

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

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Grant that I may not pray alone with the
mouth; help me that I may pray from the
depths of my heart.

Martin Luther

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Office Secretary: Victoria Salwasser
Chimes Editor: Victoria Salwasser, Lee Terkelsen
Organist: Laurel Jacobsen
Sound & Technology: Christian Jensen

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Council Secretary: Allyson Kahn
Financial Secretary: Sharon Reynolds
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Trustees: Jim Hansen, Karl Nielsen,
Deacons: Carol Bennetts, Gina Cogan,
Allyson Nielsen, & Barbara Petersen
Women's Ministry President: Victoria Salwasser

Return Service Requested



The Immanuel Chimes April 2022

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS
9:30AM Sunday School for all ages in Social Hall
10:30AM Worship & Communion in Sanctuary
Service recorded live through Facebook
at Immanuel Lutheran Church Easton



4/14 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM
4/15 Good Friday Service at 7:00PM
4/17 Easton Sunrise Service 6:22AM
Pancake Breakfast following Sunrise Service
Easter Morning Worship 10:30AM

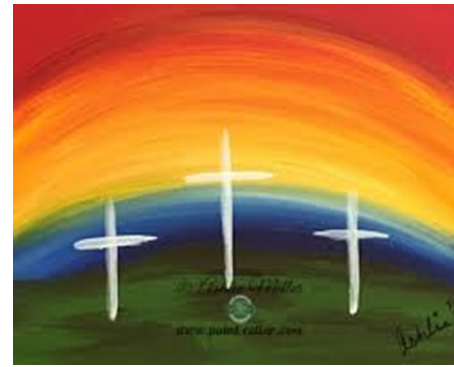
Pastor's Page

What does it mean to be good stewards?

Heading into the month of April, we'll be doing a stewardship month. Now, Stewardship has gotten a bit of an inaccurate reputation over the years because churches use the word "stewardship" to mean "money." In many congregations, stewardship months are months of donation drives and fundraising, but the meaning of stewardship is much deeper than that. We need to start with what the word "Steward" means. Stewards care for what has been entrusted to them. A wonderful example of this is the national parks in our own backyard! Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia are lands that are intentionally cared for, to preserve the health of the land and provide joy to those who visit to see the natural wonders that exist there. In fact, our national parks throughout the country mirror God's intentional plan for us.

When the Lord created us and put us in Eden, it is written that he created mankind "to work and keep the land." Our purpose was to enjoy and care for creation from the moment that Adam took his very first breath. God created us to do exactly that and it starts with creation, but it doesn't end there. We are called to be stewards, to work and keep and preserve, not only creation, but community and church too. (The three C's!) But we start wisely with creation because creation is the one thing we can't take credit for. ***When you drive through the tunnel in Yosemite and your breath catches because of the beauty of the valley stretched out in front of you—there isn't a single person in that car who can take credit for the way the mountains are carved and the waterfalls flow.*** Not even John Muir or the Indigenous Peoples who lived within the valley can take credit for the beauty that's there. We may hem and haw about who discovered what, but God gets the ultimate credit. He didn't have to discover what he first created. The small wonders of creation, from trees to clouds to life-giving water, are created first by the Lord who entrusts us to care for them. We can't take credit for the beauty of creation. Instead, we rejoice that we are trusted to work and keep it.

When we start with who created the world, we are reminded that the gifts we have been given belong first to God. We can appreciate the wonder of the mountains because they were carved by God's own hands, and if we are able to appreciate that creation, it becomes easier to recog-



April 17th Easter Sunday
Easton Sunrise Service
at 6:22 AM

Sunrise Service at Immanuel
Park on the North East corner
of Elm and Lincoln Avenues

Easter Morning

Worship with Communion

10:30AM in the Sanctuary at Immanuel.

Please bring fresh flowers and place them in
our wooden cross in front of the church.

Join us at Immanuel or online on
both Facebook (live) or YouTube (12:30 or later)



Holy Week



Palm Sunday April 10
Sunday School
for everyone
at 9:30AM
Worship & Communion
at 10:30AM!

Maundy Thursday April 14th
at 7:00PM
Everyone is invited
In the Sanctuary.



