

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706



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American Independence Day
July 4th
Remember to fly your American Flag!

Return Service Requested



The Immanuel Chimes July 2021

VIEW THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:
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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church
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Youth Director's Email: youth@immanueleaston.com

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Sunday School Classes take a summer break

Worship in Sanctuary At 10:30AM
Communion served every Sunday

Refuge Youth on Wednesday Evenings
6:00-8:00 PM

Immanuel's Semi—Annual Meeting
Scheduled for July 25th
Following Worship

Pastor Taylor's Homily, June 20, 2021

“Fear is a Liar”

I grew up on a large lake in South Carolina where thunder storms are common, and can blow up on you without warning in an otherwise sunny day of boating. I've experienced the nauseating pitch of a boat as it tosses you back and forth on sudden waves and rain drops pelt your face like pebbles as you race back towards shore. And in my family's ski boat, we always made it back to shore in one piece, but we still checked the buckles on our life jacket as we ran from lightning cracks and thunder claps. Storms on the water are dangerous; there's a real risk of injury or drowning, and I don't blame the disciples for their panic in their small fishing boat being tossed back and forth. In fact, if there's one person I struggle to understand in today's reading, it's Jesus, who wakes up, calms the storm, and then looks at his friends and asks, “Why are you so afraid?”

“Because they don't want to drown, Jesus. That's why they're afraid.” That's what my brain responds every single time I read this passage, but Jesus always follows my smart remark up with another question. “Have you still no faith?” Now this line, this line gets me every time,. It is like a sucker punch to my stomach because when I read it, it seems to be saying that if you are experiencing fear, if you have moments of anxiety or doubt, it is simply a moral failing on your part and you need to have more faith. And I know that I am redeemed through faith and faith alone, but there are days that I suffer from anxiety from the moment I wake up to the moment I lay down, and if that means I have no faith, this line doesn't just convict me, it condemns me. And I have watched over the past year, as people on both sides of COVID and both sides of politics and both sides of family conflict, have hurled accusations at people, that they simply aren't faithful enough and that's why they're afraid. Faith and fear have been talked about more this year than any year in my living memory, and so as someone who has lived in fear my whole life, let me tell you what I have learned at the feet of Jesus.

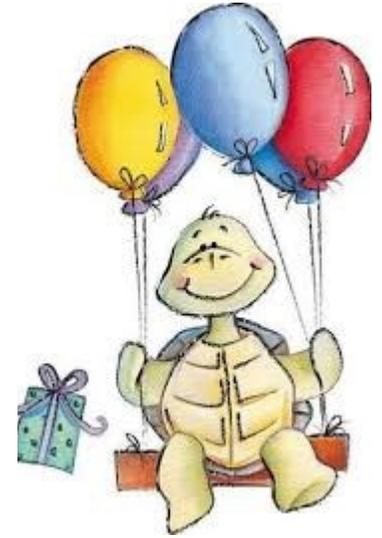
Number one: Fear is a liar.

I cannot count the number of times that I have been talking to Luke or my mom or a friend and I'm expressing this fear that's been haunting me like, “I'm worried so and so is mad at me because they didn't stop to say hello as they were leaving, even though their arms were full of books and they were on the phone...” and as I'm saying it out loud, I realize how absurd it sounds, that fear would convince me someone was angry over something so mundane. And that example is small, but we see it happen on a much

In Celebration of our Members 2021

Birthdays

- 3-Betty Moore
- Diane Laub
- 5-Kay Jensen
- 7-Michael Hansen
Mike Moser
- 8- Olga Hansen
- 9- Suzie Johnson
- 10-Lance Petersen
Robert Hollenbeck
- 13-Aiden Gant
- 15-Leah Linger
Marilyn Iversen
- 16-Carl Jensen
- 18-Glenn Nielsen
- 19-Taylor Ewing
- 20-Nancy Newsom
- 23-Shane Johnson
- 24- Irma Orozco
- 25-Joseph E. Perez
- 26-Cynthia Atondo
Bobby Bell
- 28-Allison Terrones
- 30-Donna Geidner
Art Olesen
- 31-Hilary Gardner



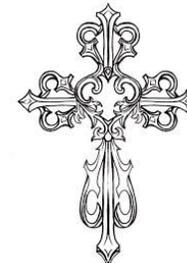
Wedding Anniversaries

- 9-Dale & Donna Ewing (33)
- 17-Lance & Barbara Petersen (50)
Phil & Susie Tews (43)
- 20-Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen (64)
- 24-Mike & Carol Bennetts (45)
- 27-Mike & Laura Nielsen (36)



