

# Immanuel Evangelical Church July, 2026



EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



## 2026 Music Camp features a Whodunit mystery theme based on parable of the Good Samaritan



Kids from Music Camp 2026 took the stage on June 26 to present the musical "A Not So Terrible Parable" based on the parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37. The Music Camp musical modernized the parable into a whodunit mystery setting, but the Gospel of Jesus still sang out loud and clear. More photos on page 5.

## New Church Secretary takes reins of Office

**Suzanne Brumbelow** has joined our church staff on July 1, 2026 as our new Church Secretary.



Suzanne is well known to many in our church staff who came to know her during the many years she worked at Amergy Bank, from which she just retired on June 30.

We are excited to have Suzanne fill this vital role for our church family. Stop by the Church Office some time and welcome her to Immanuel.

## Semi-annual congregational meeting to be held July 26

The Semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, July 26 in the sanctuary. The meeting will focus on a review of the mid-year budget and ministry expense report plus any other business deemed important to bring up before the congregation. Please plan to attend.

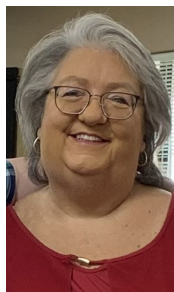
## Welcome new member of our church



We want to welcome Madelyn Morton as a new member of our church family. Madelyn joined our church on June 14 and is already an active participant in our Adult Class Sunday School.

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

## Deanna going on hiatus



Deanna Shifley, the pastoral spouse, will be taking an extended leave of absence from all of us in Texas starting July 8 to care for ailing parents in Indiana.

**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

# Ron's Ramblings

## What's your favorite hymn?

We all have our favorite hymns that we like to sing. I know I do and have, ever since I was a kid and would go out to the barn and sing Sunday School songs to Freckles the Cow. My favorite songs that I like to sing to God have changed since back then. As I've gotten older, my repertoire of favorite hymns and praise songs has grown to include both golden oldies like "Amazing Grace," "The Old Rugged Cross," "How Great Thou Art," "Blessed Assurance," "It Is Well with My Soul" and "They'll Know We Are Christians" among others.

When it comes to newer praise songs, a plethora of songs cause my spirit to sour. They include: "How Great Is Our God" by Chris Tomlin, "Agnus Dei" by Michael W. Smith, "Blessed Be Your Name" by Matt Redman, "Hymn of Heaven" and "Song of The Saints." by Phil Wickham, and "Your Name" by Paul Baloche.

I know you have your favorite hymns too. We'll be singing a bunch of them this summer, starting July 12, when we share 4 or 5 favorite hymns each week over the rest of the summer.

Most of the time we like to sing the golden oldies. Yet most of our favorite hymns and praise songs really aren't that old. A lot of them stem from the 1800's or later. One of oldest songs in our red hymnal is "Of the Father's Love Begotten" written by Aurelius Prudentius in the 4th century A.D. Yet, that song would be considered a contemporary praise song compared to another song that I recently discovered.

The "Oxyrhynchus Hymn" is the earliest known manuscript of a Christian hymn, with Greek lyrics and musical notation, to have ever been found by archeologists. A fragment of the song was found on a papyrus dating back to the end of the 3rd century A.D, in Oxyrhynchus, Egypt by archeologists in 1918 and published in 1922.

One of the hymn's most unique features is found in these words ([π]ατέρα χυῖον ἁγῖον πνεῦμα, πᾶσαι δυνάμεις ἐπιφωνούντων ἀμὴν ἀμὴν, κράτος αἶνος ). This hymn is the oldest known hymn to sing of God with the triune name of "Father, Son and Holy Spirit." The Nicene Creed, which helped define the Trinity was not published until the Council

of Nicaea in 325 A.D. and this hymn fragment was being sung by Christians in Egypt a number of decades before that.



