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Immanuel Lutheran Church
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

Ministry Staff

Interim Pastor: Pastor John Saethre
Youth Director: Jacob Wood
Office Secretary/Chimes Editor:
Victoria Salwasser
Technical Team: Christian Jensen, Jacob Wood
& Pastor Dawn Spies

Immanuel's Church Council

President: Fred Cogan
Vice President: Marcia Hollenbeck
Council Secretary: Allyson Kahn
Financial Secretary: Pat Griffin
Treasurer: Laura Nielsen
Trustees: Noah Cisneros, Jim Hansen, Karl Nielsen
Deacons: Carol Bennetts, Gina Cogan, John Jensen,
Barbara Petersen, Cindy Tews
Women's Ministry President: Victoria Salwasser

Return Service Requested

THE IMMANUEL CHIMES AUGUST 2020



READ THIS ONLINE AT
www.immanueleaston.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Mornings at 9:00AM Outside
communion served on the 1st & 3rd Sunday
Online Worship live on Facebook
Recorded Service Posted on Website at 10:30AM

Wednesday Evenings on
Zoom from 6:00-8:00PM
Refuge for Junior High & Senior High Youth

Thursday Mornings
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY BREAKFAST 6:00AM
Outside at the C.P.D.E.S. Hall in Easton.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 S. Elm Ave.
Fresno (Easton) CA 93706
Church Telephone (559) 237-7909

Secretary: immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net
Youth Directory: jaywood66@yahoo.com

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF PANDEMIC

We've journeyed through this horrid pandemic for over four months now. Who would have thought our summer would be fraught with hospitals filled with COVID patients; businesses being shut-down with over 40 million people unemployed; and anarchy in our city streets? The death of George Floyd sparked a tinder-box that exploded throughout the country.

Churches were shut down, while bars and marijuana dispensaries were considered "essential." We at Immanuel are taking baby-steps in re-opening for outdoor services. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather for worship safely, all the while broadcasting to those at home in a beautiful way.

The Church has always been the Good Ship, navigating us through the centuries in spite of dungeon, fire and sword. It is the Good Ship, with our Captain, Jesus Christ who guides us into safe harbors of peace, giving us hope of reaching the other side. We are a Church of memory as we remember how God has redeemed us from sin and saved us from the storms of life. Today is no different. We cannot forget that even in the midst of challenge and crisis we are a resurrection people, a people of hope.

Paul says in Romans 8:28, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.* It's because of Easter that Paul could say this. Our worst enemy, death itself has been defeated. And because of that great victory, all other enemies have fallen under Christ's feet. This is our reason for hope in the midst of this crisis we are living in.

I quote from Rev. Dr. Marcus Carlson in the recent LCMC magazine: *Crisis is very revealing. It reveals what is most important to us, it reveals our idols, it reveals our character and passion. In any crisis there are challenges and opportunities. While we name the challenges and work on their resolution, our focus as a people of hope who trust in the Holy Spirit should be on the opportunities. We worship a God who redeems. We gather at Easter to celebrate a God who conquered death. One of the habits I have tried to develop is to look for the good, the redemptive work God is doing in any situation. God takes the great and makes it powerful. God takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary. God takes the tragic and makes something beautiful. I have seen it more times than I can count in my life and ministry.*



**BUILDING A
CULTURE OF LIFE
IN OUR COMMUNITY!**



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Pick up a bottle and return it filled with change, bills or checks.
- Donate baby clothes, baby items, maternity clothes or diapers.
- Get involved by volunteering! Training is provided!
- Pray 1 Corinthians 13:7 over our clients.

"Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:7



**THANK YOU FOR
PARTNERING WITH US
TO BUILD A CULTURE
OF
LIFE IN OUR
COMMUNITY!**

**Immanuel Lutheran will collect bottles through
September.**

**Pick up your bottle at the church or call
for one to be delivered to you.**

1127 E. OLIVE AVE. | FRESNO CA 93728 | PH. (559) 237-0789
WWW.PREGNANCYCARECENTER.COM/MINISTRY

NEWS NOTES

Happy Birthday to DORIS SPARKS on her 88th birthday August 14th . Congratulations to AL & JUDY HOOPER on their 68th anniversary August 2nd and to JOHN & DEBBY SAETHRE on their 42nd August 19th

Our Tech Team is Great! Thank you to Jacob Wood, Christian Jensen and Pastor Dawn Spies! They have done a spectacular job getting Immanuel's service online for everyone to hear! Praise be to God for this mission. It's touched so many lives so far.