Good Friday
April 15th
at 7:00PM
Everyone is invited
In the Sanctuary.

nize God's fingerprints in all parts of creation. The same hands that shaped half-dome are the hands that shaped my neighbor's nose. The same hands that pulled Giant Sequoias out of the earth are the same hands that built the church upon life-giving scripture. What we have been given, we have been given by God, and just like our forefathers had the foresight to care for creation so we can enjoy the beauty of it today, we are called to preserve and care for the gifts we've been given so the next generation can take part in this very same wonder.

So how do we care for the community and church God has entrusted to us? Well, the very same way that we care for the land we've been given. We take time to recognize our gifts and use them for the benefit of what is around us. National Parks need rangers and ticket booth takers and janitors and educators. They need donors like us, who buy passes and pay entry fees, and they need communicators, like our own Lee Terkelsen, who are able to recognize and communicate the beauty of the parks so people want to visit and support. God's church needs the same thing. We need people to volunteer their gifts so we can grow stronger together, so we can work the church and keep it. We need people to invest in growing and preserving our church, not just with money, but also with time and talent. Being a good steward means taking time to dedicate ourselves to caring for the gifts that God has entrusted us with, and we undertake this care not out of fear or obligation, but out of thanksgiving and appreciation for God's abounding generosity to us.



When you drive through the tunnel in Yosemite and your breath catches because of the beauty of the valley stretched out in front of you . . .

Journey

So to be honest, this month I really didn't feel like writing anything. Nothing came to me to write about. Nothing resonated with me that anyone had said. So, I had to take some time and just wonder why this month was coming up so empty. I spent days just thinking and wondering. I came to the conclusion that this was going to be the month where I would have to let Victoria know that there wouldn't be a Journey entry. So I resolved myself to the fact that maybe this was the last article. I'm happy that I've always found something to say. I'm happy that so many of you have been so complimentary and supportive. It was a real ego stroke to hear that something I had written touched you at just the right time. I truly thank God that he used me to talk to you. That's so humbling. They say that all good things come to an end and this was a good thing. I benefited from having an outlet and at least some of you, I think, found some benefit as well. As I write this, it's the day before the deadline. Being the procrastinator that I am, I told myself that I would break the news to V. in the morning.

I spend a lot of time listening to people share their feelings of anger, hurt, 'lostness', anxiety, bitterness and joy and relief at the loss of a loved one. Almost as if they are apologizing for having feelings. Or that every day isn't sunshine, lollipops and roses. We so easily put on our masks and act like everything is alright. The fact of the matter is; no one's life is always smooth sailing. In fact, there are a lot of choppy waters out there. It's good to be able to look around and admit today isn't such a good day.

What I haven't always been good at was admitting that some days, my lake is a little ruff too. So here it is, I've been going through and am still going through a rough time. That doesn't negate all the great things I have in my life. If anything it sharpens the contrast. Losing Cindy was hard. As I've said before, it's like getting a deep cut. The cut heals and the pain gets less and less, but the scar is always there to remind me of the cut. I miss my mom too. I know how Jesus loves because I know my mom loved me unconditionally. She didn't love me most of the time or when I did right; she loved me all the time.

So I stepped back this afternoon and reminded myself that I am grieving. And with that grieving comes everything that goes with it. The range of emotions are some day-by-day and some minute-by-minute. So this valley I'm in is where I am. I'm confident that it will pass. But right now I'm down. So I'll turn to the true source of peace in my life, Jesus. I'll continue to read through the Bible, do my devotions, pray, do Sunday School

Intergenerational Sunday School April Reading Schedule

Date	Egermier Pages	Bible Chapters
04/03	Hagar and Ishmael A wife for Isaac	Genesis 20- Genesis 25:18
04/10	Esau Sells His Birthright Jacob and Esau Meet Again	Genesis 25:19—Genesis 35
04/17	Easter Sunday No Sunday School on Easter	Easter Sunday
04/24	Joseph Becomes a Slave Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt	Genesis 37—Genesis 41
05/01	Joseph's Dreams Come True Joseph's Family moves to Egypt	Genesis 42—Genesis 50:26

Join us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 at a round table in the Social Hall! We discuss the Bible with our friends at the table. It's fun and informative. You can be as interactive as you like. If you are an introvert, it's just fine. Someone at your table will be an extrovert. Join us for fun and knowledge this Sunday at 9:30am. The confirmation students help lead the class too.