Fortunately, we don't have to learn ancient Greek to be able to sing this praise song. It was translated by contemporary Christian song writers, Chris Tomlin and Ben Feilding, in 2025, set to modern musical notation, and entitled "The First Hymn."

We sang part of it in worship on June 28.

The lyrics from the contemporary version that stems from the ancient song are as follows (highlighted in bold):

**"To the only Giver of all gifts, amen.**

To the only One who forgives our sins, amen.

To the only God, to the risen King, to the One who died and rose again, amen, **we sing amen.**

**All powers cry out in answer. All glory and praise forever to our God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen, we sing amen, amen. Amen, we sing amen, amen. We sing our hymn, amen."**

What a beautiful song. What an ancient faith. What a treasure to be able to sing this hymn of praise once more.

Sure, we have older songs of praise to God recorded in the Bible, like the Psalms of David and Philippians 2:6-11. Yet, this hymn is special because it is the oldest Christian hymn outside of the New Testament that contains musical notation.

This summer, when we sing our favorite golden oldies hymns in worship, know that the songs you pick are just babes compared to this old hymn that was sung by the Early Church in Egypt 1,800 years ago.

Let us sing our favorite hymns, amen.

**"We sing our hymn, amen."**

[**Note:** You can purchase "The First Hymn" on iTunes if you want to enjoy it at home.]



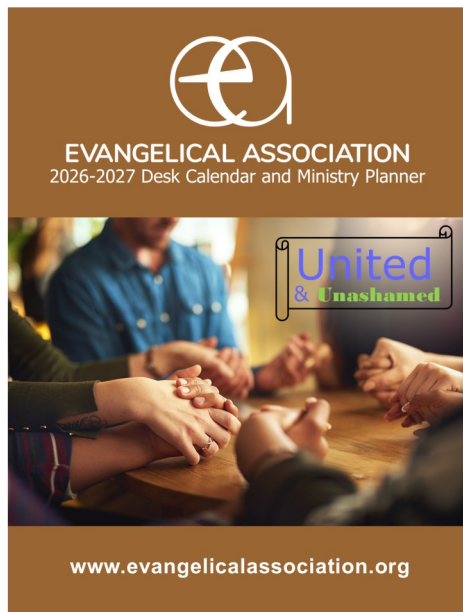
The papyrus fragment of the **Oxyrhynchus Hymn** from 3rd century Egypt, is now known as "The First Hymn."

## New EA Calendars to be released in July

The 2026-2027 EA Desk Calendar will be released in mid July for sale to EA pastors and churches all across America.

This year marks the 17th year that Pastor Ron and Deanna have co-edited the Desk Calendar for the Evangelical Association and the 8th year that calendars have been shipped from Needville, Texas.

The EA Desk Calendars are great for pastors, worship committees, mission committees, and any lay leader in a local church.



**Mark your calendars!**  
**Music Camp 2027** will be June 21-25  
**Save the Date!**

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

**Needville Ministerial Alliance  
 Community VBS**  
 July 6-10, 2026 9 am to Noon  
 Immanuel Evangelical Church

**National Ice Cream Day | July 19**

**Guest Speaker**  
 Linsey Jorgenson  
 Streetharts of Haiti

Hot dogs and  
 homemade ice  
 cream served fol-  
 lowing worship

**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

## Teens play an integral role in Music Camp 2026



Travis Stembridge was the main man during Music Camp running song lyrics, drama script and choreography videos from the Projection Computer in the balcony all day everyday for music and drama rehearsals. He also made corrections on the fly! Thanks for being our computer guru!

Junior and senior high youth played an integral role in Music Camp 2026 serving as group chaperones, and assisting with drama & music and recreation. Spending quality time with kids this year were: front row: Cadey Chapman, Zyleahya White, Charlie Shifferly, Ava Casassa and Avery Schwaiger; back row: Chloe Schwaiger, Ryan Stembridge, Hank Chapman and Travis Stembridge. Thanks for all of your help!!