NALC Convocation is available to view online this year. There will be a Women's event on Tuesday, Aug. 4th from 11:00AM—2:00PM, "God Creates Women of Purpose: Women Who Reflect the Heart of God" is the theme of this year's Annual Gathering. Gary and Laurie Pecuch, NALC youth & family ministry coaches, are offering a couple of online sessions. They have scheduled two GoToMeeting sessions on Saturday, Aug. 15. The first session is on the topic of safeguarding from noon to 9:00 a.m. PT. The second session is a question-and-answer session on topics of your choice at 11:00 a.m.PT. Find more information at thenalc.org.

FAMILY CAMP JULY 5-11 2021

Family Camp 2021! Hooray we can try it again next year. Thanks to our partner family, Kitty Mumford secured dates for next year and shared the week of July 5-11, 2021 for Family Camp at Logger Flat next summer. Plan your vacation time now!

THANK YOU IMMANUEL

Dear Church family,

Thank you for your overwhelming support during this difficult time. All of the cards, calls, and prayers brought us so much peace and comfort. We are truly blessed by the support from our church family.

Thank you for everything.
Marie Salwasser and family.

As people of faith and a people of hope, we know that . . . in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. . . People of Immanuel, the Holy Spirit is at work even now to bring good out of evil, and new life out of death.

Continue to pray for our health care workers; for the researchers to come up with a cure and an effective vaccine. Continue to pray for wisdom for schools, churches and businesses in the hard decisions regarding reopening. God will guide us through to the other side as we seek His highest will and purpose for the days ahead. God is good all the time. . . all the time, God is good!

Pastor John

PRAYER FOCUS FOR AUGUST

Week of 8-3-2020. Focus on those of us feeling anxious.
1 Peter 5:7 NIV.

"Cast all of your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Week of 8-10-2020. Focus on the joy in our lives.
James 1:2 NIV.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

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."

Week of 8-25-2020. Focus on the fact that we are saved by the power of Jesus and not of our own.

Romans 10:9 NIV.

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is LORD", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Week of 8-31-2020. Focus on walking in love.

Ephesians 5:1, 2 NIV

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

JOURNEY

No matter what side of the aisle you sit on or even if you are sitting in the aisle, we'll have to agree that this country of ours has gone completely insane. It's no longer okay to just say you disagree with someone or with some thing. The world says you have to state your disagreement in the most sarcastic and vile of ways. You can't just dislike the idea you have to attack the person with the idea and dredge up, real or imaginary, as much negative as you can. Even in religious communities we are encouraged to attack. Maybe it's always been that way. Maybe it's that with the media and communication systems we have in place that what I say in Oleander is instantly known around the world. For all the good that the internet can do it can seemingly do infinite more harm. This isn't a rant against the internet, it's a rant against the negative-ness we are forced to live with.

Life is hard! It's been hard since that first bite of the forbidden fruit. It's hard for everyday "normal" people with jobs and homes and health and families and faith. It's even harder for those who have some of those things missing in their lives. It's harder for those who live with hurts, old and new, who live mistrusting people or institutions. Always wondering if what we are being told is true or information designed to manipulate us. Who do you believe or can you believe anyone.

Here's where we turn the corner. Yay!

If we can declare with our mouths "Jesus is LORD" and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, WE ARE SAVED! Notice now that no where in there is you'll never have any problems. Your life will be "Sunshine, lollipops and rainbows", (thanks Leslie Gore). No where does it say no one will ever hurt you. No matter how good you are the rain falls on the just and unjust. So what's the point? The point is we are saved! This world, no matter how long it sometimes feels, is temporary. And we have the promise of Jesus walking with us.

So we are saved. Can't we just get on the bus and ride to the end of the line? I don't think so. Love the LORD your God with all your our heart, mind and soul and your NEIGHBOR as yourself.

OUR MEMBERS - CELEBRATING IN AUGUST!

