

Immanuel Evangelical Church

August, 2026



EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



Hot dogs, ice cream featured for Red, White & Blue National Ice Cream Day lunch



The Men's Brotherhood and Fellowship Committee shared responsibility in providing the lunch for our church's Red, White & Blue Celebration on July 19. Guys from the Men's Brotherhood grilled hotdogs for sandwiches while ladies from the Fellowship Committee churned 5 flavors of homemade ice cream (vanilla, chocolate, peanut butter cup, strawberry and peach) for dessert.

A good number of church members stayed after worship to enjoy the tasty luncheon celebrating National Ice Cream Day. Folk feasted on the ice cream, which was a cool treat for a hot Texas July afternoon.

National Ice Cream Day became a national holiday by presidential proclamation in 1984 when President Ronald Reagan, affirming an act of Congress, proclaimed the third Sunday of July as National Ice Cream Day and 'encourage[d] all Americans to enjoy this wholesome and delicious treat.'

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

Deanna Shifley
Interim Youth Director
Cell 567-242-4490
Email:
deanna.shifley@gmail.com

Katie Johnson
Leaps & Bounds Director
Office 979-553-3357

Jackie Moody
Organist/Pianist

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

Tyler Reed to fill the pulpit August 2nd

Tyler Reed will be leading worship on August 2 while Pastor Ron is on vacation.



Pastor Tyler is a EA Licensed Minister. He is the former Youth Pastor at First Protestant Church in New Braunfels, served as co-director of the Texas EA Summer Camps, and has done a lot of pulpit supply at St. Paul Evangelical Church in Cibolo.

Besides preaching on Aug. 2, Tyler will preside over the Lord's Supper.

Welcome new member!

We want to welcome Mark Lawler as a new member of Immanuel Church.

Mark officially joined the church family on July 19. Welcome!!!



Ron's Ramblings

Is it time to get serious about evangelism?

As I've driven around Needville the past few months watching all of the new homes being built in the new subdivisions, and enjoyed eating at the new restaurants (Rusty Cowboy, Simple Simon's Pizza, McDonald's and Taco Bell) and watched the new Junior High School being constructed, I've often thought about Luke 10:2.

Luke 10:2 contains a quote from our Lord Jesus, **"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field."**

With all the construction going on around us, and all the new neighbors beginning to buy homes, move in, and start their kids in school, we as a church family need to begin to think deeply about Luke 10:2. **"The harvest is plentiful."** Souls looking to plant roots in a new town, start a new chapter in their lives, are also looking to find a new spiritual home for them and their families.

Some will be Christians, seeking a new church home to get involved with. Others haven't even thought about having faith in Jesus Christ as a life priority. Church isn't on their radar, but they might be looking for an after school program for their elementary kids to get involved with, or a safe place their teens might go on Friday nights for fellowship where they don't have to worry about them. In that case, our church might be an unexpected option.

The truth is, the harvest has already been plentiful in the Needville community, but in the weeks, months and years ahead it is going to be even more plentiful day by day. There is going to be a growing need for new families, who want to plant spiritual roots, to find a church home, but more importantly to "merge with Jesus."

"The harvest is plentiful... but the workers are few." As Jesus prepped his disciples to carry on his ministry among the Jews in Galilee and beyond, he noted a very important fact. **"...but the workers are few."** He saw so many people hungry for God in their lives even if they didn't know that it was God that they were thirsting for. **"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go to meet with God?"** (Psalm 42:2) Where can I go to merge with Jesus?

Yet, when it came to who would go and meet the people where they are with their spiritual hunger, Jesus states, **"...the workers are few."**



As our new neighbors move into the Needville area, we're going to need a team of workers who can help connect them to our church family and the love of Jesus Christ.

First of all we need a couple of people who are a little bit computer savvy to help design social media ads for Facebook and Instagram to call their attention to our church. We need a couple of people to make sure automated texts and emails go out to people who respond to the social media ads. Finally, we need to keep our church website updated so people can learn more about our church and its ministries.