Baptismal Birthdays

- 5-Nick Bennetts
- 8-Gail Hansen
-Pat Griffin
- 11-Kathi Mehrten
- 20-Tori Tarlton
-Tayla Tarlton
-Tommy Tarlton
- 27-Elijah Cisneros
- 30-Lance Petersen



“I have held thee
in the palm of my hand.”
Isaiah 51:16



Caruthers Fair Food Booth Fundraiser for Fresno Mission

The Caruthers Fair is scheduled to open on schedule **September 29th and run through October 2nd.**

As soon as their website posted the fair dates, my husband, Mark, got a call from a local business with an order for 50 sandwiches in hopes we would be out there selling this year. Can we do this? The church council has asked me to poll the congregation to see if we will have enough volunteers to make this fund raiser happen this year. Some changes in the way we ran the booth before will have to be made in order to incorporate new guidelines. Suggestions were made to open the volunteer pool up to other Easton churches or folks at the Fresno Mission. What are your thoughts on these ideas? We need to know. Are you willing to take some of your vacation time to come out to the booth to help serve? I'll be taking phone calls and emails gathering your ideas. Is this ministry something Immanuel wants to consider continuing? If we give up our booth, we lose the booth to another non-profit community organization that most likely won't be raising money for the Fresno Mission. Immanuel must have a committed work force to take on the responsibility of this community event mission driven fund raiser. Please contact me at the church office or my cell phone as soon as possible with your thoughts. This year, like the years before, will take a strong committed army for God to get the job done right. Please keep this ministry in your prayers for guidance. Email at office@immanueleaston.com or 237-7909 or 559-285-5181.

Victoria Salwasser
Fair Enthusiast!

Easton Community Food Distribution

EASTON COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION will continue on the first Monday of every month, **July 12th, (the 2nd Monday this month due to the holiday) at 12:00PM** under the shade at Easton Presbyterian Church. Spread the word to friends and neighbors that the food is free and plentiful. It's available to all who will eat it. Volunteers must wear close-toed shoes and bring a water bottle to keep hydrated.

We are back to walk and pick-up distribution. Volunteers work under the shade and load carts for the clients receiving food. In June, we had a wonderful crew from the community and from other cities and towns. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry. In July, we will distribute food on the 2nd Monday, July 12th, and again in August on the 1st Monday, August 2nd. Come and get the food. The harvest has been plentiful.

bigger scale as well. Fear convinces us that if we wear a mask for a season of our lives, then it's a slippery slope to handing over complete control of our bodies, and fear convinces us that there is no use hoping for COVID to end, there is no use allowing ourselves to experience life as normally as possible, because if we do, then things will spiral out of control. But this kind of fear isn't new. It's a fear that tells us that if we welcome people that look or speak differently than us, soon there will be no one like us left. It's a fear that tells us that if we care for the poor, then all they will do is take advantage of us. It's a fear that tells us that if we forgive the person that harmed us, then we are weak or we are endorsing what they've done. Fear convinces us that if we embrace the truth of the gospel, that we set a place at the table for every child of God, that we care for those in need, without expecting the needy to act or look a certain way, that we forgive each other to release those in our lives from the burden of sin, that if we embrace those truths, then the world will make us seem foolish or that we will not have enough money or power or popularity or control here. Fear lies to us when we prioritize the reaction of this world over the direction of our Lord.

Fear lesson number two: Fear is a gift.

When we fear the wrong things, fear often leads us to do the wrong things, but what Christ tells us today is not that we should never be afraid, only that we should be careful about what we are afraid of. The apostles are afraid of the earthly consequences of drowning, which is reasonable. Being afraid of drowning or of forest fires or of heights are all reasonable fears to have in our day-to-day lives. We're afraid of what can hurt our bodies, but when Jesus rebukes the disciples here, it comes after years of traveling alongside them and watching as they were careless, unafraid of ignoring God's word, unbothered by the ways they rejected God's guidance in their lives; unwilling to listen to a command often repeated throughout scripture, to not only love, but to fear God. And throughout all of their ignorance and fear, Jesus still offers them the same promise: you will have life in me. But when their earthly lives are threatened, that is when they finally show fear. Jesus grows frustrated because he's told them their lives are secure and yet, they treat this, and not the children who long for him, not their neighbor who starves, not the outcast without community, as the thing to fear. They fear earthly consequences more than they fear God's judgment and righteousness.