Birthdays

- 1-Richard Cisneros
- 2- Laurel Jacobsen
- 5-Sandy Marthedal
-Elliot Caglia
- 7-Barbara Petersen
- 9-Susie Gardner
Ed Slaton
- 11-Elaine Mehrten
-Llewellyn Ostergard
- 13-Clarissa Johnson
- 14-Doris Sparks
- 18-Jonathan Jensen
- 19-Marcia Hollenbeck
- 20-Chase Clarkson
- 21-Fred Cogan
- 23-Dale Ewing
- 28-Timothy Anderson
- 29- Catrina Johnson
- 31-Sandi Johnson

Wedding Anniversaries

- 2-Al & Judy Hooper (68)
- 19-Pastor John & Debbie Saethre (42)
- 25-Joe & Linda Wozniczka (41)
- 27-Kathy & Ron Coelho (32)
- 30-Dick & Virginia Pilegard (56)

Baptismal Birthdays

- 8-Susie Gardner
Linda Wozniczka
- 11-Nancy Newsom
- 14-Jacqueline Caglia
- 19-Lee Terkelsen
- 22- Carly Johnson
- 26-Jennifer Cisneros
- 27-Alison Hardy
- 28-Marilyn Iversen
- 30-Sandy Marthedal



Don't see your birthday or wedding anniversary in *The Chimes*? Call the church office and ask for a membership information form.



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Members and their families serving in the military: Joey Brewer, Victoria Salwasser's nephew, Air Force); Henry Clark, friend of Immanuel, Marines); Alonzo Farias, (friend of Immanuel, Army Boot Camp); Michael Hansen, (Jim & Fran Hansen's son, Navy Aviation, stationed in Florida) Caleb Hathaway, (Joanie Hathaway's son,) Scott

Linger (Don Pettitt's son-in-law, JAG, Army) Leah Linger, (Don Pettitt's daughter, Jag, Army, reserves) Matt Ward, (Jenn Madsen's brother-in-law, Navy) & Matthew Tigchelaar (Navy).

Those unable to travel about:

Olga Hansen, Marilyn Iversen Art & Marian Olesen, Phyllis Petersen, and Howard Nielsen.

Those in need of healing: Those in need of healing: Ana Marie (Milet) Bolanos (friend of Marcia Hollenbeck battling cancer), Connie Bennetts (Mike's mom, on Hospice Care), Mike Bennetts, (recovering from shoulder surgery), Sandy Britter (health problems), Ed Bordin (friend of Sandy Britter with kidney cancer), Luanne Byrd (Susie Tews' sister battling severe health problems), Gaye Cissel (living with back pain), Daniel DiPietro (Nancy Newsom's friend's son with epilepsy), Pastor Gary Gould (diabetes), Jenny Lee Hodges (Wayne Orum's niece battling cancer), Marguerite Johnson (Sandy Marthedal's mother overall aging issues), Florence Johnston (waiting for results from cancer treatments), Chano Morales (friend of Sandy Britter battling prostate cancer), Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen (living with and caring for memory loss), Isaac Orozco Sr.(recovering from 2nd surgery), Fil Navaro, (Rich Cisneros' nephew battling cancer), Eva Orum (waiting for gal bladder surgery), Chuck Phillips, Sr. (battling cancer undergoing treatments), Virginia Pilegard (fighting cancer), Nathan Rivera (friend of the Perez family, 6 years old and battling Leukemia), Timm Trickett (blood disorder and heart problems), & Joe Wozniczka (Bonnie Terkelsen's son-in-law with overall poor health).

For those morning the loss of loved ones: For the family of Jeff Gonchoroff, Ed Slaton's brother-in-law who passed away after complications from a broken back.

Pastor John once said we live in a Post Christian Era. I think that's true and that's a burden for me, a heavy burden. Where does that leave us? It leaves us, you and me, to carry the banner. It's up to you and me to be nice. Let's not be the ones who attack those we disagree with. Instead, understand their lives are just as hard as ours are. They carry the same weights as we do. We have the assurance that someday we will walk those golden streets. We need to be about telling as many as we can about Jesus. We've heard a lot about scattering seeds lately. No, we are not responsible for the harvest.

Be the one that scatters seeds!

I'm a child of the 60's and 70's music. So I leave you with the words of the Youngbloods from 1967:

Come on people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another.

Right now!
John.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS GRACE IN ACTION!

SUMMER IS HERE AND KIDS ARE DEAR!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS WILL BE SENT OUT TO ALL FAMILIES WITH KIDS WEEKLY. IF YOU NEED OR WANT MORE COPIES TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 237-7909!

OUR NEW PASTOR!

To my new church family,

This week has been one of the happiest weeks of my life. On Sunday, July 26th, I received the good news that Immanuel had voted to call me to serve your church. On Thursday, July 30th, I married the man of my dreams, Luke Stempniak. Perhaps because these joyful occasions are happening so close to one another, I have been struck by their similarities. In both marriage and pastoral relationships, we vow to love and care for one another in sickness and in health. For both marriage and pastoral relationships, both parties in the relationship must be willing to show their partner respect, support, and grace. Both marriage and the church were established by the Lord to reflect the loving relationship God has with his children.

