

*Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church*

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

August 16, 2020



5955 S Elm Ave.
Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706
Office: (559)237-7909
Immanueleaston.com
immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Schedule:
Outdoor Worship 9:00am
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm via Zoom Refuge
For Junior High & High School
Call church office for contact information.

Welcome! Wherever you are; whether at home and on-line, or at our outdoor service, we welcome you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are united as a people of God in worship as a Body of Christ, the Church. We wish we could be together physically in our beautiful sanctuary, but the pandemic has forced us to be creative as our team has gone to great lengths to bring us together, technologically and in person. May God grant you safety and protection during these unprecedented times. Please share our worship opportunities with your family and friends and those who don't know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Immanuel is aligned with the North American Lutheran Church whose Core Values are: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month as well as other special occasions of the church year. If you are baptized and have received instruction concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor before the service or check the box on the worship registration form to schedule an appointment. Only non-alcoholic wine is used in communion at Immanuel.

Moms and Dads, we love children and we welcome children to worship with you and the whole congregation. If you so desire, we do have a nursery – the room with the large window next to the Library at the back of the sanctuary. In there is a rocking chair, toys, as well as a speaker and large window so you can see and hear the service. Your kids may enjoy the activity bags on the rack at the back of the church.

To learn more about Immanuel please be sure to fill out the worship registration slip on the back page of your bulletin and place it in the offering plate or fill out the guest registry located in the church entry.

Restroom facilities are located in the church entry (the narthex). When walking out of the sanctuary take a left and they are at the end of the short hallway.

Join us for a snack and a cup of coffee or juice immediately following our worship service where we can greet you more personally.

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

**PLEASE PRACTICE
ALL PANDEMIC
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

**Please allow us to take your
temperature before joining the group.**

**Please separate each household group
seating by at least 6 feet. Flags are set
out as a tool to help guide the
distancing.**

Please wear a mask.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Ringing the Bells *Calling the community of Easton to worship.*

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Pastor: Gracious Lord, lead us by the Spirit into Your holy presence. Help us to leave behind our own ways and take up our crosses and follow You wholeheartedly. We want to worship You in Spirit and in truth and we invite You into this time of worship with us now. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

Time of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: In Hebrews 4:14-16, we read: "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Let us enter a time of silent reflection, recognizing those times in our life where we have chosen our own way over God's way, those times when we have fallen short.

*A moment of silent reflection,
recognizing our sin and seeking God's forgiveness.*

Pastor: Hear the good news from 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

We know that the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Romans 10:5-15

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Please be seated.

Children will remain in their seats with their families.

The Children's Sermon

Sermon

“In the Midst of the Wind and the Waves” Pastor Dawn Spies

Greetings and welcome to this time of worship and study. What a blessing to be together, here at Immanuel, online, and in every place where our people are. We miss being together! And we are grateful that God continues to grow our faith and comfort our hearts each day.

As we join the disciples today, we find Jesus pushing his disciples into a boat. The disciples had just watched Jesus feed 5000 men, plus women and children! They stood, astonished at the power and abundance of God. Jesus then loads the disciples into a boat, sending them off ahead, while Jesus dismisses the crowd. This crowd, the impromptu feast, had descended on Jesus while he was attempting to get away. We see, in Matthew 14:13, that Jesus “withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.” Now that the feast is over, he’s sent the crowd away, packed the disciples off in the boat, and finally, he “went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone” (Matthew 14:23).

As Jesus spent time alone, in prayer and devotion, in the presence of God, his father... the disciples were far from shore, being tossed around in the midst of the sea. What would it have been like to be the disciples? They had just watched their teacher multiply loaves and fish and feed a throng of people. Now, they hold on for dear life. They’re so worried and stressed out, when they see Jesus walking toward them, they assume he’s a ghost!

I have to admit, my first inclination is to look at the disciples and say, Jesus just feed thousands in your presence! You’ve seen him heal and teach and speak with authority! Why would you be worried! -- It would be easy to question their faith, especially as someone who’s NOT in the boat with them.

But, when I’ve been in the midst of difficult situations, when the world around me changes quickly, or I have too many decisions to make I often forget the abundance and provision of God too. I cling to worry and wonder what to do rather than clinging to Christ. What about you?

Now, notice how Jesus responds to their fear. He speaks to them calmly, in the midst of the wind and the waves saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). He speaks with grace, even encouraging Peter when he wants to walk out, on the water, with Jesus!

God is the same today. Even, in the midst of our windy days, when we might forget, for a moment... God speaks to us with grace, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). Each day, if your own personal day is a bit windy, if the waves are crashing around, and on days when the weather is beautiful and the seas are calm, let us cling first and always to Jesus, the one who greets us with grace, joy and peace. Amen.

Confession of Faith

Please stand, as you are able, for the confession of faith.

Pastor: The confession of faith provides a summary of our beliefs. Today, we hear Paul’s words from Romans 8.

We are convinced that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we have experienced that in everything God works good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

We are also sure that neither death nor life, angels nor demons, neither the present nor things to come, nor any powers, nor heights nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayers of the Church

Holy Communion

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Take the wafer from your communion set.