Prayers for our Church Family & Friends

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, Leah Linger, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

Those unable to travel about: Gail Hansen, Art & Marian Olesen, Paul Pedersen, Lois Rasmussen & Bonnie Terkelsen.

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Dave Angel, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Darin Bratton, Gaye Cissel, Dale Ewing, Joyce Futrell, Esther Gutierrez, Al & Judy Hooper, Marge Jacobsen, Kim Jennings, Carl Jensen, Donna Kennedy, Jordan Lyons, Diane Mehrten, LynnMarie, Mari Millar, John Mitchell, Christie Pettitt, Tim Pilegard, Tony Pings, Margaret Raven, Kenneth Selzer, Timm Trickett, Caitlin Tyler & Keitt Wilson.

News Notes

Birthday greetings to WAYNE ORUM on his 75th April 5th; to JUDY HOOPER on her 90th birthday April 15th; to BONNIE TERKELSEN on her 95th birthday April 19th; to BRUCE MCELHOE on his 86th birthday April 20th, MARILYN NIELSEN on her 84th birthday on the 23rd. Belated birthday greetings to BILL PUCHEU who turned 77 on March 31st.

Immanuel welcomed five new members on Sunday, March 20th, although they have been attending for quite sometime. Our new members on the official church roster: Bill & Kay Pucheu, Margaret Raven, Ed & Ellen Vike.

It's our turn! Immanuel is serving FCA lunch on Wednesdays through April 27th. The team served 140 students, pizza, apples and cookies on the first Wednesday. Each week, the team plans for 200 lunches. Cookie donations are needed for the lunches. If you are able to donate cookies, you can bring them to the church on Sundays and place them in the freezer marked for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

May Chimes Articles due on April 20th

Recycling Continues at Immanuel

Immanuel collects recyclable cans and bottles for the Women's Ministry fund. Simply bring your cans and bottles (separated is nice) to church on Sunday and leave them in the social hall. All funds go directly to the Women's Ministry to support ministries within our church community.



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & fun activities for the family is presented by the St. Peter's Committee at the **CPDES Hall in Easton!** Come join the fun from 9:00-11:00AM on April 3rd, 2022 at the CPDES Hall, 172 W. Jefferson in Easton. Tickets are \$12.00 for kids ages 3-10; \$10.00 for kids 11-plus; 2 and under are FREE! For tickets, call the hall at 559--486-6060 or Lynette 559-312-3560 or Christina at 559-301-2206.



and church. I'll pay attention to opportunities to serve others. I came across a gem a while back; if you're not helping others, you're hurting yourself.

I'm so grateful for the love and support you all show me and I pray that I'm able to give a little back to you.

I'm going to be alright. And so will you. We need to stay focused and be intentional. I'll see you at church, Sunday school, lent suppers, etc. That's where the healing lives. Thanks for letting me do this so that together we move on down the path.

Love, John.

Written by James Taylor and released in 1970.

I've seen fire and I've seen rain
I've seen sunny days that I thought would never end
I've seen lonely times when I could not find a friend
But I always knew I'd see you again..

Prayer Focus for the Week

Week of 4-3-2022. Focus on the renewal of life, spring. Joel 2:21-22 NIV "Do not be afraid, land of Judah; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things. Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green. The trees are bearing fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches."

Week of 4-10-2022. Focus on Jesus the king. John 12:13 NIV. "They took palm branches and went out to greet him, shouting, 'Hosanna!;' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.' 'Blessed is the king of Israel.'"

Week of 4-18-2022. Focus on the risen Jesus. Luke 24:6 NIV. "He is not here; he is risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee."

Week of 4-25-2022. Focus on Jesus our hiding place. Psalms 32:7 NIV. "You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance."

Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drives

This Year's Blood Drives

8:30-11:30AM No Appointments Needed!

