

**Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

November 15, 2020



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

Sunday Schedule:
Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:00am
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm Outdoor Refuge
For Junior High & High School

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Welcome! Wherever you are; whether at home and on-line, or worshiping in our sanctuary 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. 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 every Sunday. If you are a baptized believer you are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn more about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor before or after 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 bag at the back of the sanctuary.

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.

Please practice all pandemic safety precautions. Please wear a mask and allow us to take your temperature before entering the sanctuary. Please separate each household group by sitting in every other pew.

Hand Sanitizers are hands free and located on the walls at each entrance of the sanctuary.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Laurel Jacobsen

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

Please Stand as you are able

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

All: 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.

All: 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

All: 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

Lord God, rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that while keeping the end of all things in mind, we may be stirred up to holiness in this life and come to be with you forever in that life to come. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading of the Word

Common Thread: The Lord is sovereign above all others—above the kings of the Old Testament, Caesar, and the kings of our own day. As Christians we are called to bow before the Lord and live each day as citizens of his kingdom.

The First Reading

Zephaniah 1:7-16

7Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. 8And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who dress themselves in foreign attire. 9On that day I will punish all who leap over the threshold, who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. 10On that day, says the LORD, a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11The inhabitants of the Mortar wail, for all the traders have perished; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. 15That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm

90:1-12

1LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." 4For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. 5You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; 6in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. 7For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. 8You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. 9For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. 10The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. 11Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. 12So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St Matthew the
All: Glory to you, O Lord

The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

14For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, O Christ

Children will remain in their seats with their parents

The Children's Sermon

Pastor Taylor

Sermon

“Investing in Today”

Pastor Taylor

Confession of Faith

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

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

Holy Communion

We Prepare

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Words of Institution

Please stand as you are able.

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

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.

Communion Distribution

Everyone should have a small communion package. Raise your hand if you did not receive one as you arrived at the worship service, and an usher will deliver one to you. The pastor will say the blessing before the elements are received, so we may take them in unity with one another.

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Post Communion Blessing

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

ALL: Amen

Post Communion Canticle – to be meditated upon in our hearts

“Thank the Lord”

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
Tell everyone what he has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord
Rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises
And leads his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: 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!

Postlude

Laurel Jacobsen

Today's service is reprinted by permission under our Church Copyright License through CCLI

Announcements & Opportunities To Serve

Prayer Focus for the week: 11-15-2020: Focus on living fearlessly. Matthew 14:27 NIV. "But Jesus immediately said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid".

The December Chimes Deadline will be this Wednesday at 11:00AM. If you would like something published in the Chimes, please email: immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net or get it to the church office by that day.

Women's Event in Sanctuary on November 28th from 2:00-4:00PM. Please join together as we decorate 40 small Christmas Trees for Bethel Home Rooms. We will decorate the church entryway with the trees for the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th and then deliver the trees to Bethel after church that day. Call the church office for more information.

The next Blood Drive will be on January 10th, 2021. If you would like to mark your calendar for the 2021 line up: March 14, May 16, July 18, September 19, November 21 are the dates for next year.

Marcia Hollenbeck has volunteered to represent Immanuel as our coordinator for the NALC has a Disaster Relief team. Bibles are needed when disaster strikes, the team is asking for donated Bibles. If you have a Bible or more to donate, please bring them to church and Marcia will get them where they need to go.

Group Email Bible Study is reading "Meeting The Spirit"! If you would like to join them pick up a book in the entryway under the gold bulletin board and email John Jensen at deaconofbutter@yahoo.com to be added to the group email discussion.

Interim Pastor's Gift Donation Fund, if you would like to help pay for the gifts we gave to our wonderful interim pastors in August, please designate your donations towards Pastors Gift and place in the offering bag in the back of the sanctuary.

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.*

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

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

Those in need of healing: Those in need of healing: Marilyn Bell, Sandy Britter, Luanne Byrd, Gaye Cissel, Geoff Cooper, Pastor Gary Gould, Jenny Lee Hodges, Florence Johnston, Sam Navaro, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Eva Orum, Christie Pettitt, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Virginia Pilegard, Lois Rasmussen, Phyllis Sullivan, Timm Trickett, Joe Wozniczka & Joni Zingarelli.

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.

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

- Please check the appropriate box and write your message in the space below.
- I want to learn more about faith.
 I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes")
 I am receiving communion today
 I want to speak with the parish nurse
 I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor
 I have a prayer request:
 I have hymn suggestions: _____

Altar Flowers: this morning the flowers are provided by Don and Christie Pettitt for glory and honor to God and in memory of Christie's mother, Cecilia Pedersen.

This Week at Immanuel

Today

9:00AM Sunday School for Everyone in the Sanctuary
10:00AM Worship for Everyone in the Sanctuary!

Wednesday

9:30AM Women's Prayer Gathering at E.P. C.
11:00AM December Chimes Deadline

Thursday

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

Next Sunday:

9:00AM Sunday School for Everyone in the Sanctuary
10:00AM Worship for Everyone in the Sanctuary

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Don Pettitt & Lee Terkelsen & Randy McFarland
Sound & Technology Crew: Christian Jensen, Jacob Wood
Greeters: All of Immanuel

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Don Pettitt & Lee Terkelsen & Randy McFarland
Sound & Technology Crew: Christian Jensen, Jacob Wood
Greeters: All of Immanuel