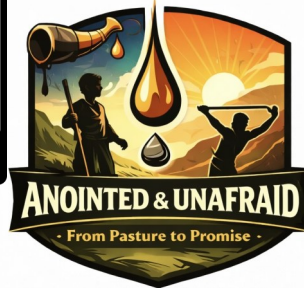
Location: Camp Lost Pines, Ward, TX

Cost: \$75.00 per person

Register at: [evangelicalassociation.org/texaskidscamp](http://evangelicalassociation.org/texaskidscamp)



SCAN ME

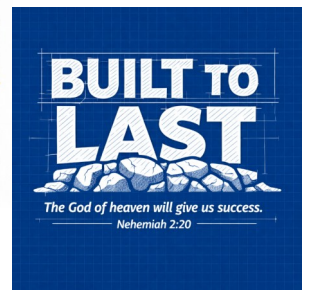


"my God turns my darkness into light."

— PSALM 18:28 —



SCAN ME



# Our Graduates



**Brody Sebesta**

Brody Kole Sebesta, the son of Brian & Dianne Sebesta is graduating from Needville

**Whitney Chumchal**

**Sam Gonzales**

**Genesis Morales**

**Kynsleigh Zatopek**

The graduates listed above did not turn in any information for the newsletter.

**Avery Schwaiger**

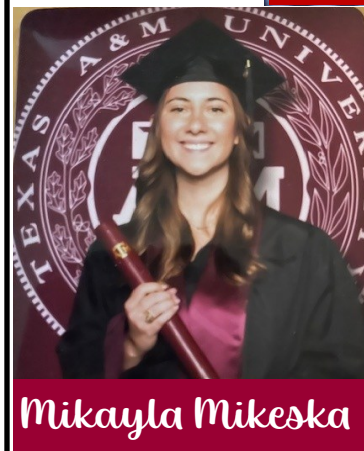


Avery has received many accomplishments in high school volleyball and track throughout her four years. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She will be attending Temple Junior College to play volleyball and will be majoring in Business with hopes to become an Accountant.



**Joe Schwaiger**

Joe graduated from University of Houston-Downtown with a Business Degree.



**Mikayla Mikeska**

Mikayla Anne Mikeska graduated from Texas A & M in December, 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Mikayla is the daughter of Clint & Suzanne Mikeska

**Registration deadline  
May 31, 2026**

**A NOT SO  
TERRIBLE  
PARABLE**

**the mysterious  
whodunit  
about the  
good  
samaritan**



**Music Camp 2026**

**June 22-26 | 9:00-2:00 pm**

**Musical performance: Fri. June 26 at 6:30**

**Register at: <https://immanuelevangelicalchurch.org/music-camp>**

# Missions/Outreach

## May Missions: Biblioteca Transforma

Our Missions Committee has chosen the Biblioteca Transforma in Nicaragua as our wider missions focus for the month of May. Our church family will be working to raise \$1,000 for this global mission.

Biblioteca Transforma was founded by local Texan missionary, Andy Cavender, to equip local Christian leaders with theological and Bible study training and materials. The ministry also reaches out to children and the blind with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The ministry Andy started in Nicaragua continues even though he now lives here in the United States.

Current ministry director, Israel Hernandez writes, “We recently we had our first reading and study retreat: ‘Walking with Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.’ We managed to read the entire Gospel of Luke throughout the day, meditated on the passages read and had communion times to share and appropriate what we learned. We enjoyed every moment as a community and had meaningful learnings about the compassion of our Lord and the calling He makes us; and also about fear, what and how we should fear, as well as the different human ways in how we react with fear and how God calls us with love not to be afraid. We thank everyone who has been a part and those who have prayed, and collaborated with us to develop this program in our space.”

Learn more about this global mission on our Digital Mission Display board in the church lobby.

## Greetings from Haiti

Linsey Jorgenson, founding missionary from Streethearts of Haiti, was in Needville on April 23 to give Pastor Ron and Deanna a missions update while she was in the Houston area meeting with her USA leadership team.



God is doing some incredible things with the ministry in Haiti. We'll let Linsey share the BIG news herself when she joins us in person in worship in July. Until then, we ask you to lift her, the Haitian ministry leadership team, and all of the kids they work with in your prayers. Learn more about this mission on our Digital Missions Display board.



**Graduation Recognition Sunday**  
**May 10th**  
**9:00 am—Breakfast with “Are You Smarter Than a 12th Grader?” Game Show (teens vs. parents) All invited.**  
**10:15 am—Graduation Recognition during Worship**

# Passover Feast and Last Supper meaningful



Holy Week 2026 was filled with a number of memorable worship and fellowship times as our church family traced the footsteps of Jesus from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through his crucifixion on Good Friday, to the empty tomb and Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.



The Passover Feast, of course, was the setting that Jesus used to share his Last Supper.

Retreating into the sanctuary, the story continued with a observance of the Lord's Supper, a monologue by Simon Peter (performed by Keith Kostelnick) and reflections on how Jesus' death broke the chains of sin that bind us and our world.

In this midst of these events of Holy Week were the fun and poignant celebrations that took place on Maundy Thursday. The evening began in the Fellowship Hall, as church members celebrated the Passover Feast around the table with worship and partaking in Passover meal.

Special thanks goes out to everyone who helped cook, decorate and serve the Passover Feast and for those who helped lead the Maundy Thursday communion service.

Folks got to play with their food (mixed nuts & raisins, parsley and salt water, hard boiled eggs, unleavened bread, parsley and grape juice, roasted lamb, grapes, cheese and sweet bread, and their own water glasses) as they retold the story of Moses, the Exodus and the parting of the Red Sea.

Maundy Thursday evening is a long night with both Passover and Last Supper observances, but the full meaning of the evening comes through the celebration of both events.

