

*Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church*

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

September 27, 2020



5955 S Elm Ave.
Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706
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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 to Immanuel Lutheran Church
Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)

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!

We are so glad that you are feeling healthy and well and are able to worship with us this morning. We have hand sanitizer available outside at the check in worship table. Please be sure that you have signed in and have had your temperature taken. Restrooms are available in Grace Hall.

**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 Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we invite you into our time of worship, and we thank you for the newness of life that only You can give. Give us a new heart and desire for you, that we may bring delight to You and be a powerful and loving witness to our world. Create in us a new heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Listen to these words as you reflect in your soul: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Please be seated

Prayer of The Day

Heavenly Father, when called to do your will, we often respond with enthusiasm, yet in our human weakness, we fail to follow through. Strengthen us with your grace poured out through your Son, so that we may overcome our weakness and follow you in the way of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Psalm 25:1-10

1To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. 2O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. 3Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. 4Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. 6Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. 7Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! 8Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way. 9He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. 10All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

23When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" 24Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe

him?' 26But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." 27So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 28What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Children will remain in their seats with their parents

The Children's Sermon

Pastor Taylor

Sermon

Bold Forgiveness

Pastor Taylor

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

Confession of Faith

Pastor: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

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

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: 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 of the Church

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

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. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Please be seated.

Announcements

Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God! (Sung) Amen, Amen, Amen!

Postlude

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Announcements & Opportunities To Serve

“Our Daily Bread” & “Portals of Prayer” pocket size devotionals for are available on the worship table, in the narthex and in the church office. If you would like a book sent to you, please call Victoria and she will mail one to you.

Change 4 Babies Fundraiser for the Pregnancy Care Center will continue through September. Please return your bottles to Immanuel by this Wednesday. You may also send a check directly to Pregnancy Care Center, 1127 E. Olive Ave. Fresno, CA 93728.

Community Women’s Prayer Gathering begins at 9:30AM, on Wednesday mornings, outdoors at Easton Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Geneva and Willamette. Peggy Mattos has organized this time of prayer for all women in our community. Spread the word and bring your friends who love to pray. Please abide by all pandemic safety precautions.

Community Men’s Bible Study at 6:00AM on Thursdays, outside at the C. P. D. E. S. Hall on Jefferson, west of Elm Ave. All guys are welcome for breakfast and reflection on the Holy Scriptures. Please abide by all pandemic safety precautions.

This is the last week to help with Nancy Newsom's son Syd and his partner Andrea who lost their home to the CZU Lightning Fire (Santa Cruz) on August 18-19. Immanuel has set up a Care Bear disaster relief fund for them. If you would like to donate through Immanuel, you may send your checks to Immanuel Lutheran Church and in the memo put Syd & Andrea disaster. If you would like to donate online: click on the Care Bear line under choose designate funds and then note that it is for Syd Newsom. We will be taking donations through the month of September and then sending them one check from Immanuel. If you would like to help Syd & Andrea through Immanuel, please have your check to Immanuel by this Wednesday.

The fires in California, especially and Hurricane Laura was what the Lord laid on our heart for assistance. The web site is thenalc.org/donate, and the address, if that is preferred is: NALC Disaster Response, 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220, New Brighton, MN 55112

Family Camp 2021 is July 5-11. Mark your calendar now to reserve your time in the great outdoors with your church family!

Immanuel's Library has DVDs for the whole family! There are many amazing books and DVDs for all ages. It's set up and ready for the fall: Bring your family in for a day of discovery. DVDs for kids (including Veggie Tales, Camp New, and Owlegories) and quite a few for the adults (including Heaven is for Real and God's not Dead 1, 2, and 3). Seven Deadly Words ("We've never done it that way before!") Sounds intriguing, doesn't it? Especially in this season at Immanuel. Smitty looks like fun for the whole family! Adult DVDs are arranged alphabetically in baskets on the bottom left-hand shelf of the Non-Fiction section, with kids' DVDs in a basket on the bottom shelf of the kids' shelving. Help yourself, pop some popcorn, and enjoy!

Prayers of the church

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

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

Those in need of healing: Those in need of healing: Marilyn Bell, Connie Bennetts, Mike Bennetts, Sandy Britter, Luanne Byrd, Gaye Cissel, Geoff Cooper, Daniel DiPietro, Pastor Gary Gould, Jenny Lee Hodges, Marguerite Johnson, Florence Johnston, Sam Navaro, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Eva Orum, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Virginia Pilegard, Tucker & Cooper Rister, Nathan Rivera, Phyllis Sullivan, Phil Tews, Timm Trickett, Joe Wozniczka & Joni Zingarelli.

For those mourning the loss of loved ones: The family of Stan Pilegard and the family of Lupe Franco.

For those who have lost their belongings to the fires in California. For Fire Fighters and other Emergency Responders who are battling the fires and the trauma. For protection to all who suffer from the bad air.

For people dealing with loneliness and depression caused by these pandemic precautions. For those battling the Coronavirus.