When new folk walk through the door we need a Welcome Team of greeters and visitor hosts to welcome them, sit with them, and make them feel more than just welcomed, but instantly loved!

Social media and Sunday worship isn't the only place where we need to enlist workers for the harvest field.

Just as importantly, we need drivers on Wednesdays to pick up elementary kids at school to transport them to Children's Fellowship. We also need small group leaders willing to pour the love of Jesus into kids on Wednesday nights by helping teach lessons at Children's Fellowship.

On Friday nights, we need chaperones to connect with teens who attend Catacombs, and people who are willing to invest the time to befriend teens, especially those with no church home, to help them "Go Deeper."

As more people come to our church, we're also going to need more people to step up to the plate to teach Children's Sunday School or lead a new teen or adult/parenting class so that kids, youth and adults can grow deeper as they "merge with Jesus."

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field." Might you be one of those workers who can help out in some way starting this fall? That's something to pray about, for it's time to get serious about evangelism!



Immanuel Evangelical Church's **OPEN MARKETPLACE**

Sunday October 11th, 2026 at 11 am
at the Columbus Club Hall on Hwy 36

- **Live Auction**
- **Basket Raffle**
- **Country Store**
- **Raffle**

• **Turkey and Dressing
Meals With Dessert**
— **11am - 12:30 pm** —



**Raffle and meal tickets
available soon.**

Contact :

Linda Griffith 832-595-4899
Sharon Roberson 281-750-1291

Meal & Raffle Tickets go on sale August 23

**Open Marketplace 2026 is
just around the corner. Get
your meal & raffle tickets
starting August 23!**

Open Marketplace mailers were sent to all people listed in our 2026 church directory via regular mail. You should have received yours by the first week of June. If you did not receive yours, extra copies are located on the table in the office lobby. We will not be re-publishing full details in our church newsletters nor Sunday bulletins. Thanks for keeping your mailer in a safe place so that you can reference it when needed.

AUGUST 23...a big date....meal and raffle ticket sales/check-out begin in the Fellowship Hall before and after worship AND auction items, baskets, canned goods, and craft items may start being delivered to the church.

Linda Griffith and Sharon Roberson

Meet the Teacher Night
Thursday, August 27th
5:00 PM



Adult Sunday School Class

4-week study | Sundays at 9:00 am
Begins August 9 | Church Library Classroom
Adults of all ages invited!

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!



IEC YOUTH

Deanna Shifley, Interim Youth Director

Email: Deanna.shifley@gmail.com

Cell: 567-242-4490

Office: 979-793-6283

Immanuel youth help lead NMA community VBS



Teens from our church helped take the lead in putting on the community Vacation Bible School. Assisting Nathan Gaskamp with recreation were Zyleahya White, Charlie Shifferly, Keegan March, Ryan Stembridge and Corbin March. Travis Stembridge ran projection and the Media Shout computer daily for VBS opening, music rehearsals, and the closing VBS Program on July 10. Thanks to all of our teens who helped make VBS an incredible experience for all the kids in the community.



The 
Catacombs

Catacombs Planning Team Meeting
Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30 pm

Teachers, Leaders, Drivers needed for our Fall Youth Programs

Youth ministry is vital in church, whether you are a Sunday School teacher, kitchen helper, clean-up specialist, driver or somewhere in between. Your role as a youth ministry volunteer is a vital part that makes a difference in our church and more importantly in the lives of our youth. As we are gearing up for the upcoming school year, we are calling for volunteers, for ministers. Will you prayerfully consider to answer that call? We need you. The youth need you!

We are needing volunteers for this Fall the following: preschool and regular Sunday School teachers, Wednesday drivers, teachers/leaders, kitchen help. We are currently short staffed with drivers and teachers/leaders for our Children's Fellowship ministry. Please contact Pastor Ron 419-905-9844 if you can help out.