Take and eat, this is the body of Christ broken for you.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Take the wine from your communion set.

Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ given and shed for you.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: 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.

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Announcements

- Offerings may be placed in the red offering bags on each corner.

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude

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Announcements & Opportunities To Serve

Week of 8-17-2020. Focus on God's faithfulness, especially to Immanuel. Isaiah 25:1 NIV. "LORD, you are my God, I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago."

Pregnancy Care Center Baby Bottle Fund Raiser is going on now through September. If you would like a bottle, please pick one up at the church or call Victoria and she will deliver one to you. For more information, see your August Chimes.

Please keep our future ordained pastor, Taylor Stempniak in your prayers as she says goodbye to the four churches she served during her internship. She will finish her last Sunday obligations on August 16th. Pastor Taylor and Luke will begin preparations to move across the country to our congregation. They expect to be here the end of August.

If you would like to be on a welcoming committee for Pastor Taylor and Luke, please call the church office. We would like the committee to have the pantry & fridge in the parsonage stocked and the home set up move in ready. Sharon Reynolds and Laurel Jacobsen have volunteered to be on the committee if you would like to help out with the parsonage prep please call Sharon Reynolds.

The Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive will be August 23rd from 9:00-Noon. The link to sign up for a reservation is: <https://signup.com/go/BewMFjj> Reservations are **not needed**, but will be taken as close to time as possible. **Walk ins are welcome!** Please remember to bring a photo ID and eat a healthy breakfast before donating.

The September Chimes Deadline will be August 20th at 9:00AM. Please email your submissions for the Newsletter to immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net or deliver them to the church office.

Children's Worship Bulletins will be sent out each week. They are cute little puzzle pages. If you know children who would like to receive a bulletin in the mail, please call Victoria in the office with their address and age. Each week they will receive a Worship Bulletin with games and activities about scriptures.

The 2020 NALC Convocation is “in the books” as they use to say. Today we can say, it’s online! Victoria Salwasser was our convocation delegate this year. Her report will be printed in the September Chimes. She thanks Immanuel for the opportunity to serve as the voting delegate and was very blessed by participating in the convocation. She encourages all of you to watch the Vision Talk by Bishop Dan Selbo at thenalc.org. It’s about half way through the Friday, August 7th video.

The 2020 Caruthers Fair food booths have been canceled this year as well as the carnival rides and the exhibits. There will be a small livestock show and sale. **The Caruthers Fair Queen Coronation will still happen on September 30th.** The fair queen will be the one who sells the most raffle tickets for this year’s 2020 Chevrolet Camaro! If you would like to purchase tickets from queen candidate, Taylor Trigueirro call Victoria for her contact information.

Jacob Wood is preparing care packages for the kids from church that are starting back to school this year. Since the pandemic has changed their education style he thought it would be nice to let the kids know we love them and are praying for them as they learn to transition to a new normal for a while. If you would like to help contribute to the care packages please contact Jacob by Friday, August 21st. You may also donate to the Youth account online or by printing Youth in the memo line of your check payable to Immanuel.

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: Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Michael Hansen, Caleb Hathaway, Scott Linger, Matt Ward, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

Those in need of healing: Ana Marie (Milet) Bolanos, Connie Bennetts, Mike Bennetts, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Luanne Byrd, Gaye Cissel, Daniel DiPietro, Pastor Gary Gould, Jenny Lee Hodges, Linda Holland, Marguerite Johnson, Florence Johnston, Chano Morales, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Isaac Orozco Sr., Fil Navaro, Eva Orum, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Virginia Pilegard, Nathan Rivera, Marie Salwasser, Timm Trickett, & Joe Wozniczka.

Those battling mental illness and all who are dealing with the added stress on this pandemic.

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:
The family of Melba Hendren (Danell Dickson's mother)

Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	Phone _____
City / State / Zip _____	Email _____
Names / ages of Children living at home _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Time Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Time or Regular Attender
Home Congregation _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Member I came as a guest of _____

This Week at Immanuel

Today

10:30AM Worship for Everyone & Communion!

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

6:00PM Junior High & Senior High Youth on Zoom

6:00PM The Peak at ImmanuelEaston.com

Thursday

6:00AM Men's Bible Study at C.P.D.E. S. Hall

9:00AM September Chimes Deadline

Friday

Saturday

Next Sunday:

9:00AM Worship for Everyone Outside

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Don Pettitt & Lee Terkelsen & Randy McFarland

Sound & Technology Crew: Christian Jensen,
Pastor Dawn Spies & Jacob Wood

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Don Pettitt & Lee Terkelsen & Randy McFarland

Sound & Technology Crew: Christian Jensen,
Pastor Dawn Spies & Jacob Wood

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Please check the appropriate box and write your message in the space below.

- I want to learn more about faith. I want to learn more about baptism
- I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes") I want to become a member of Immanuel
- I am receiving communion today I want a visit from the visitation pastor
- I want to speak with the parish nurse I want to speak with the pastor
- I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I have hymn suggestions: _____