March 27th

June 5th

December 11th

August 7th

October 9th

Family Camp 2022

Sign up now for Family Camp **June 12-19**. We need camp hosts! If you plan to be at Logger's Flat on Sunday, June 12th, you are the perfect person to be the camp host! Immanuel at Logger's Flat Group Campground near Hume Lake is the perfect destination vacation. June is usually much cooler than July. Most likely there will be lots of beautiful flowers blooming. Spend time outdoors, fishing, playing games, reading, hiking, cooking and enjoying the beautiful wilderness. If you are planning to go, please sign up on the blue bulletin board in the church entryway or contact the church office. Everyone is welcome to enjoy some rest and relaxation in the great outdoors. Our campground is reserved from Sunday, June 12th at 2:00PM through Sunday, June 19th at noon. The whole week this year is time to spend with your church family, bring your whole family, invite your friends too! The date options are great. If you can't spare the weekend, come during the week. Come when you can and leave when you must!

Each group of campers provides their own food and shelter. Potluck dinners will be determined closer to the time frame since at this point we don't know how the pandemic will unfold. Usually, dinners are enjoyed together with a side dish potluck and each person/family brings their own table setting, drinks and main dish. Hopefully, that can happen this year too. Please email the church office if you plan to attend and if you would like to serve as the camp host!



He is Risen!

Y P X W J Y N S I O T S O L K
Y H G L O E U R V U Y D R U S
Y E F N S N S T J A J C M T E
X A T I D Z S A K N N A H O R
Z S R A I L O P E C R G N M S
A T Y E L O R J Y Y Q X E B A
Y E Q W J I C K U A S A D L C
B R M S V R P Q L D F Z N H S
E U F G P C V W L M A B G K L
P A S S O V E R S Y R S C S H
F A I T H U F C F D I O R H G
Z E V T J T K N X R X J P I C
Q P F G A I G J E R O I V A S
Q X Z X B H B B L S K R Y N I
B N P W K W R H F L H U H U N

Angels
Cross
Easter
Faith
Judas
Mary

Passover
Pilate
Risen
Savior
Sunday
Tomb



Jen of ThreeRedThreeCatsandHerband.com

In Celebration of Our Members'

Birthdays

3-Linda Demant
5-Wayne Orum
7-Audra Salwasser
12-Carly Johnson
15-Judy Hooper
19-Bonnie Terkelsen
Bruce McElhoe
23-Marilyn Nielsen
-Kay Pucheu
27-Kendall Anderson
Luke Stempniak
28-Cindy Tews
-Beverly Hansen
29-Christian Johnson

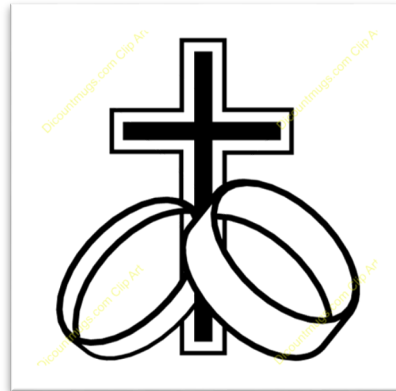
**April
2022**



Wedding

Anniversaries

13-Mike & Elaine Mehrten (26)
15-John & Sharon Reynolds (33)
23-Isaac & Sonya Orozco (17)
25-Karl & Allyson Nielsen (7)



Baptismal

Birthdays

1-Karl Nielsen
2 -Don Cathey
Christi Cathey
8-Madison Gifford
11-Sandy Britter
14-Isaac Orozco, Sr.
16-Kaylee Hollenbeck
19-John Jensen
27-Johni Phillips



Easton Community Churches
invite you to gather for
Easter Sunrise
Outdoor Service
On the North East Corner
of Elm and Lincoln Ave.
At Immanuel Park
April 17th, 2022 6:22 AM
Everyone is Invited!
Pancake Breakfast Following
In the Social Hall



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Music Ministry at Immanuel! The music team at Immanuel would like to re-congregation and let everyone know that their gifts and talents are welcome during worship. Who would like to share their gift of music during worship, what would you and how can the team help with assisting everyone with the desire to bring their gifts to the Lord on Sunday mornings during worship? If you are interested in collaborating with music please sign up on the blue bulletin board in the church entrance. Nielsen will contact you about how you can share.			
3 9:30 Sunday School in Social Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship 12:00 JH & SH Youth Meet in social hall for lunch	4 12:00PM Easton Food Dist.	5	6 6:30PM 7:00PM
10 Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday School in Social Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	11	12	13
17 Easter Sunday 6:22AM Easter Sunrise Service 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	18	19 7:00PM Council Mtg. In Grace Hall	20 C D
24 9:30 Sunday School in Social Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	25	26	27

By day's end, the Philistines have gotten a graduate theological education from a couple of barnyard bovines. And what's the lesson? Things don't happen by chance.