The foundation of my relationship with Immanuel has been built upon shared passions for discipleship, mission, and worshipping the one true and risen Lord, Jesus Christ. I am so excited to see how this relationship continues to grow and develop, and I look forward to getting to know you and caring for you and my new community in the years to come. Of course, I have been around church (and marriages) long enough to know that in any relationship, there will be challenges. But I know that through faith, prayer, and the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, these moments of conflict and pain will only make us stronger as the Body of Christ.

As Luke and I begin preparing to travel across the country and join your family, I ask that you keep us in prayer. I will be praying for y'all as well. The Lord has brought you and I together to serve him and his beloved creation. If we are willing to be faithful to his word and patient with one another, I am sure that the future will amaze us all.

May the peace of the Lord be with you,
Pastor Taylor

stimulated and those numbers had not come down to an acceptable number. Thus, I have begun another six months of chemotherapy with a different drug, which by the way, is the only other drug known to work on Amyloidosis as well. After three infusions, the most recent labs show that the amyloid numbers have dropped ever further- Another praise! I will continue this treatment until October and then have another bone marrow biopsy to see the results. All of these treatments do nothing to repair the heart, only to stop it from getting worse. The damage to my heart is irreversible as there is nothing (yet) to get the amyloid back out of the heart once it is there, (other than healing from God). Therefore, if the amyloid numbers stay down, the other blood disorder numbers drop to zero, and the amyloid does not begin showing up in other organs, I may be a candidate for a heart transplant.

So, after all of that you may ask, "How are you doing?" I want all of you to know that our God is an amazing God. HE HAS A PLAN! Those of my brothers in the Easton Men's Breakfast Bible study can attest to the fact that in my life sometimes, no every time, God does his greatest work and teaches us some of the best lessons through some of the worst situations. I cannot help but believe that this is another of those times. It is not what I would choose, nor would I wish for anyone else to go through it, and yet, I know that He is with me and my family through this. In that, there is peace and I am comforted, knowing that whatever the outcome, He is at work. God can heal me in a heartbeat, through any means He desires, however He hasn't (yet). He may still and I pray He does, but it is not up to me. May His will be done!

As many of you know firsthand, it is often just as bad or worse for the caregiver than for the patient. As you can imagine, Kathy is going through a tremendous amount of stress right now and I ask for prayers to comfort her through all of this. Will and Laura are doing well and we have had some amazing times of connection throughout this ordeal.

Again, thank you all for your generous support during these trying times. I miss all of you (especially the guys in the Easton men's breakfast bible study.....another shameless plug). We love you all and hope to see you soon.

Blessings,
Timm and Kathy Trickett
Timm's email- tritim250@yahoo.com
Kathy's email- kathytrickett@yahoo.com

THANK YOU FROM TIMM TRICKETT

Greetings to the Immanuel Lutheran Church family from the Trickett family,

First, we would like to thank all of you for the prayers and well-wishes over the past months. We also want to thank you for the most generous love offering from the church body. It is truly humbling to see the love and support of the church in action, especially in these trying times. We are truly blessed by all of you and we cannot express how grateful we are! (If you would like, you can skip the boring medical details in the next two paragraphs, but please continue reading the last three.)

About sixteen months ago I began having trouble breathing with any exertion. I saw my primary doctor on May 17, 2019. She ordered cardiac testing and instructed me to go to the ER if I experienced any chest pain. Two weeks later, I was admitted into the hospital with chest pains. An echocardiogram revealed diastolic heart failure. The walls of my heart on the inlet side were stiff and thick and not allowing enough blood to flow into the chambers, although I had none of the normal risk factors that cause this condition. To put it in plumbers' terms, the pipes were clear, the pump worked fine, it just wasn't priming properly. More tests were ordered. During a treadmill stress test, after five minutes, my blood pressure never got over 117/83. After another minute, it actually dropped to 106/78. Something was off. After five or six months of testing, a biopsy of my heart tissue revealed I have a very rare blood disorder called AL amyloidosis. Most patients have to see an average of five cardiologists before it is diagnosed, so I feel truly blessed that mine kept at it and persisted.

