

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

August 22, 2021



5955 S Elm Ave.
Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706
Office: (559)237-7909
Immanueleaston.com
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Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10:30am
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm
Refuge for Junior High & High School

Welcome! Wherever you are; whether at home and on-line, or joining us in our beautiful 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. Immanuel follows the current Centers for Disease Control Guidelines during the pandemic. 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 and other special occasions of the church year. If you have received instruction concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor following 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 as you exit the sanctuary or fill out the guest registry located in the church entry.

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.

Join us outdoors immediately following our worship service where we can greet you more personally.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Laurel Jacobsen

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

Welcome & Announcements

John Jensen

Opening Prayer

Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. 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.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Please Stand as you are able

Deacon: 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

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: 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.

Opening Hymn

“When Peace Like A River”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

**It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a
Scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888 Horatio Gates Spafford | Philip Paul Bliss
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Prayer of The Day**Carol Bennetts**

Merciful God, you bestow the riches of your grace upon your sons and daughters. Grant that we may faithfully serve you in this life and rejoice in your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Reading of the Word

The Lord looks down upon us. In many cases, he sees religious but faithless people. They give him lip-service but their hearts are withdrawn from God. Yet, God is not bent on destruction but upon doing wonderful things for those faithless people. God is faithful when we are not (2 Tim 2:13). Thus, the Lord sends his salvation from on high. Christ betroths himself to his Church, loving her as a faithful husband loves his wife. He rebukes hypocritical behavior but loves her, even to the point of shedding his own blood.

The First Reading: Isaiah 29:11-19**Randy McFarland**

11The vision of all this has become for you like the words of a sealed document. If it is given to those who can read, with the command, "Read this," they say, "We cannot, for it is sealed." 12And if it is given to those who cannot read, saying, "Read this," they say, "We cannot read." 13The LORD said: Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote; 14so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden. 15Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for the LORD, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"

16You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay? Shall the thing made say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of the one who formed it, "He has no understanding"? 17Shall not Lebanon in a very little while become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be regarded as a forest? 18On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. 19The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 139**Randy McFarland**

1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. 5 You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. 19 If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men! 20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? 22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

The Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20**Randy McFarland**

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you

ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel: John 6:56-69

Carol Bennetts

Reader: The Holy Gospel, according to St John the sixth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

56Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." 59He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. 60When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" 61But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? 62Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." 66Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 68Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

“Known and Loved”

Pastor David Abdo
Easton Presbyterian Church

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus Priceless Treasure”

Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me: ah, how long I’ve panted,
And my heart has fainted, thirsting, Lord, for thee!
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb; I will suffer nought to hide thee,
Nought I ask beside thee.

In thine arm I rest me; foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here. Though the earth be shaking,
Ev’ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Sin and hell in conflict fell with their bitter storms assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Hence, all fears and sadness, for the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather, still have peace within.
Yea, whate’er I here must bear, still in thee lies purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Catherine Winkworth | Johann Franck

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Confession of Faith

Gina Cogan

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

Deacon: 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

Deacon: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

Deacon: Let us share God's peace with one another.

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

Offertory Prayer

Deacon: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon: 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.

Please stand as you are able.

Benediction

Pastor David Abdo

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!

Closing Hymn

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;
And when they were blinded with idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once again,
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940 Text © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God! (sung) Amen, Amen, Aaaamen.

Postlude

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Announcements & Opportunities to Serve

Week of 8-22-2021: Focus on God's gracious nature towards us!
Numbers 6: 24-26 NIV. "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Week of 8-29-2021. Focus on the peace that comes from Christ!
John 16: 33 NIV. "I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have troubles. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Please fill out the worship registration slip on the last page. By placing the slip in the offering bag, it helps Immanuel track attendance and communicate messages to the pastor or office secretary as needed. Thank you.

Immanuel Youth will lead us in worship next Sunday, we will gather after church for a Potluck Picnic Lunch outside in front of Grace Hall.

Memorial Service for Pastor Gary Gould will be this Saturday, August 28th at 2:00PM in the sanctuary. The Celebration of Life will follow next door at the Easton Presbyterian Church Family Center.

Memorial Service for Florence Johnston will be on Saturday, September 4th at 10:00AM in the sanctuary. There will be a reception following the service outside in front of Grace Hall.

Volunteers are needed for Kitchen help for the upcoming Potluck and Memorial Services. Since we have not used our work circles for over a year due to the pandemic volunteers need to be re-grouped for those attending. Please call the church office at 237-7909 or sign up on the blue bulletin board if you are willing and able to help in the kitchen with set up and clean up at the upcoming gatherings.

Caruthers Fair is ready for volunteers! Please see the sheets in front of the closet in the church entryway and sign up for a shift or two. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to come out at serve with you, sign them up as well. This is a wonderful ministry to support the Fresno Mission. We need lots of help for more information call Victoria at 559-285-5181.

NALC Fall Retreat October 15-17 in Pacifica, CA! Join us at the coast! Our mission district dean, Pastor John Saethre and the pastors in our Central Pacific Mission District are planning a retreat at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Find Renewal and refreshment in your Christian faith through worship, fellowship and exploring God's creation. Bishop Emeritus John Brodosky will be presenting throughout the weekend on Discipleship. Pick up a flier on the table under the Gold Bulletin Board in the church entryway.

Immanuel's Youth Group is selling Vouchers for Sal's enchiladas or burritos! See Jacob or any of the Youth for your \$30.00 voucher today good for one dozen enchiladas or burritos. Redeem in Selma, Fresno or Madera Sal's Restaurants.

Sign up today for the next Creator's Corner Intergenerational Event on Saturday, September 18th at 10:30AM in Grace Hall with potluck style snacks. For the \$20.00 class fee you will create a beautiful fall colored fabric garland. Sign up on the Blue Bulletin Board Today!

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: Erica Botello, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Caleb Hathaway, Scott Linger, Matt Ward, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

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

Those in need of healing: Those in need of healing Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Donna Carter, Gaye Cissel, Joyce Futrell, Doug Hollenbeck, Al & Judy Hooper, Betty Jensen, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, Don Pettitt, Virginia Pilegard, Lois Rasmussen, Freida Rice, Jimmy Stricklin, Timm Trickett, Caitlin Tyler, Mark & Kami Waggoner & Joe Wozniczka.

For those morning the loss of loved ones: The families of Don Nielsen, Florence Johnston and Steve Watkins.

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.

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

Altar Flowers are presented by friends of the Jensen's for glory and honor to God and in celebration of the addition to their family coming September 2021!

This Week at Immanuel

Today

10:30AM Worship

11:30AM Fellowship time outside

Monday:

11:00AM September Chimes Deadline

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

Wednesday

6:00PM Refuge! Youth gathering for 6th – 12th grade students

Next Sunday:

10:30AM Youth Led Worship Service

11:30 AM Potluck Picnic

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Christian Jensen, Jacob Wood, Scott Hollenbeck

Scripture Reader: Randy McFarland

Fellowship Server: Lee Terkelsen

Council Lock Up in August: Carol Bennetts

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Christian Jensen, Jacob Wood, Scott Hollenbeck

Scripture Reader: _____

Fellowship Server: _____

Sign up to read scripture on the blue bulletin board in church entryway.

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: _____

I want to learn more about baptism

I want to become a member of Immanuel

I want a visit from the visitation pastor

I want to speak with the pastor