Kids Ministry begins August 26th
4:00-5:30 pm

Youth begins August 26th
6:00-8:00 pm

Children's Fellowship/Youth Fellowship/Confirmation
Registration

Wednesday, August 19 from 5:00-6:00 pm



Favorite Hymns July-August.
Celebrate **Summer** by singing our
favorite hymns during worship!

Bell Choir rehearsals to resume September 2nd



The Bell Choir will begin rehearsals for the 2026-2027 school year on Sept. 2. Rehearsals are held each Wednesday from 5:30-6:00 pm. We hope to perform once a month September through May with special performances on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

We could always use extra teens or adults of all ages to participate in the Bell Choir. Contact Pastor Ron for more details.

Archeologists uncover burnt wooden beams from era of destruction of First Temple in Jerusalem

Massive wooden beams charred by the fire that destroyed Jerusalem and the First Temple were unearthed during a recent dig at the Jerusalem Walls National Park in the City of David, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) reported on July 20, 2026.

The First Temple, which was built by King Solomon, was destroyed in 586 BC by Nebuchadnezzar II, the second king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.

IAA and Tel Aviv University archaeologists discovered the burnt beams inside a building that had collapsed in the fire, the IAA said. The beams appear to have served as the roof of an inner courtyard in a building from the First Temple period," IAA excavation director Efrat Bocher said. Plaster that had melted off the building's walls, sealing the wood beneath it, had likely preserved the beams for 2,600 years, she said.

The IAA's Dr. Johanna Regev, who is studying the beams, said: "It is very rare in Israel to find wood with such a large number of growth rings. Here in the City of David, we found thick beams with many rings, offering significant research potential, with more growth rings enabling higher dating resolution." we can attain much greater precision, narrowing the dating range down to as little as 10 years."

According to the IAA, Jerusalem's returning residents, as they began to rebuild the city, probably made a deliberate decision to preserve the memory of the destruction by leaving behind remains that tell the story of the catastrophe. Bocher said: "We are just before Tisha B'Av. (a Day of Remembrance held on July 22 by Christians and Jews that commemorates the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BC and the Second Temple in 70 AD). This discovery makes you feel that you are witnessing the very moment of destruction, the mo-

Article taken from The Jerusalem Post, July 20, 2026



ment when it all happened. It's deeply moving."

Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu said: "Jerusalem's soil continues to provide tangible evidence of the city's ancient past. The wooden beams burned in the destruction of the First Temple stand as a powerful reminder of the Jewish people's presence in Jerusalem some 2,600 years ago."

Missions/Outreach

August mission focus: Evangelical Association

Our Missions Committee has chosen the Evangelical Association as our wider missions focus for the month of August.

The EA (Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches) is our congregation's Wider Church affiliation.

Founded in 1998, the EA supports and networks churches of the Reformed, Christian, Evangelical and Congregational heritage by providing nationwide ordained pastoral credentials for EA clergy, assisting churches in the pastoral search process, connecting churches with EA affiliated global missionaries, producing resources for local churches like the EA Desk Calendar and Evangeli-



cal Catechism, and networking pastors and churches together for summer church camps and other ministries. The EA comes together for a National Convocation to refresh pastors and local church leaders with worship, prayer, workshops, and ministry networking.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for the EA in the month of August via the special mission envelopes located in the pews. You can learn more about the EA by viewing the Digital Missions Display in the main lobby of the church or by going online to www.evangelicalassociation.org.

Immanuel hosts 2026 NMA Community VBS



Our church served as on site host for the 2026 Needville Ministerial Alliance Community Vacation Bible School, July 6-10, while the VBS was hosted by Needville Global Methodist Church.

A number of church members took part in the community VBS ministry including: Nathan Gaskamp, Kim March, Mike Richter, Shirley Richter and Pastor Ron. Teens from our church who helped out included Corbin March, Keegan

March, Charlie Shifferly, Ryan Stembridge, Travis Stembridge, Zyleahya White.

Local congregations participating in Community VBS included Carmel Church, Grace Fellowship Church, Immanuel Evangelical Church, Needville Global Methodist Church, Purpose Church, and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

We were proud to welcome the area kids into our building!

