

*Welcome to  
Immanuel Lutheran Church*

*Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888*

*November 22, 2020*



5955 S Elm Ave.  
Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706  
Office: (559)237-7909  
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Sunday Schedule:  
Sunday School 9:00AM  
Outdoor 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 worshipping 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.

**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 worship area. Please separate each household group by at least 6 feet.

**Hand Sanitizers** are hands free and located on the worship table with the bulletins.

# *Order of Worship*

**Prelude**

Laurel Jacobsen

**Ringing the Bells**

*Calling the community of Easton to worship*

**Welcome**

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

**Opening Prayer**

Pastor: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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*

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**All:** And also with you

Pastor: Let us pray

### **Prayer of The Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have crowned your Son as King and, by him, will renew your whole creation. May the families of the earth now torn apart and yoked by sin find liberty in him and be subjected to his gentle rule. Grant this, we pray, through the same 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: Christ the King reigns with grace and mercy, inviting us to be citizens of his kingdom and caring for us throughout our lives.*

### **The First Reading**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

11For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat

and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 95:1-7a**

1 O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
3 For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.  
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.  
5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.  
6 O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!  
7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.  
O that today you would listen to his voice!

### **The Second Reading**

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who

belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St Matthew the

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

31When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty

or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Children will remain in their seats with their parents during this pandemic.*

**The Children's Sermon**

Pastor Taylor

**Sermon**

“The Shepherd King”

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**

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## ***Announcements & Opportunities To Serve***

**Prayer Focus for the week: 11-22-2020: Focus on living a life of thanksgiving.**

Psalms 69:30 NIV. "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving".

**Thanksgiving Eve is Virtual this year! We will record from Immanuel. If you would like to donate non-perishable food and clothing, please bring it to Immanuel before Wednesday Evening.**

**Women's Event has room for 10 in the Social Hall this Saturday 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 to reserve your place to help!

**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](mailto: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.

**We will continue to broadcast our services every week** so that those who are unable to join us in person and those with concerns about worshipping in person may continue to faithfully offer praise to God alongside us. We will continue to make adjustments as new information arises, and our priority is the health and safety of ourselves and our neighbors. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email or call Pastor Taylor at: [ptmarie96@gmail.com](mailto:ptmarie96@gmail.com) or cell phone (803)767-5128

**Amazon Smiles Program offers portions of your purchases donated to Immanuel.** When you shop on Amazon instead of going to amazon.com go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2737287> and our church will receive a percent of your purchase. **For the third quarter of 2020 Immanuel received \$27.56.**

## **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 & Lois Rasmussen.

**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, Judy Hooper, Florence Johnston, Sam Navaro, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Tomas & Joseph Perez, Sr., Christie Pettitt, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Virginia Pilegard, Timm Trickett, Joe Wozniczka & Joni Zingarelli.

**For those morning the loss of loved ones:** The family of Phyllis Sullivan.

**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.**

## **This Week at Immanuel**

### **Today**

10:00AM Worship for Everyone with Communion!

### **Monday**

### **Wednesday**

9:30AM Women's Prayer at E.P. C.

**7:00PM Virtual Thanksgiving Eve Service**

### **Thursday**

### **Happy Thanksgiving**

### **Saturday**

**Tree Decorating outdoors in front of Grace Hall.**

### **Next Sunday:**

10:00AM Worship for Everyone with Communion!

### **Worship Assistants This Week:**

**Ushers:** Don Pettitt & Lee Terkelsen & Randy McFarland

**Sound & Technology Crew:** Christian Jensen, Jacob Wood

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

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