And here's the thing: God is merciful and good. He has redeemed us and set us free. And yet, scripture still asks us to fear him because a fear of God is a fear that stems from awe, that our creator is not only powerful, but good. It is a fear that makes our knees shake because when we stand before his goodness we realize we are unworthy, but a fear that also

makes our hearts leap because we know God's goodness has overcome our own faults so that we are treated with grace above all else. Fear of the Lord is a gift. It causes us to act honestly, faithfully, and boldly. We are invited to fear the Lord more than we fear our neighbor and their judgment because we know that the Lord is good, and his plan for us, while sometimes frightening, is a plan that leaves us and the world around us better. And so we've spent a year in masks, not because we're afraid of COVID, but because we fear the Lord and he has told us to care for our neighbor. We stop to care for those who are too hot or too hungry, too sad or too lonely because the Lord has told us to love those in our midst and we are more afraid to neglect our Lord than be judged by our neighbor. And if living lives of faith brings about affliction, hardship, calamity, or oppression, then we will endure it as Paul did, and as the saints and martyrs did, with purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness, genuine love, and truthful speech. Because the power of God is with us, and so if the world sees us as impostors because we build our lives on scripture rather than political talking points, then we know ourselves to be true in Christ. If the world sees us as poor in treasure or wisdom because we give generously in time and money to those in need, we know ourselves to be rich in the Spirit. And if the world would ask us to put our livelihoods or even our lives at risk for the sake of our neighbor or the sake of our faith, we go as those alive in Christ and full of faith in him.

Because the final truth about fear that I want to share with you today is this: Faith overcomes fear.

Fully comprehend what I am saying here: I am not saying that anxiety or depression or mental illness is caused by a lack of faith. By no means. Mental illness and physical illness is a symptom of living in a world that is fallen to sin, not a symptom of moral failing, and we are given doctors and therapists and even medications as blessings from above to help us treat these illnesses. But faith is still part of the treatment plan. And faith is what we rely on for our everyday fears, the big ones and the small ones, because faith is a trust that God will continue to be faithful to us. Faith is the knowledge that when our Lord calmed the storm on the lake with his friends that day, he did so out of love, and that he will continue to calm the storms of our lives. Faith is the knowledge that the promises of our God are true, and so when sin rages in our hearts, he rebukes it, and sets us free to repent and be made righteous. When doubt and hopelessness creep into our hearts, he reaches out and says, "Peace! Be still!" so that we may look to his word and be renewed again in his love for us. When the storms of stress, the storms of bad news, the storms of sin, and the storms of death seem to surround us, we know that we worship the Lord who has calmed these storms with his word, his love, and his death and resurrection. So we

What's a Mask All About?

Our June council meeting voted unanimously to change our mask policy to reflect the policy of the California and CDC standards. We will not be using Vaccine Passports, nor do we expect anyone to disclose health information to us. If you are feeling sick, we encourage you to worship with us from home. If COVID-19 numbers begin to surge again and we are given further guidance from the CDC, we will govern ourselves accordingly.

As a pastor, I'd like to be clear that masks, while sometimes uncomfortable and inconvenient, are not punishments we impose on those who chose not to get vaccinated. Masks are simply health and safety tools that protect not only ourselves but also our neighbors. We encourage everyone who wishes to wear a mask to do so, regardless of vaccination status. Many people in our congregation, myself included, will continue to mask either due to comfort or out of solidarity with those who do not yet have the opportunity to unmask. A mask or lack thereof is not necessarily indicative of a person's vaccination status, and treating someone differently for what they do or do not wear is never appropriate. No matter what, a person showing up to church for worship on Sunday morning or a person watching at home is our neighbor and we will welcome them with love and without judgment.

I know that many of you will be thrilled at this development and that some of you may be disappointed. I will be available Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15 to answer any questions you may have about how this decision was made, or if you'd like to speak to me privately, feel free to email me at ptmarie96@gmail.com or call me on my cell at (803)-767-5128. It has been a long year, and we are weary, but I know that our savior lives, and I have seen him work through our church and our hospitals and through so many of you over the past several months. As we walk the last step of this long journey together, our Lord will continue to walk alongside us. I'll see you Sunday morning!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Read, 10 Benefits Of Reading A Book

Campbell County Librarian, Andrew Moorhead, posted 10 benefits to reading on their website: **Mental Stimulations:** Your brain needs to exercise too! Use it or lose it. **Stress Relief:** Focusing on the characters and the plot of a book allows you to distance yourself from the stress of everyday life, putting your mind and body at ease. Lose yourself in a great story. It can be a perfect remedy for stress. **More Sleep:** Bright lights from electronic devices signal your brain to wake up. Reading a book under dim lights helps your brain relax and helps you fall asleep. **Education:** It's not cheap, but reading books from our library is free! **Better Memory:** Reading books requires you to use your memory muscle for the plot, characters, settings, dialogue, etc. which can lead to a slower rate of decline in memory. Increases **Empathy:** Readers learn to sympathize with character's emotions. Studies have shown that reading fiction helps readers understand what others are thinking and feeling by reading about people's emotions. Improves **Concentration:** Trains your brain to avoid distractions. **Entertainment:** Cheaper than going to the movies, books can transport you to different worlds. From the character, Sam, on the old iCarly sitcom - regarding books: "These things are great! It's like TV in your head!" **Vocabulary Expansion:** The more you read, the more words you are exposed to. Being well-spoken and articulate can help increase job performance and self-esteem. **Reading is Contagious:** Read out loud to kids and share your favorite books with friends.