## Search process begins to call a new Youth Pastor

A Search Committee has been formed to search for a candidate to hire as our new Youth Pastor.

The Youth Pastor Search Committee will begin advertising for potential candidates soon.

A brief online survey was emailed to the congregation just after Easter to get input from the church family on the kind of candidate that we will look for along with priorities for children's and youth ministry in the future. We want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out that survey.

We are asking for the whole congregation to keep the Youth Pastor search process in your prayers, that God would lead us to the best candidate for our church family.



## Help Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers to help run our worship projection system including Media Shout and Live Streaming. A class will be forming soon, please text Deanna at 567-242-4490 if you are interested.



## 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!

# May

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					Sr. Citizens Lunch 11:30 am  Catacombs 8:00-11:00 pm	
				NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 		
3	4	5	6	7 <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	8	9
Sunday School 9:00 am  Worship 10:15 am		Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30 pm  Girl Scouts 6:30 pm	Children's Fellowship (last day) 4:00-5:30 pm  Bell Choir 5:30-6:00 pm  Youth Fellowship 6:00-8:00 pm	Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30  Christian Ed 6:30 pm  National Day of Prayer Service @ Carmel Church 7:00 pm	Sr. Citizens Lunch 11:30 am  Catacombs 8:00-11:00 pm	
10 <b>Mother's Day</b>	11	12	13	14 <b>Ascension Day</b>	15	16
Graduation Breakfast 9:00 am  Sunday School 9:00 am  Worship and Graduate recognition 10:15 am		Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30 pm  Fellowship Committee 2:00 pm	Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 pm  Bell Choir 5:30-6:00 pm  Youth Fellowship 6:00-8:00 pm	Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30 pm  Missions Committee 6:00 pm  Worship Committee 6:30 pm  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	Sr. Citizens Lunch 11:30 am  Women's Guild 2:00 pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School 9:00 am  Worship 10:15 am		Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30 pm  Brotherhood 6:30 pm  Girl Scouts 6:30 pm		Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30 pm  Consistory 7:00 pm	Sr. Citizens Lunch 11:30 am	
24 <b>Pentecost</b>	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School 9:00 am  Confirmation Jeopardy 9:00 am  Worship and Rite of Confirmation 10:15 am	Boy Scout Memorial Observance @ IEC Cemetery 10:30 am		Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 pm	NMA Clergy 4:00 pm  Search Committee 6:30 pm	Sr. Citizens Lunch 11:30 am	

# PRAYER LIST

Mark Paweleck  
Tommy Lovel  
Keith Warncke  
Brandon Beck  
Cindy Schulze  
Sue Hurta  
Cecil Tielke

Cecelia Blinka  
John Spears  
Harvey Mager  
Joyce Christ  
Barbara Sims  
Barbara Schroeder  
Erna Thielemann

Clarence Thielemann  
Robert Hallgren  
Ellvina Loehr  
Carolyn Kaluza  
Waymond Schulze  
Becky Tabler  
Corlis Delling

Jo Ann Conrad  
Paul Flessener  
Glynn & Bernice Schmidt  
Barbara James  
Norma Freund  
Rev. Jim Barnes  
Shirley Richter

## Needville Ministerial Alliance National Day of Prayer Service

May 7 at 7:00 pm | Carmel Church

GLORIFY GOD  
AMONG THE NATIONS



SEEKING HIM  
IN ALL GENERATIONS  
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

75<sup>TH</sup>  
NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER



Our church will once again host a Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 25 at 10:30 am at the Immanuel Evangelical Church Cemetery.

Cub Scouts Pack #129 will take part in the service along with Pastor Ron. We'd like to invite the whole congregation to come out and share in this solemn time of honor and remembrance.



Keith & Erin Wleczyk	May 04
Scott & Sharon McIlrath	May 05
Clarence & Erna Thielemann	May 05
Brandon & Tracy Beck	May 08
Denis & Gina LaRoche	May 13
Art & Pamela Klawitter	May 15
Clifton & Melissa Holik	May 17
Steve & Tina Holik	May 17
David & Shawn Thielemann	May 22
Charles & Linda Oberrender	May 23
Edward & Glennys Cavey	May 24
Jack & Kim Hull	May 27
Tommy & Debby Wendt	May 30
Matt & Dana Morton	May 31



Mark Wendt	May 01	Corey Kelly	May 18
Bernice Schmidt	May 02	Daisy Griffith	May 21
David Altreche	May 03	Claire Todd	May 21
Melissa Holik	May 05	Laura Casassa	May 22
Jessica Duncan	May 09	Madisyn Holik	May 22
Brent Wuthrich	May 09	Kimberly Lawler	May 23
Maleah Uherek	May 10	Tony Novosad	May 24
Allene Zwahr	May 10	Brooke Wuthrich	May 26
Johnathon Morton	May 12	Rodney Mccafferty	May 27
Fr. Kristopher Fuchs	May 13	Brooks Singletary	May 27
Waymond Schulze	May 13	Michael Butler	May 28
Marc Gadway	May 15	Christian Morales	May 28
Art Klawitter	May 15	Deborah Wendt	May 29
Nancy Tielke	May 15	Mary Zwahr	May 29
Coleman Todd	May 16	Virgil Leus	May 30
Adeline LaRoche	May 17	Harvey Mager	May 31
Dana Gerken	May 18		

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

979-793-6125 E-mail address—[office@iecneedville.org](mailto:office@iecneedville.org)

P.O. BOX 505

9018 CHURCH STREET

NEEDVILLE, TEXAS 77461-0505

[www.immanuelevangelicalchurch.org](http://www.immanuelevangelicalchurch.org)

Find us on Facebook @ Immanuel Evangelical Church Needville Texas