EA National Minister transitions in September



Rev. Jim Barnes
EA National Minister

Dear EA Sisters and Brothers,

About three months ago I received concerning scan results suggesting a possible recurrence of cancer following my battle with that disease in 2021. Many of you have been praying for me since then, both individually and in your churches. Following several more scans and tests in recent weeks, it was confirmed a few days ago that I do indeed have cancer once again and will now be on a path of determining what kind of treatment options might be most helpful.

I want to thank you for all of the prayers being offered by people in the EA as well as in many EA churches. Please continue to keep me on your prayer lists as I face this new health battle. Patti and I truly appreciate knowing that our challenges are being lifted to the Lord by so many.

Given the circumstances, I also want to share with you that I will be retiring from my role as the National Minister of the Evangelical Association in September. The members of the EA board of directors have been aware of this decision for the last several months and have been planning for the transition so that the EA can continue to function smoothly once I have stepped down.

It has been a joy serving among you as national minister for the last seventeen years. Having had the opportunity to meet so many faithful pastors and lay people in EA churches all across the country has been a wonderful blessing in my life.
Yours in His Service,

Rev. Jim Barnes, National Minister
Evangelical Association of Reformed
and Congregational Christian Churches



Rev. Jason Ford
EA National Minister
Elect

Dear EA Family and Friends,

I hope this message finds you well.

Following Jim Barnes' April announcement to the Board of Directors of his plans to retire, we have worked diligently to identify our next national minister. After prayer and careful consideration, the members of the Evangelical Association Board of Directors have extended the call to the Rev. Jason Ford to serve as our new National Minister when Jim retires in September. Jason accepted the call and is eager to begin serving you.

Jason brings 34 years of ministry experience across diverse settings, including youth and pastoral ministry in Texas, Indiana and Mississippi, short-term mission projects, and various supervisory roles. He has experience in missions and is a team builder. He is a gifted, gospel-focused, Christ-centered expositor of Scripture with strong administrative skills. In keeping with the EA's mission, Jason excels at casting vision, doing development work and has a proven record of revitalizing declining churches. He is a creative thinker and visionary leader who can articulate a fresh vision for the future in these challeng-

ing, rapidly changing times. Ever-growing in his devotion and knowledge of the Lord, Jason is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Religious Studies in Expository Preaching at Trinity Theological Seminary. Jason has served on the EA Board of Directors since 2017 and as Vice-President since 2022. He is from Collierville, Tennessee, and is 53 years old. Jason has been married to Stephanie for 28 years. They have one son, Ben, age 23.

As we prepare for this time of transition, I want to say that we deeply value Jim Barnes' dedication and service to the Evangelical Association since its inception, as well as his ministry as our national minister over the past 17 years. We pray for his health and happiness in his future endeavors.

On Saturday, September 19, 2026 we will be celebrating Jim's ministry to the EA and installing Jason into his new role at the EA Annual Convocation at Jerusalem Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Tom Hendershot, President
Evangelical Association Board of Directors

Register now for 2026 EA National Convocation

Now is the time to register for the 2026 EA National Convocation at Jerusalem Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio, September 18-20, 2026.

Visit **www.jcnp21.com** to see the full schedule with speakers and workshops, online registration, as well as lodging recommendations.



Scan the QR code at right for direct link to online registration. **Registration deadline: September 1.**





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am <i>Tyler Reed—</i> <i>speaker</i> <i>IEC Pool Party</i> 6:00-9:00 pm		<i>Catacombs</i> <i>Planning Team</i> <i>Mtg—6:30</i>		<i>Christian Ed—</i> 6:30pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am	<i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	<i>Fellowship</i> <i>Committee</i> 2:00 pm	<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm		<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am	<i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	<i>Brotherhood</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Girl Scouts—6:30</i> <i>Children's /</i> <i>Youth Fellowship</i> <i>Registration</i> 5:00-6:00 pm	<i>Consistory</i> 7:00 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am <i>Women's Guild</i> 2:00 pm	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am		<i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm <i>Children's</i> <i>Ministry</i> 4:00-5:30 pm <i>Youth Ministry</i> 6:00-8:00 pm	<i>Leaps & Bounds</i> <i>Meet Teachers @</i> 5:00 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	
30	31					
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am						