Prayers of our church

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

Those unable to travel about: Olga Hansen, Gail Hansen, Marilyn Iversen, Art & Marian Olesen, Howard Nielsen, & Lois Rasmussen.

Those in need of healing: Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Pat Griffin, Pastor Gary Gould, Sandra Lock, Al & Judy Hooper, Betty Jensen, Florence Johnston, Don Nielsen, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Andre Oudum, Don Pettitt, Virginia Pilegard, Freida Rice, Beatrice Salazar, Jimmy Stricklin, Aslak Syse, Timm Trickett, Caitlin Tyler, Mark & Kami Waggoner & Joe Wozniczka.

are sent out into the midst of these storms, not because God expects us to be able to stop it, but because God has built us to endure it and be the light to those trying to travel through a world that leaves them feeling battered. We have been given hope so we can be the hope to the hopeless, we have been given life so we may share this gift to all that we meet, and we do not travel alone. Our savior is not sleeping. He is weathering each wave alongside us, until we reach the distant shore of peace—so let us worship him, let us allow his light to guide us and fill us with boldness as we go out into a world as those unafraid of what the world may bring because we are bringing along something bigger—the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus, which has overcome sin, death, and the devil. With the power of God beside us, what then can stand against us.

Let us pray.

Pastor Taylor's Homily, June 20, 2021

Prayer Focus for July

Week of 7-5-2021. Focus on freedom.

John 8:32 NIV.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Week of 7-22-2021. Focus on why we are free.

Galatians 5:13 NIV.

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Week of 7-19-2021. Focus on what freedom looks like.

Galatians 5:14 NIV. "For the entire law was fulfilled in keeping this command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'."

Week of 7-26-2021. Focus on what it cost God for our freedom.

John 3:16 NIV. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

There's A Crack In Our Bell

There's a crack in our bell. There are little fractures that snake down its surface, and the heavy cast iron part structure has started to slip from its stand. When we fix it, it'll need to be lifted down from the bell tower by a crane, heated up in its entirety to mend the cracks, and then we'll have to call the expert back in to ensure it's put back correctly. The bell needs a lot of love and work to be restored to its former glory, and when Victoria first got the quote for how much it would cost, baseline, I was worried that the council might get sticker shock when they saw the number. Many of the congregations I've served in the past have replaced their bells with electronic bell systems and I wanted to see what the price difference would be so, if the council didn't wish to move forward with the repairs, we'd be ready to look at other options. Now, these electronic bells aren't doorbells. They're heavy-duty speaker systems that play the sounds of bells chiming and can be programmed to play songs or programmed to chime a certain number of times. It really is pretty neat stuff, and it cost a fraction of the cost to repair a cast iron bell, but when I told the council we would need to either repair the bell or replace it, the response was unanimous: Repair the bell.



That seemed fair enough to me. The bell is a part of the history of Immanuel. It's chimed for funerals and for weddings and before church services. Based on sentimentality alone, I understood the need to mend the cracks of our past and preserve it for future generations, but I have quickly learned that there is something more important than the structure of the bell or its housing up in the tower. Part of what makes the bell so special is the hands that pull it and the ears that hear it. I've met with families who were mourning their loved ones, unable to meet within the walls of the church, who still had one request: "Do you think we could have someone ring the bell? We'll just wait outside and listen." I've started into church announcements a little too quickly and been hushed by the tolling of the bell, a precious reminder to be still and wait when I so often want to rush ahead. I've had the pleasure to meet and listen to several of the folks who have been ringing the bell for years, and I've got to watch as the rope was passed to the next set of hands.

The Kingsburg City Band Performs on Thursday Nights at the Park

by:

Randy McFarland, *Kingsburg City Band announcer*

Kingsburg's Historic City Band is back and ready to present its inaugural 135th season concert, its first in nearly two years. The band's return from a pandemic-necessitated silence a year ago will take place, free of charge as always, at 8 p.m. Thursday (June 17) in Kingsburg's Memorial Park Bandstand.

The park is located at Sierra Street (State Highway 201) and 18th Avenue, opposite the Kingsburg High School's campus. The band's season will include concerts each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock through July 22. Each concert will be preceded from 5-8 p.m. in Memorial Park by Kingsburg's farmer's market, sponsored by the Kingsburg Chamber of Commerce. Vendors will also be present.