## The IXEYX Catacombs

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

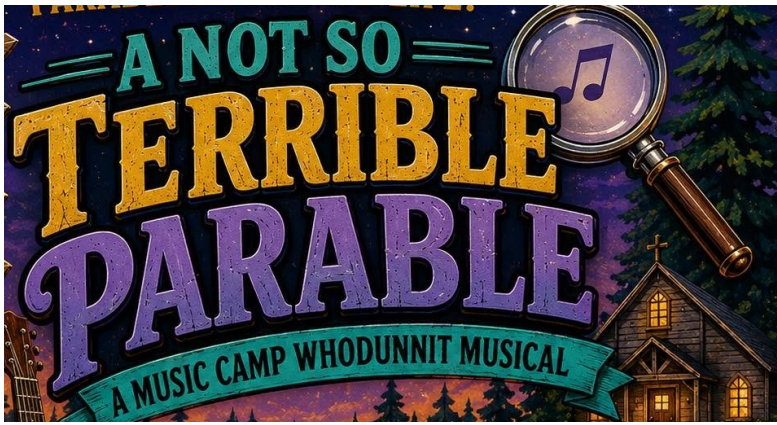
## Kids building the Tabernacle during Sunday School

Kids attending Sunday School this summer are building a Bible Bricks (Lego) version of the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle is a biblically accurate replica of the one God commanded Moses and the people of Israel to build in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

During the month of June the kids were able to complete the outer court walls and the altar for burnt offerings.

All kids of the church are invited to join the fun on Sundays at 9:00 am to work on this project.





The kids spent a lot of time in the sanctuary each day learning songs, dance moves and drama script . Thanks goes out to Cadey and Charlie for their help!



Kitchen Helpers: Shirley Hlavaty, Becky Oberhoff, Ann Chambers and Shirley Richter



Music Camp Helpers: Kim March (registration), Lori Stembridge (Bible & Art), Mike Richter (Sound)



Games led by Nate Gaskamp and Ryan Stembridge were wet, fishy and fun!

# Missions/Outreach

## July mission focus: Isaiah 117 House

Isaiah 117 House is a new mission for Immanuel. Isaiah House was founded in 2017 by Ronda Paulson, a foster parent. The name comes from Isaiah 1:17 which says, 'defend the cause of the fatherless'. She believed that was what God was calling her to do. The dream for Isaiah 117 House was born.

Isaiah House provides a comforting home for children are removed from their homes out of concern for their safety. These children instead can be brought to wait-a place that is safe with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys, and snuggly blankets. This space allows children to receive the comfort and care they need while child welfare staff can do the necessary paperwork and identify a good placement.



The mission of Isaiah 117 House is threefold:

- Reduce trauma for children awaiting placement
- Lighten the load for child welfare services
- Ease the transition for foster families.

For more information about this mission, please read the information on the Mission Digital Display in the office lobby. Thank you for your continued generous support of Immanuel's missions.

## 2026 EA National Convocation to be in Ohio

The 2026 EA National Convocation is coming to Jerusalem Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio, September 18-20, 2026

The theme of this year's national gathering is "United and Unashamed."

Bring a group from your church for a weekend of worship, helpful workshops, fellowship and opportunities to network with EA pastors and missionaries. Numerous speakers will address a host of topics from church history and heritage to dealing with the rise of AI in our society and its impact on the church....and of course, as at every gathering national gathering, there will be wonderful food and opportunities to get to know fellow Christians from all across the country.

Workshops and general sessions include:

- Building the Ministry Team
- Reaching Those in the Shadow of the Steeple
- Church: Heritage and Renewal
- Engaging the Culture of Today
- Uniting the Congregation through Worship
- Uniting the Congregation through the Gospel
- Addressing Addiction: The Effectiveness of Faith in Recovery
- Helping the Hurting (e.g., trauma, PTSD, and more)
- Authentic Ministry: Understanding and Navigating AI in the Church
- two EA Missions panels: Global and US Missions.

