

**Welcome to  
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

*Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888*

*December 13, 2020*



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Sunday Schedule:  
Zoom Sunday School 9:00AM  
Online Worship 10:00AM  
Outdoor Worship 11:30AM  
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm via Zoom Refuge  
For Junior High & High School  
Call church office for contact information.

**Welcome!** Wherever you are on-line, 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. 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!

## *Order of Worship*

### **Prelude**

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

### **Welcome**

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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. 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*

**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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. He has loosed our bonds of sin and death, and has made us his children — heirs of eternal life. For freedom Christ has set us free, let us not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**All: Amen**

*Please be seated*

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray...

**Prayer of The Day**

Gracious God, the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, may your Spirit kindle in us patience and strength and endurance in the face of suffering, as well as love and mercy toward our neighbors that reflects your own. We pray in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Reading of the Word**

**The First Reading**

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

1The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness

instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. 4They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 8For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. 10I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

### **Psalm 126**

1When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. 2Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 3The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. 4Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. 5May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. 6Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

### **The Second Reading**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise the words of prophets, 21but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22abstain from every form of evil. 23May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel**

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st Chapter

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

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." 21And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, No." 22Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" 26John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." 28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**The Children's Sermon**

Pastor Taylor

**Sermon**

*Rejoice Always*

Pastor Taylor

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

**Confession of Faith**

*Leader: 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 delivered to the church via mail or drop off. Donations are accepted online at our website: immanueleaston.com.**

### **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**

*Please stand as you are able.*

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**

**Prayer Focus for the Week:** Jesus overcoming this world. John 16:33 NIV.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

**Altar Flowers:** If you would like to put flowers on the Altar for Sunday Morning Worship in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office for your date of choice. Flowers may be delivered to the church by you or your florist and may be picked up for your enjoyment following the recording of the worship service.

**Easton Community Men's Bible Study at the CPDES Hall has been put on hold until further notice.**

**Pastor Taylor will be leading an outdoor Worship Service** at 11:30AM on Sunday mornings. This service will not be recorded for online viewing. We will be using the Service of the Word, which will be shorter than our recorded Worship Service yet offer a time of reading scripture and meditation as well as a time to be together in person for worship and communion. Please govern yourself according to all pandemic safety precautions.

**Check your email for the Zoom link for Sunday School each week. It's a confirmation style class via Zoom each Sunday morning at 9:00AM.**

**The Easton Food Distribution was a success! We had 11 volunteers and filled 73 cars with lots of food! The next Distribution is January 4th!** If you have strong muscles, we would love your help! Meet at Easton Presbyterian Church at **Noon**. Please bring your own water bottle and wear close toed shoes and a mask.

**“Our Daily Bread” pocket size devotionals for December through February and “Christ In Our Home”, January - March are available** in the narthex under the gold bulletin board. If you would like a book sent to you, please call Victoria at 237-7909 and she will mail one to you.

**The January Chimes Deadline will be December 16th.** If you would like something published in the Chimes, please email: [immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net) or get it to the church office by that day.

**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 small percent of your purchase.

### **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, 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, Sandy Britter, Luanne Byrd, Eli Cisneros, Gaye Cissel, Geoff Cooper, Pastor Gary Gould, Dennis Haugh, Jenny Lee Hodges, Judy Hooper, Florence Johnston, Sam Navaro, Gil Nagel, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, The Perez Family, Sr., Christie Pettitt, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Virginia Pilegard, Aslak Syse, Timm Trickett, Joe Wozniczka & Joni Zingarelli.

**For those morning the loss of loved ones:** The family of Margie Zingarelli, *Betty Jensen’s sister*

**For people dealing with loneliness and depression caused by these pandemic precautions.**  
**For those battling the Coronavirus and the health care providers tending to those in need.**