Wielding the conductor's baton to begin his 44th season as the City Band's Musical Director will be Dale Engstrom of Kingsburg. "We have lined up what we believe will be an outstanding and entertaining season with a terrific variety of music our audiences always seem to enjoy," Engstrom said. "Sound the Trumpet," with featured soloist Jeff Strong, on June 24. "America the Beautiful," with soloists Kevin and Melody Memley, on July 1, "A Melodic Caravan," with soloist Hanna York, on July 8. "Strike Up the Band," with soloist Joe Lizama, on July 15. "Seasons," with soloist Julie Bernsen, on July 22.

Last summer's season cancellation resulted by the COVID-19 pandemic was the first year since what would have been the 1943 and 1944 seasons, during World War II, that the Kingsburg City Band did not perform.

The City Band attracts participating musicians and audiences from all over the central San Joaquin Valley. It was established in 1887 and is recognized as one of the nation's oldest community bands. Sponsoring the City Band again this season is the Kingsburg Media Foundation, headed by President Reggie Gierke. Other major backers are the City of Kingsburg and Kingsburg Chamber of Commerce.

Park bench seating is provided, but many in the large crowds that typically attend bring their own chairs.

News Notes

Happy Birthday Blessings to: KAY JENSEN on her 86th birthday July 5th; OLGA HANSEN on her 95th July 8th; MARILYN IVERSEN on her 89th July 15th; CARL JENSEN on his 93rd July 16th; GLENN NIELSEN on his 87th July 18th; ART OLESEN who will be 103 on his July 30th birthday.

Kahn Family Excitement! Allyson and Rich Kahn's youngest child, Rebekah, graduated from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City where she studied ballet and psychology. She received her bachelor of science in psychology. At the same time, she received her paralegal certificate from the University of Arizona. She got married to Joshua Micu on May 29th, and they will be making their home in Virginia where Joshua works with the Department of Defense in finance, and Rebekah will start her job as a paralegal in a law firm in D.C. Whew, a lot of change for that girl in too short of time!

Pastor Taylor & Luke had family visit from South Carolina and Texas! They were blessed with a quick visit from Luke's grandparents from South Carolina and his Aunt from Southern California. Later in June, Luke's sister, Rebecca visited from Texas. They were so happy to share their home and some time with their family.

Perez Family and the theater: Lillanna Perez performed in Shrek Jr. at the Selma Arts theater June 17-20th. Julius Perez worked behind the scenes with the lights for this play. This was a great experience for the kids. They enjoy the theater.

Fran Hansen is starting a new business-Miss Fran's Online Tutoring Service. She will be working with 3-year olds through fifth graders. Specialized lessons will be provided for children on an IEP, early childhood development, kindergarten readiness, and language development. Please contact her at 559-419-0030 or missfrantutoring@gmail.com for more information.

Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive on July 17th from 8:00AM-Noon! Please sign up for the 2021 drives either online or on the blue bulletin board in the church entryway. It sure helps the blood center prepare for their drive out here. Blood Drives are 9 weeks apart so if you miss on our Sunday, you are able to donate the week after at the center to keep on our 8-week schedule.

07.16.21 <https://signup.com/go/vOYSOuN>

09.19.21 <https://signup.com/go/EKoaJp>

11.21.21 <https://signup.com/go/wabVKef>

I firmly believe that Don Pettit summed it up best when he told me that the bell was the perfect tool to get folks, old or young, involved in church. On a recent visit, he remarked, "I want them to know it's better to participate than to sit and not be involved." And Don and Lee, Randy and Dan, have truly gone above and beyond with ensuring that people knew it was better to participate than to sit. Whether it was teaching granddaughters to pass the offering plate, or teaching the sons of the congregation to pull the rope of the bell, or just welcoming people in with a smile, the message has been clear: Church isn't just a place where you come to sit for a while, it's a place where you belong and it's a place where you're invited to participate, it's a place where old hands show new hands how to pull on the ropes.

Worship is not a time for us to grow stagnant—there's a reason that we sing as a community and there's a reason we stand up to recite words of faith—it reminds us that worship isn't something we watch happen, it's something we do together with God. It has been my pleasure to watch as fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, sons and daughters, have read scripture and served communion over the past year. It is beautiful to watch as people show the congregation with every small action that they don't want to just push a button and hear the bells ring, they want to pull the ropes and have the reminder that God has given them gifts to serve his church. Relationships are formed and strengthened around the things we do with one another, our relationship with the church and our relationship with God is no different. As we head into the summer, I would encourage you to pray about how the Lord has gifted you. Pray about how you can use those gifts to care for your congregation and your community, so that when your neighbor in the pew or in the street sees you, they will know the love of God as well as the community of Easton knows the chiming of Immanuel's bells. At the same time, I would encourage you to recognize the gifts in others and encourage them, as the deacons, ushers, and other leaders of Immanuel have been, to put their hands on the rope and participate. Give them a kind word and encourage them to get involved. So often, one of the greatest gifts that the Lord has bestowed upon us is a servant's heart—it is a willingness to volunteer, to try, to participate because when we are active in our worship, we are all strengthened, and the message of the Gospel is proclaimed with the same loud, musical strength of a church bell on Sunday morning.