Come expecting to be blessed as God further unites us



through His Word and Spirit - and to be encouraged as we unashamedly embrace and declare His powerful gospel.

Visit [www.jcnp21.com](http://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.





# THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM



Learning to love God and follow Jesus!

The Heidelberg Catechism is a special book with 129 questions and answers.

- ★ It was written in 1563 in Heidelberg, Germany by Reformed pastors.
- ★ It teaches us what the Bible says in a simple question-and-answer way so we can grow in our faith!



## DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Written in 1563
- ★ 129 Questions & Answers
- ★ Helps us understand God, ourselves, and our need for Jesus.
- ★ Used by churches around the world for over 450 years!



## THREE FAMOUS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q.1** What is your only comfort in life and in death?



### ANSWER

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him. (HC Q&A 1)



**Q.21** What is true faith?



### ANSWER

True faith is not only a certain knowledge by which I accept as true all that God has revealed to us in His Word; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit works in me through the gospel, that not only to others but also to me, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness and salvation have been freely given by God out of sheer grace, solely because of the merits of Christ.



Faith means trusting Jesus with all your heart!

**Q.72** ABOUT BAPTISM  
Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?



### ANSWER

No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.



**ONLY JESUS SAVES!**

## COOL FACTS!

- 129** There are 129 questions and answers.
- It is still used today by churches all around the world!
- It teaches about important things every Christian should know:
  - The Apostles' Creed
  - The Ten Commandments
  - The Lord's Prayer



## WHAT DOES IT TEACH?

The Heidelberg Catechism helps us learn important truths from the Bible, like:

- ♥ Who God is
- 👤 Who we are
- ✝️ What Jesus has done for us
- 📖 How we should live
- 🙏 How we can pray and worship



## LET'S REMEMBER!

The Heidelberg Catechism helps us know God better, trust Jesus more, and live for Him every day!

Thank You, Jesus!



**"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."**  
Psalm 119:105 (NIV)



## CHALLENGE!

Read a question and answer this week. Talk about it with your family or Sunday School class! Let's grow together in knowing God's truth!





# July



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
				<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30  <i>Christian Ed</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am  <i>Food Pantry</i> <i>Collection Day</i>	<i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Fellowship</i> 2:00 pm	<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm  <i>EA Board Meeting</i> 12:00 pm	<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Missions Committee</i> 6:00 pm  <i>Worship Committee</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	
<b>VBS 9:00—Noon</b>						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am	<i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Fellowship</i> <i>Committee</i> 2:00 pm		<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Consistory</i> 7:00 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am  <i>Women's Guild</i> 2:00 pm	
<i>19 National</i> <i>Ice Cream</i> <i>Day</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am  <i>Lunch following</i> <i>worship</i>	<i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>Brotherhood</i> 6:30 pm  <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm	<i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm	<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm  <i>NMA Clergy</i> 4:00 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	
<b>Pastor Ron on Vacation July 20— August 3</b>						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am  <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am  <i>Semi Annual</i> <i>Congregational</i> <i>Meeting</i> 11:30 am	<i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm		<i>Leaps &amp; Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm	<i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am	
<b>Pastor Ron on Vacation July 20— August 3</b>						

# 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  
Becky Tabler  
Corlis Delling  
Jo Ann Conrad  
Paul Flessener

Glynn & Bernice Schmidt  
Barbara James  
Norma Freund  
Rev. Jim Barnes  
Shirley Richter  
Nathan Gaskamp  
Florence Gaskamp  
Yvonne Lingnau