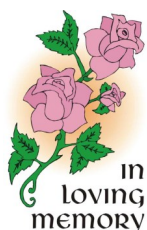
Mark Paweleck
Tommy Lovel
Keith Warncke
Brandon Beck
Cindy Schulze
Sue Hurta
Cecil Tielke
John Spears
Curtis Walzel
Harvey Mager

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Christ
Barbara Sims
Barbara Schroeder
Erna Thielemann
Clarence Thielemann
Robert Hallgren
Ellvina Loehr

Carolyn Kaluza
Becky Tabler
Corlis Delling
Paul Flessener
W.C. Todd
Glennys Cavey
Glynn & Bernice Schmidt

Barbara James
Norma Freund
Rev. Jim Barnes
Shirley Richter
Nathan Gaskamp
Florence Gaskamp
Yvonne Lingnau
Rodney Elster
WC Todd
Glennys Cavey



Bernice Meyer passed on to Heaven's glory on July 1, 2026 at the age of 82. Her funeral was held on July 21 at the church. Please lift up her family in your prayers during this time of mourning.



Jo Ann Conrad went home to be with the Lord on July 8, 2026. She was 91 years old. Her funeral was held July 14 at Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg. Please lift her daughters and family in your prayers during this time of mourning.



1	Deanna Dick	16	Kaitlyn Kostelnik
	Christy Legendre	17	Deanna Shifley
4	Bradley Holik	18	Kaylee Manville
	Chad Bishop	19	Christopher Smith
	Colton Mikeska		Rose Askew
5	Karen Zurek	20	Carolyn Kaluza
	Dale Urbanek		Jeanette Balcerowicz
6	Chad Griffith	21	Matthew Kramer
8	Lindsey Salazar	22	Greg Manville
9	Lynn Roesler	24	Clayton Sommerfeld
	Nathan Gaskamp	25	Chris Richter
11	Corlis Delling		Cecil Tielke
12	Barbara Cooper	26	Ashley Sommerfeld
13	Keeli Teykl	28	Carolyn Boehnemann
14	Bryler Weidemann	29	Colin McClellan
	Cindy Hart	30	Addison Fletcher
15	Wade Bosse		Kaitlyn Weidemann
			Sadie Stasney
			Sydney Stasney
			Edward Cavey



Donald & Sandra Zacek—August 2
Cecil & Nancy Tielke—August 7
Brian & Dianne Sebesta—August 21
Tommy & Dana Gerken—August 22
Bobby & Mary Zwahr—August 23
Carl & Michelle McClellan—August 24
Jimmy & Pauletta Klemstein—August 30

NEW!!!! I.E.C. PROPERTY INSURANCE FUND

The purpose of this fund is to be our back-up should we ever need repairs to our facilities due to wind/storm/hurricane damage. We began this fund with the proceeds from our I.E.C. Endowment and monthly deposits will be made into the fund from the general account, like an 'insurance payment'. Additional ways to build this fund are through your gifts, memorials, portions of your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, etc. Thank you to those members who have already started contributing to this fund. When writing a check, please write the check to the general account, but note in the 'memo' that it is for the Property Insurance Fund.

Financials now available

If you would like a copy of the church's financial report, please stop by the office. Copies will be made available after consistory review.

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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9018 CHURCH STREET

NEEDVILLE, TEXAS 77461-0505

www.immanuelevangelicalchurch.org

Find us on Facebook @ Immanuel Evangelical Church Needville Texas

Getting ready for Open Marketplace



A number of ladies from the church got together on July 20 for a raffle book making party to prep the raffle tickets that will be sold to help raise funds at Open Marketplace on October 11, 2026 at the Columbus Hall in downtown Needville.. Meal tickets and raffle tickets will go on sale starting August 23.