We'll pick back up with the Ten Commandments again next month. May the Lord bless and keep you until then.

--Pastor Taylor

Youth Refuge at Immanuel

Hello Immanuel,
Here's some updates for the July youth report!
Sal's tickets are on sale! We will be having a table set up after church to sell them. We had a wonderful trip to Pacifica where we took 5 students to serve the congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran. They restored a flower bed that looked nearly professional when we left! On Wednesday nights we are meeting 6pm-8pm for Refuge. We only require masks inside during the lesson. Dinner and games are outside with no masks. As of now, there are no plans to have a break during the summer. We are looking for dinner providers for Wednesday nights. We have about 13-15 students weekly. Sign-ups are in the Narthex, or if you are still worshipping at home call or text me to sign up. If you are interested at all in helping with Sunday school in the Fall, get in contact with Pastor Taylor or myself. We're getting closer to coming out of this pandemic and we're starting to see it with the energy that the youth are bringing every week.

Jacob Wood, Youth Director at Immanuel

In-Progress Front Flower Bed Restoration



Many Hands make light work!



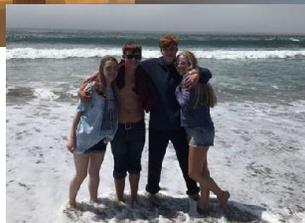
Completed Front Flower Bed!



Stephanie Hollenbeck read scriptures at Holy Cross Sunday Service.



When the work is done, time for beach fun!



Gone from My Sight

A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean.

She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to meet and mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There! She's gone!"

Gone where? Gone from my sight - that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of her destination. Her diminutive size is in me and not in her.

And just at that moment when someone at my side says: "There. She's gone!"

There are other eyes that are watching for her coming; and other voices ready to take up the glad shout:

"There she comes!"

And that is - dying.

July 8, 2016 at 9:14 pm. That's when Cindy set sail for that other shore.

Written by Albert Brumley in 1929:

Some glad morning when this life is over,
I'll fly away!
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away!

I love you all,
John.



Journey

Well, I'm back to July 8th again. Five years since Cindy passed. I could tell you I don't think about her much anymore but that would be a lie. I think of her often. Not that every memory is a beautiful thought; that's not true either. But they are all part of the collective pieces that go into that picture. I've progressed to the point where not every waking moment is consumed with thoughts of Cindy. There are odd and assorted triggers that cause me to think of her. They don't happen every day. There are reflective moments when I lament that she's not here to see her grandchildren or to see how happy Christian is being with Karen. She certainly would have liked those things. It's where I am. My emotions are very much closer to the surface these days, maybe some of that is just getting older.

What I want to say to those of you in the club is that wherever you are is where you are. Embrace that part of your journey. If you are needing to be in constant thought of your loved one, go with it. If you are me and somewhere down the road, that's okay. My guess is that none of you are in a place where you no longer think of that someone or at least not very often. Most of us still mark time with the milestones of a life remembered. Some are very private about that while others are very public. It's okay. Embrace where you are. Our group will support you.

One thing that I think is important and it may take time. Allow yourself to enjoy some of the things that surround you. Know that Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. He truly missed his friend. To me, that gives us permission to grieve. It gives us permission to rejoice and laugh at the wonderful memories that we carry. And also it gives us permission to move on with our lives. How that plays out for you is just fine. Again, accept that it is where you are right now and it may well change and maybe it won't - that's okay.

Something I do think about often is a prose about dying that I came across while Cindy was in Hospice. It's given me cause for much joy and contentment. It was written by Luther Beecher about 1900. It's often attributed to Henry van Dyke, but either way, I love the picture it paints in my mind.



Immanuel's Sock Drive

Please bring new adult size crew or tube socks to church! We are helping the Fresno Mission set the Guinness World Record for the LONGEST LINE OF SOCKS!



Sounds silly but what a need it will fill next winter when so many folks need warm socks for their feet. This has been almost a year-long project. We need **FOUR MILES OF SOCKS PINNED ON A CLOTHESLINE!** This is estimated to be 45,000 pairs of adult socks. The record breaking attempt will be in November; that's less than 4 months away. Volunteers will be needed to help hang socks as well. Keep checking the Chimes monthly for more details!