Reese Legendre July 02  
Tucker Morton July 02  
Natalie Rodgers July 03  
Hank Chapman July 03  
Lauren Hlavaty July 04  
Gayle Bosse July 06  
Donna Miller July 06  
Teresa Bosse July 06  
Reese Fredrickson July 06  
Hunter Faas July 09  
Wendy Jordan July 10  
Wanda Miller July 11  
Wendy Todd July 12  
Sherrie Zwahr July 12  
Keith Kostelnik July 12  
Quentin Sebesta July 13  
Cohen Mills July 13  
Barbara James July 14  
Clayton Sebesta July 14

Becky Tabler July 15  
Michelle Balcerowicz July 15  
Jackie Moody July 15  
Darrell Weidemann July 16  
Brody Sebesta July 16  
Matthew Morton July 17  
Jo Ann Morton July 18  
Emily Langlois July 18  
Kristi Klemstein July 19  
Christina Woodard July 19  
Parker Schmidt July 19  
Dena Dick July 21  
Marisa Bienek July 21  
Layton Youth July 21  
Gina LaRoche July 22  
Jason Ferguson July 22  
Keith Weidemann July 23  
Nancy Urbanek July 24  
Bubba Morton July 24  
Thomas Nowak July 25  
Richard Oberrender July 25  
Patsye Roesler July 26  
Hudson Meyer July 27  
Pamela Klawitter July 30  
Chase Raska July 31



Thomas & Janice Nowak July 04  
Clinton & Suzanne Mikeska July 06  
Ronald & Bobbie Richter July 06  
Heath & Carrissa Zatopek July 07  
Brett & Christy Legendre July 07  
Joseph & Brandi Schwaiger July 09  
Dave & Bridget Goodbread July 14  
Ryan & Madeline Drapela July 16  
Kyle & Kelsey Griffith July 18  
Glynn & Bernice Schmidt July 25

# THE DIDACHE

## ONE OF THE EARLIEST CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS

The Didache (pronounced dih-DAY-kay) means "The Teaching." It was written around A.D. 70-100 to help the early Church learn how to live like Jesus and follow God.



### 1. THE TWO WAYS

Didache 1-6 teaches about "The Two Ways"—the way of life and the way of death.

<p><b>VS.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Love God</li> <li>✓ Love others</li> <li>✓ Be kind</li> <li>✓ Tell the truth</li> <li>✓ Follow Jesus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Do evil</li> <li>✗ Hurt others</li> <li>✗ Lie</li> <li>✗ Turn away from God</li> </ul>
<p>★ We have a choice every day! The way of life leads to God's love.</p>	

### 2. PRO-LIFE TEACHING DIDACHE 2:2

Didache 2:2 teaches us to value and protect life:

"You shall not kill a child by abortion nor destroy what is begotten."



This shows that the early Christians believed life is a gift from God, from the very beginning!

### 3. BAPTISM TEACHING DIDACHE 7:1-3

The Didache gives a simple and beautiful teaching about baptism:

- 1 Baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- 2 Use living water.
- 3 If you don't have living water, use other water and say these words.



### 4. THE OLDEST VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER DIDACHE 8:2

The Didache contains the oldest version of the Lord's Prayer outside of the New Testament!

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial. For yours is the power and the glory forever."



The early Christians prayed this prayer just like we do today!

### 5. A POWERFUL WORD FROM THE DIDACHE DIDACHE 4:2

"Seek each day the faces of the saints (fellow believers), in order that you may be refreshed by their words."



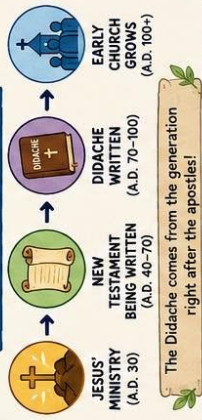
God wants us to encourage and learn from each other every day!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The word Didache (did-ah-KAY) is the Greek word for "Teaching." Many people call it "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles."



### A QUICK TIMELINE



DIDACHE IN KOINE GREEK

Διδάχη (Didache)  
"The Teaching"



The Didache reminds us that following Jesus is not just about believing—it's about how we live every day!



**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