Although there is no known cure for this condition, in the past few years doctors have found two different chemotherapy treatments that were designed to treat blood cancers (leukemia and multiple myeloma) that have had some success in reducing the amyloid in the blood stream. Amyloid is a natural occurring antibody protein, made in the bone marrow. No one knows why, but for some reason my body was producing eight times the normal rate, causing it to accumulate inside my heart and possibly other organs as well. Thus, I began weekly chemotherapy treatments the end of October 2019. The plan was to reassess after six months with a bone marrow biopsy and if acceptable, I would switch to a maintenance dose to keep the amyloid at bay. Praise God, the chemo did exactly as we had hoped. The amount of amyloid being produced went from eight times normal to normal. However, the biopsy revealed another cell was abnormally

CARUTHERS FAIR

The Caruthers Fair is right around the corner maybe! We are waiting for the fair board to decide if they will have a modified fair in 2020 or just cancel it for this year.

We do know they have canceled the exhibits and the carnival. There is just no way to social distance that part of the project. We as food booth vendors could possibly still run a booth for 4 hours in the evenings for dinner for the 4 days. Opening from 5:00– 9:00PM. The seating is always outside.

As Immanuel's fair chair I'm asking for your thoughts and prayers for this ministry for the Fresno Rescue Mission. We have donated a lot of money raised at the fair for them in the past. What and how will we support the mission safely and as powerful as we have through the fair booth project?

Please notify me with your thoughts and ideas. Those who have worked the booth know what it takes. This year will be very different and is it feasible to run the booth just for dinners? Would we have volunteers to help? These are all questions to discuss and decide upon in the very near future if the plan is to run the fair with food booths during the evenings.

One church has plans in place if the fair is canceled they will have a day for drive through take out dinners at their church possibly for 3 days. That may be a possibility for us. Maybe we have drive through take outs on Sundays for a month? Would we have volunteers to work on that project? It could all be done socially distance and distributed outside, as it is done outside at the fair. The thoughts and prayers for this ministry is appreciated so notify me and I will gather information to be shared as congregational brainstorm. I'm looking forward to a few phone calls or emails. I miss you all so very deeply, I can't explain it.

Last month I scheduled a meeting for July 31st for Caruthers Fair volunteers. I thought surely they would know by the 31st if the fair was going to be canceled or not. It's still up in the air so the July meeting was canceled and will be rescheduled as soon as we know if the fair is on as modified or not.

As with everything pandemic 2020 we just are not sure of the plan quite yet. Patience and Prayers my friends,

Victoria Salwasser

AUGUST 2020

CALL COMMITTEE

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00AM Worship & Communion outside at Immanuel	3	4	5 6:00PM Pastor John's Online Sermon Recap & Refuge on Zoom	6 6:00AM Men's Bible Study at C.P.D.E.S. HALL	7	8
9 9:00AM Worship at Immanuel	10	11 7:00PM Council Meeting	12 6:00PM Pastor John's Online Sermon Recap Refuge on Zoom	13 6:00AM Men's Bible Study at C.P.D.E.S. HALL	14	15
16 9:00AM Worship & Communion outside at Immanuel	17	18	19 6:00PM Pastor John's Online Sermon Recap & Refuge on Zoom	20 8:00AM Chimes Deadline 6:00AM Men's Bible Study at C.P.D.E.S. HALL	21	22
23 Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive 8:00AM-Noon 9:00AM Worship & Communion outside at Immanuel	24	25	26 1:00PM Chimes Assembly	27 6:00AM Men's Bible Study at C.P.D.E.S. HALL	28	29
31 9:00AM Worship at Immanuel	31					

The Call Committee is ecstatic, thrilled and blessed to report that Immanuel Lutheran Church has called Taylor Rister to be their new pastor!

The committee has worked on the call process for two years with many ups and downs. We have interviewed numerous pastoral candidates of all age levels from around the country and Canada.

We are excited to see what God has planned for Immanuel's next chapter under the leadership of Pastor Taylor.

Pastor and her husband Luke, will move into the parsonage but the date and time have not been determined. We will let you know as soon as we have all of that finalized.

We will plan a chance to welcome Pastor Taylor and Luke upon their arrival. If you would like to help with that committee please contact the church office.

Please pray for Pastor Taylor and Luke Stempniak, married July 30th, as they begin their new life together as husband and wife moving across the country to embrace their ministry at Immanuel.

I would like to thank Immanuel for the privilege and honor it has been to serve as the chair of this call committee. I would also like to thank the call committee members: Jennifer Cisneros, Pat Griffin, Kristi Hollenbeck, John Jensen, Phil Tews, and Jacob Wood. Fred Cogan served on the committee as a non-voting representative of the Council and Pastor John Saethre served on the committee as a non-voting consultant.

Please thank each and every member of the committee when you have the opportunity. This process was definitely guided by the Holy Spirit and I think the entire call committee would agree that it has been a spirit filled experience.

Thank you for your prayers,
Mark Salwasser