Immanuel has a black barrel in the narthex for collecting socks for the mission. Please bring adult

sizes and new socks. Crew or Tube styles only. The collection will go through the month of October.

Thank you all for your support for this exciting and worthy cause.

Central Pacific Mission Retreat

Let's get away to the beautiful coastal town of Pacifica, between Half Moon Bay and San Francisco for spiritual renewal and refreshment as well as meeting new friends in our Central Pacific Mission District, **Oct 15-17, 2021**. North American Lutheran Church Bishop Emeritus John Brodoski will be the featured speaker on discipleship. A professional jazz artist and band will be providing music and supplement the worship experience.

Come and be refreshed and renewed in your faith and meet some of your fellow Lutherans in that beautiful setting. The cost for the weekend has yet to be determined. Lodging and costs to be determined. RV lots are available. Please see your church bulletin and watch your emails for the price the first week of July. This gathering will be at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church where our youth spent a service project, mission weekend June 11-13th.

Our Dean, Pastor John Saethre, is looking forward to seeing you there. **Reservations are due by July 21st**. Keep watching your bulletin for more information and pray about this opportunity for yourself. Commitment to this relaxing get away will help the planning committee prepare for a beautiful weekend in Pacifica for spiritual renewal.

Danish American Historical Society

Moves back to Pioneer Village in Selma

You're invited to an Aebleskiver Brunch

June 26th from 9:00-11:30AM

This Saturday, the Danish American Historical Society will host an Aebleskiver Brunch at their new location at the Pioneer Village in Selma. (1880 Art Gonzales Parkway, Selma) The meal will be served in the shade of the lovely oak woods. Gather between 9:00 -11:30AM for æbleskivers, (Danish Pancakes) applesauce, medisterpølse, (Danish Sausage) orange juice and lots of coffee. The suggested donation for each meal is \$8.00. Bring your family and friends and enjoy strolling through the Pioneer Village grounds and visiting the historic St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church.

Camping really did spark our fire for building our faith and friendship at Immanuel. The relationships budded and grew into Christ-loving partners who have all touched our lives and blessed us with more JOY than we could ever imagine. This is what Family Camp does. It didn't just happen to us; Ericka and Brad Gardner have experienced the same experiences. They hauled their three little ones up too, Holy Spirit led for sure. You know, Ericka and the pretty pink outfits her little girls wore never got dirty. Didn't matter all of sudden they found that the Holy Spirit led them to Brad's one great escape with his family. Try it even if you can only make it for the day or you get there and hunker down the whole week. The trick is to open your heart and let go and let God do the work. Pray about this powerful ministry for you and your church family. Throw it together and go.

This year, a couple of old-time favorite members of Immanuel will be coming: our weird Uncle Paul and delightful (silly) Aunt Linda will be joining us for the week. Expect to laugh, love and play some games, horseshoes, fishing. On Saturday, July 10th Lee Terkelsen, AKA Mr. Sequoia, will be taking us on a hike or two. Get ready to go by 10:00AM that day starting out at Logger Flat.

The years passed and changed and every year is a little bit different. If you have ever gone, you have memories of fish and no fish, lady bugs or mosquitoes. Great potlucks and maybe one rather sparse one. (Not too many sparse potlucks, but it does happen.) The ebb and flow of life this side of the cross. Trust me, nobody ever goes away hungry up there.

Family Camp is for everyone able to come. We have church service at 10:30AM on Sunday outside under the trees. It's beautiful! The offering at this church service is given to a fund to pay for the campground next year. The dates for 2022 camp has already been secured. Mark your calendars for **June 12-19, 2022**. These dates may alter by a day or two. If you can only come for a couple days or even a day, plan for more time next year.

We missed it last year due to pandemic shut down. Don't miss the opportunity to check out Logger's flat this year. Bring your own food for breakfast and lunch and dish to share for a supper time potluck. Bring your own food and shelter. There is running water and an out house. There is no electricity, so when it gets dark, flashlights and lanterns are recommended.

May the good Lord guide you to family camp too.
Victoria Salwasser

Family Camp

This is a powerful ministry. You must try camping with Immanuel in any way shape or form if you are able. There is still time to get there in 2021 if you are reading this before July 9th.

Here's why I feel family camp is a powerful ministry: I remember the first time Mark & I decided to go. It was 2001. Before 9/11, before we had a camp trailer, before we knew how Immanuel would become our family, before we knew how powerful Immanuel "God With Us" (Matthew 1:23) really is.