Is there any chance that anything is going to happen today that will take God by surprise? Did Russia's invasion of Ukraine throw off God's plans for human history? There's not a chance.

If we really believe that – if we embrace the idea that God's hand is in all the happenings of the world – then we will find ourselves doing more of what those cows did. We will walk intently where we ought to go, not turning to the left or to the right.

But it's a hard lesson to learn. That's because we live in a culture that seems enthralled with the notion that there's something called Chance that will guide us to our true home if we just wait long enough.

Maybe your marriage will grow stronger by chance. Maybe the core of acceptance and trust that alone makes a relationship work between committed partners will come about all by itself. Over the years, when I have had opportunities to sit down with couples in crisis, it's always sad when one of the partners says, "I'm going to wait and see what happens." Wait and see? Are you actually choosing to become a spectator to your own life, instead of taking the initiative to do what is good and right, even if that should require courage and sacrifice?

Healthy relationships don't happen by chance.

Nor does physical fitness. Or sound financial planning. Or effective parenting. Or a healthy relationship with God. We have to decide to show up and "be there" in the midst of our own lives.

The first step is a sincere prayer: "Lord, I want to start heading in the right direction, just like those cows. I'm listening for your guidance, and I will go wherever your Spirit leads me." God is always delighted whenever we present ourselves to him with open hands and open hearts.

Is there any chance we'll end up in the right place completely by accident?

Not a chance.

Would you like to explore previous reflections, and learn more about this ministry? Check out glennsreflections.com.

The Philistines are giddy with joy. Little do they know that the happy times are about to end suddenly and dramatically.

Wherever the ark is toted on the Philistine Victory Tour, unnerving things take place. A celebrated idol falls on its face and shatters into pieces. Plague breaks out. The people are afflicted with tumors. Soon the mayors of the five primary Philistine towns are playing musical ark. “Here, you take it.” “No, it’s your turn.” “No way! We had it last Tuesday. Take it to your neighborhood.”

At last the Philistines have had enough. Their leaders confer. “How are we going to get rid of this thing?”

They come up with a plan. “Let’s put it on a brand-new cart and hitch the cart to a pair of cows and see where the cows go.” And here we encounter the most interesting sentence in our story, which is found in I Samuel 6:9: “If the ark goes up to its own territory, toward Beth Shemesh, then the Lord has brought this great disaster on us. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that struck us and that it happened to us by chance.”

The Philistines are still entertaining the possibility that all of these calamities have happened to them coincidentally. Maybe this is all just a run of really bad luck. “Let’s use the Cow-O-Meter,” they decide. “The cows will demonstrate what’s really going on here, one way or the other.”

In order to make it harder for the God of Israel to prove himself, the Philistines decide to make things rough for the cows. Neither of them has ever been hitched to a cart. Both have recently had calves, which are now penned up nearby. A cow in this situation would ordinarily stay near its calf – in this case, that would mean staying in Philistia.

But the cows start walking. They head straight for Israel.

They’re not hanging around their own home. Now that they’re connected to the Ark of the Covenant, they are walking intently toward its home.

The Bible tells us that the cows don’t turn to the left or to the right, and that they are mooing all the way. Author and theologian R. C. Sproul wondered if they might be singing in cow-song, perhaps something like Onward Christians Cows. That’s probably more likely than the greatest hits of the Cowsills.

