

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

May 17, 2020



Immanuel Lutheran Church is a
A Mission of the North American
Lutheran Church
5955 S Elm Ave.
Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706
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Sunday Schedule

Worship for everyone online

Wednesday Schedule

Junior High & High School
Youth Group "Refuge" Meet
from 6:00PM-8:00PM on Zoom

Welcome to You in Your Home while we worship God! God invites all who would seek His face to worship Him this morning. Be open to the Holy Spirit as you hear God's Word and sing His praises. He is mighty and worthy of our praise! We are well-aware of the challenges we all face with the health crisis we are enduring. God is in charge and will see us through. Let us continue to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Immanuel is part of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Our Core Values include being Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded and Congregationally-Focused.

To learn more about Immanuel please call the church office or fill out the worship registration slip on the back page of your bulletin and place send it in to the church. The office would like to keep track of all of the worshippers this week.

Call a friend immediately following your worship and talk and enjoy fellowship over the phone, maybe while you each enjoy a snack. Keeping connected to are brothers and sisters in Christ is important and very uplifting. Phone a friend!

Order of Worship

Prelude

Laurel Jacobsen

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Silence for reflection

Time of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor Father, we read in your Word that if we love you, we should keep your commands. You are perfect in all your ways, and we are not.

ALL **We are imperfect people who have sinned.**

Pastor As much as we strive to keep your commands, we fail and follow the paths of destruction.

ALL **Help us, O Lord!**

Pastor Father, you extend your gracious hand to us; your arm is not too short. You sent your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty of our sin through death on the cross. His death satisfied your wrath, and we are no longer declared guilty, but innocent because of Christ crucified!

ALL **We are forgiven! We are free! We are loved by the Everlasting Father!**

Opening Hymn

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

LBW# 385

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown
For my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.

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The First Reading

Acts 17:16-31 read by Phil Tews

16While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babblers want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) 19So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." 21Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. 22Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortal's life and breath and all things. 26From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' 29Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now

he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22 read by Phil Tews

13Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Special Music

“This Is Amazing Grace”

Sung by Austin Bratton

The Gospel Lesson

John 14:15-21

¹⁵If you love me; you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Sermon

“The Reward of Obedience”

Pastor John

The Nicene Creed

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right Hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in One holy, Christian, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Offering

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving, what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for the People

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Closing Song

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LBW# 315

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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Announcements

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God! (*Sung*) Amen, Amen, Amen!

Postlude

Laurel Jacobsen

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK of May 18, 2020

Let's focus on continuing to meet together even when we have to use other ways to do that. **Hebrews 10:24,25 NIV.** "And now let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching".

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE HELPING IMMANUEL STAY IN TOUCH. Each council member has voluntarily taken names from our church directory to call weekly and see how our folks are doing during this difficult time. Please let us know if you are homebound and would like to be included (if you haven't been called). We are the Church and want us to stay in community. God loves you and so do we!

WOMEN'S EVENT! IMMANUEL'S BIG HAT DAY! JOIN US ON ZOOM THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH Mark your calendar now for a virtual gathering and wear a big hat! We will send out invitations with the link to the meeting for Zoom. You may join in even if you don't have a computer you can listen in on your phone. We will discuss the verses in Matthew 6:31-33 and all the hats we as women wear, especially during this crazy time. Here is how you join our Big Hat Day: On May 20th about 6:45, put on your favorite hat, (any hat will work) then, grab your favorite snack or refreshment, (We shall not judge, choose your favorites) once you have found a nice comfy spot to sit in your own home or backyard you are ready for Immanuel's Zoom Big Hat Day Event.

For Computer users:

Log on to <https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/99156086991> at 7:00PM. Remember to: 1. Mute your microphone to keep background noise to a minimum and only turn it on when you want to speak. 2. Position your camera properly and look into your camera. 3. Don't sit close to a window where the sun is shining in behind you.

For Phone users:

Dial on your phone: 1 669 900 6833

You will be welcomed to Zoom and asked to enter your meeting ID followed by #
Meeting ID: 991 5608 6991

If you have any questions or troubles call Marcia Hollenbeck.

Prayers of the church

For Christ's Church: *Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age. As we move into a time of transition, help us to know that though the world around us changes, You do not change. And while we may not know what the future has for us, You know what that future looks like and are already there, so call us to Yourself and give us the courage and confidence to step out in faith.*

Members and their families serving in the military: *Kobe Bell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Michael Hansen, Caleb Hathaway, Scott Linger, Matt Ward, & Matthew Tigchelaar.*

Those unable to travel about:
Olga Hansen, Elsie Hoff, Marilyn Iversen Art & Marian Olesen, Phyllis Petersen, and Howard Nielsen.

Those in need of healing: *Bobby Bell, Connie Bennetts, Mike Bennetts, Sandy Britter, Luanne Byrd, Daniel DiPietro, Shirley Keller-Firestone, Pat Griffin, Pastor Gary Gould, Jenny Lee Hodges, Marguerite Johnson, Florence Johnston, Darel Mehrten, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Isaac Orozco Sr., Fil Navaro, Eva Orum, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Tim Pilegard, Virginia Pilegard, Timm Trickett, & Joe Wozniczka.*

Continue to Pray for our Call Process:
For our Interim Pastor and the Call Committee as well as the new Pastor the Lord will send to Immanuel.

This Week at Immanuel

Today

10:30AM Worship for Everyone in your own shelter!

11:30AM Fellowship Time: phone a friend from church.

Wednesday

7:00PM Women's Gathering on Zoom
Big Hat Day! Are you wearing too many hats? Join us on Zoom. See announcements for your link to phone in or long on.

Thursday

12:00 Noon June Chimes Deadline

The church staff continue working within the church as needed. The mail is picked up every day please don't worry about sending your offerings through the mail. Online giving is available there is a recurring donation option offered. See immanueleaston.com and click on donate.

The bulletins are being sent out via postal mail to those who do not have access to the internet. Bulletins are always available online. If you know of someone who would like to receive a bulletin in the mail, please call the church office.

Please remember to call a friend from church and continue to pray for those affected by this virus.

If you have a special prayer request or other need please call or email the church office. Messages are checked daily.

Stay safe, we are working together by working apart. Keep praying. God is good all the time! All the time, God is good.