Quick background: The good Lord guided us to Immanuel on the first Sunday of Lent 2001. Thank you to the angels the Holy Spirit used to guide us here. That's another story; too much to type. Call me, I love to share it if you haven't heard it. That year, as Mark & I were attending his family's 4th annual Father's Day trip to Morro Bay, we said together in unison maybe we should go to that Family Camp with the church people. It was the first week in July that year (not much time to plan). I remember Mark took the whole Friday day off and I took half day off the day we left. I had stayed up late all week cooking and shopping. Fun stuff for me. I'm sure I baked way too many cookies. Mark packed all the food and camping supplies that morning and when I got home (probably later than I promised him) we worked together to get our 2, 4 and 6-year-old kids packed and buckled in the pick up. Off we went on a crazy adventure... right? Three little ones, a tent and an outhouse for the weekend. Another funny story...call me.

We made it to Loggers Flat before dinner that Friday afternoon and we took over the tent space that Mike Moser and his sons had just left. They came mid-week and we came for the weekend. Our church people greeted us, helped us unload, and even helped Mark put up the tent. We didn't really know these 'church people' yet, but we quickly found out we were not among strangers at this campground. We encountered gracious help! I think we realized then that these 'church people' were actually more like 'church family people'. As the weekend progressed, we were included in evening potluck meals, campfire songs, star watching, and conversations. All these things brewed up an Immanuel family, (God with us). Funny thing, at the time we had no idea we needed you, 'church people' but the Holy Spirit provided you to us. What young family packs up their 3 little kids and hauls their own tent, food and clothing to the mountains for even just a weekend with little to no planning? At the time, it truly seemed like we just threw it together and went, but now I can see we were guided by the Holy Spirit. We leaped out of the boat and let the Lord guide us. Blessings like this, they sneak up on you.

Women's Ministry In July!

Immanuel's Women's Ministry Board gathered on a Tuesday evening and discussed our plans for the next couple of months. You won't want to miss the June 29th Bibles and Bunco at 7:00PM in Grace Hall! The night starts out with Sweets & Treats, followed by a fun and super easy Bible Trivia Game with Bunco. Guaranteed laughter and stress relief at this event! Also, PRIZES!

July 29th "Let's Get Cookin." We are offering to cook dinner for you ladies in return for a batch of cookies to share with our shut-ins. It's been a while since we delivered soup to our friends; now it's time to take them some sweets to get them through the crazy hot summer weeks. Bring some cookies and we will serve you a wonderful Pulled Pork Sandwich! Who's craving a good Caruthers Food Booth Style Sandwich and some Sweet Corn from Fresno State? We will gather in Grace Hall at 6:00PM to eat, share some devotional time and lots of chatting while we pack up cookie boxes for delivery to our shut ins. Would you like to volunteer to take some cookies to our friends we haven't seen in a long time? Come that night, or if you can't make it on that Thursday night, give the church office a call and we will put you on the delivery list for Friday.

Time to start our Women's Fall Bible Study. After the year off for pandemic precautions, we have decided to restructure and collaborate one monthly Women of Faith Gathering. Our first one will be September 9th and continue on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00PM in Grace Hall. We will have a self-contained biblical discussion each month. We will ask for a couple volunteers, one to bring a snack, of course, and one to welcome folks and guide the discussion. Each month will include prayers and sometimes maybe service projects or craft projects just for fun.

Mothers, do you need babysitters for your children in order to come for a night out? If so, please call me and we will make that happen if it would be something helpful and of interest.

Relationships are built through time and interaction. Join us for gatherings with Christian sisters, invite your sisters in Christ and friends who do not yet know Christ. As a group, we will make Christ known through our gatherings and the Holy Spirit does the rest.

I look forward to our time together.
Victoria Salwasser



JULY 2021



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 10:30AM Wor- ship & Communion in Sanctuary	5 2:00PM Family Camp Starts 7:00 PM NA in Grace Hall	6 Family Camp	7 Family Camp	8 Family Camp	9 Family Camp	10 Family Camp
11 10:30AM Wor- ship & Communion in Sanctuary Family Camp	12 12:00PM Family Camp Check Out 12:00PM Easton Food Distribution! 7:00 PM NA in Grace Hall	13	14	15	16	17
18 Blood Drive 8:00 AM—Noon 10:30AM Worship & Communion in Sanctu- ary	19 7:00 PM NA in Grace Hall	20 7:00 Church Council Meeting in Grace Hall	21 11:00AM August Chimes Deadline.	22	23	24
25 10:30AM Wor- ship & Communion in Sanctuary Semi-Annual Congregational Meet- ing	26 7:00 PM NA in Grace Hall	27	28	29 6:00 PM Let's Get Cookin' Women's dinner in Grace Hall	30	31
						