2022



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Each out to the ing worship! I like to share, r gifts of music celebrating your yway. Allyson</p>	<p>March 31 6:00AM Men’s Bible Study in Social Hall</p> <p>2:00PM Mildred Olsen’s Memorial Service</p>	1	2
<p>M Soup Supper M Lenten Service</p>	<p>7 6:00AM Men’s Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	8	9
	<p>14 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>15 7:00PM Good Friday Service</p>	16
<p>Chimes headline</p>	<p>21 6:00AM Men’s Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	22	23
	<p>28 6:00AM Men’s Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	29	30



Easter Community Pancake Breakfast!

**Easton Sunday following
The Sunrise Service!
Pancakes & Sausage
Orange Juice & Coffee**

Free Will Donations will be sent to Ukraine Relief

I know that many of us have found ourselves grieving over the news from Ukraine. Many members of my congregation have asked if the NALC has an organization that can provide aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict. The NALC has a long-standing relationship with the Spiritual Orphan Network, (SON) which was formerly known as the Eastern European Missions Network. Their website has an option to send support directly to a Ukrainian Relief Fund, which has been used to evacuate Ukrainian citizens and provide emergency supplies for those unable to evacuate. This organization has a strong emphasis on evangelism and supporting clergy and churches in areas where the gospel is often met with hostility or ignorance. When hoping to help people directly on the ground, I recommend sending funds to organizations that are already in Ukraine like SONs, as it cuts down on the risk that the funds or supplies will get lost along the way.

If you are looking for a way to support Ukrainian refugees or to support the refugee application and resettlement process, I would recommend Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. They do truly good and faithful work. I had the opportunity to work with them in South Carolina as they helped resettle refugees from Sudan and Taiwan, and they have recently helped resettle Afghani refugees in my hometown as well. LIRS advocacy goes beyond paperwork and legal assistance. They put a true focus on connecting refugees with a community within their resettlement country to lessen the feelings of loneliness and desperation that often accompany the resettlement process.

The funds raised from our pancake breakfast on Easter Morning will go to one of these two organizations, pending council vote.

Finally, do not forget to hold our Ukrainian and Russian brothers and sisters in prayer. This time has brought much needless bloodshed and suffering, and we pray that the Lord's intervention, justice, and peace would prevail.

Pastor Taylor

Morning Reflection

By Glenn Mc Donald

In the realm of celebrity animals, cows aren't particularly cool. Arnold the pig, Flipper the dolphin, and Clarence the Cross-Eyed Lion all enjoyed the limelight in TV series of the past. Cows haven't been as fortunate.

Yes, Clarabelle Cow was the original best friend of Minnie Mouse. And Cow Steer was half of the offbeat duo that starred in the animated series Cow and Chicken. The movie Annabelle's Wish features a cow who yearns to become one of Santa's reindeer. In the commercial world, cows have long promoted Elmer's Glue, Laughing Cow Cheese, and Borden Dairy products – not to mention those Chick-Fil-A bovines who implore us to "eat more chikin." Babe the Blue Ox is Paul Bunyan's faithful companion, and Ferdinand the Bull is a children's literary classic.

We're still waiting, however, for a cow to achieve an epic breakthrough in Hollywood.

Things aren't much better in the Bible. Most cows and bulls are assigned a brief, one-time supporting role. They end up as whole burnt offerings or barbecue in Israel's temple.



But cows everywhere can celebrate one bright, shining moment on the pages of God's Word – a 3,000-year-old story that is reported in 1 Samuel 6:1-12.

The narrative unfolds during an ongoing state of war between the Israelites and their sworn enemies, the Philistines. God's people have been getting the worst of it. An idea occurs to them: Why don't we carry the Ark of the Covenant into battle? They presume that will guarantee a military triumph.

The Ark of the Covenant was a special piece of furniture. It was a wooden box about three and a half feet long, two feet wide, and two feet high, completely covered with gold. The ornamental lid of the box featured two carved cherubim – supernatural beings, angel-like in nature, with outstretched wings. In a mysterious way that God never chose to explain, God was present at all times around the ark. It was the focal point of his power and majesty on earth. Anyone who saw Raiders of the Lost Ark left the theater with the clear impression that it's never a good idea to take this gold box lightly.

For the Israelites, however, the ark doesn't turn out to be the good luck charm they had hoped. They are soundly defeated. Far worse, the ark falls into the hands of the Philistines. It is a dark day for Israel.