

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

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Return Service Requested



**The Immanuel
Chimes
May 2022**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, (Easton) California 93706
Church (559) 237-7909

Email: office@immanueleaston.com
Email/Pastor: ptmarieg6@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages in Social Hall
10:30 AM Worship & Communion

Online worship link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCEvC2vAmozUVexp1qUNMgTg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEvC2vAmozUVexp1qUNMgTg)

The **first Thursday of May** is National Day of Prayer in the USA. All Americans, regardless of their confession, are called to turn to God in prayer and meditation on this day.

Mothers' Day is May 8th;
Also known as bring-a-nice-lady to church day!

Memorial Weekend Community Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery. Placing crosses and flags on our local Veterans' graves. Saturday start time 7:30AM; Monday start time 3:00PM.

Pastor's Page

I love liturgy, a fancy word for the pattern of worship. The Lutheran church has historically been a liturgical church, united by a specific pattern of worship. For most of the history of the church you could walk into just about any Lutheran church in a country and the worship would look, more or less, the same. Here's a big secret though: every church has liturgy. There's intentionally liturgical churches, and then there's churches whose liturgy is never spoken about or formalized, but everyone knows when songs will be played or sermons will be given. Our faiths have rhythms. Liturgy is the patterns and exercises of worship that forms us: on Sunday mornings, on quiet Wednesday evenings during Lent, and at our bedsides and tables as we pray. Routine is what forms us. The familiar is what we know best. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking of the familiar as boring or the liturgy as a barrier, but it's a doorway into a pattern of faith. Indeed, I am the most sincere when I am doing things habitually. The things that are repeated: the familiar words of the confession and forgiveness, the tunes of Holden Evening prayer. Those habits we call liturgy are not impersonal or unfamiliar things. They are important things that give us words when we have nothing of ourselves left to give and give us direction when our own faiths are so weary that we are not sure where to go to find God. Those patterns that are so familiar that they feel like second nature to me, those are the things I can cling to when I have been stripped as bare as the altar on Good Friday or when I am as jubilant as lilies on Easter morning.

I have reflected on the gift of pattern a lot lately as I considered a refrain I often hear: "Pastor, I don't know how to pray" or "Pastor, I can't pray out loud." And for much of my life, I said the same thing. A pastor who was worried to pray aloud! (I grew out of it, ha ha) I have thought and reflected on a million little ways to make my people more comfortable with the act of prayer—to reassure us that prayer is just a conversation, that it doesn't need to include poetry, that it is something anyone can and should do. But as I reflected, I was reminded of Jesus's own response when the disciples came to him, and said, "Rabbi, teach us to pray." Jesus didn't give them a workshop or a self-help talk or even really encourage the type of creativity that may feed some of us. Jesus gave them liturgy. Jesus gave them specific words to cling to and rely on when everything else was stripped bare.—a familiar prayer that begins with the proclamation, "Our Father," and, well, you know the rest. The Lord's Prayer is given to us not as an example, but as tangible prayer that we may rely on in our deepest moments of pain and doubt. Moments where we feel we have nothing else to give, but are reaching out in hope and request and desire to be reminded that our lives have been folded into the plan of our Lord. Over the next couple of months, we will take time to look at this prayer, its pattern, purpose, and words, and the impact of this gift on our lives.

This prayer begins with an address of God as Father, and not just any Father, but our own. Our Father. Our creator, our care taker, our loving God and Father. When we memorize the words to this prayer, we aren't doing it to pass a test or check off a box of makers of faith. We are memorizing a relationship, we are allowing prayer to form who we are as children of God, and how we see God in every moment—not just moments where we are gifted with creativity and joy but moment of grief and of exhaustion. Words to be written on our heart, sung in celebration, and whispered in desperation. Words that begin with a proclamation of who it is we find our hope in. Our Father.

In His name, Pastor Taylor



www.nationaldayofprayer.org

A Christian Observance of the National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Morning Event

NDOP Downtown Prayer Walk

Start: 7am at Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno St, Fresno, CA 93721

Parking meters require coin or credit/debit card

Event Contact: Kathy McIlhargey (559) 765-6184

Noon Events

Fresno

National Day of Prayer 2022

Live and Virtual at New Covenant Community Church

Location: New Covenant Community Church

1744 E Nees Ave, Fresno, CA 93720

http://www.newcov.org

Event Contact: Marilyn Wilburn (559) 916-0604 or Julie Wright (559) 355-9801

Fresno

Fresno State CSUF 12:15 pm

Please join the Faculty Staff Christian Fellowship outside in front of Allen Yuen Lew Memorial Grove at 12:15 p.m.

It is located just east of the Thomas Administration Building.

We will be praying for our campus, families, community, state, country and world.

We will be praying for a half hour during our lunch hour.

Event Contact: Kathryn A Dunbar - kdunbar@csufresno.edu

Clovis

Clovis City Hall 1033 Fifth Street • Clovis, CA • 93612

Event: Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Clovis City Hall front lawn

Event Contact: Pastor Andy White (559) 440-6750

Mission Night Out 2022

What causes homelessness? And what does a homeless person actually need? Our community is facing a crisis more than just homelessness. The problem is more than housing alone. They need more than case management; they need relationship. A crisis can be more than an emergency, it can be a pathway to an abundant life.

The Fresno Mission has more than a dream. They have a plan. They are creating more than solutions. They are creating a movement.

They want everyone who attends the Fresno Mission Night Out to not only have a nice evening. They want you to leave with a purpose. Mission Night Out is dedicated to more than just an evening for raising money, great food trucks, live music, or great date night. It is a night to tell the powerful story of God and His plan for Fresno.

Join the Community! May 14, 2022 from 5:30-8:30PM at the People's Church located at 7172 N. Cedar Ave. in Fresno. Get tickets online at www.fresomission.org/missionnightout.

Immanuel Lutheran Church: Are you interested in serving together at the Fresno Mission one night a month for 4-5 consecutive months? Immanuel can send up to 12 volunteers, who will help serve the evening meal, then eat with the disciples that work in the kitchen and share in their journey. If you are interested in helping the mission with this type of ministry with a group from Immanuel please call Victoria at the church office for more information: 237-7909.

Parish Nurse

Called into nursing...when do I get uncalled?

Many times over the past few years I've been asked when I am going to retire from nursing. The thing is, I don't know.

I had a strong need to be a nurse - to help people - since a very young age when all my baby dolls were naked and wore band-aids. It seems funny now as I have worked in the ER for so many years where we took people's clothes off one way or another to care for them and I now 'place band-aids' on people while doing wound care.

But back to retiring. I haven't found my off switch yet. I grew up a farmer's daughter and am married to a farmer. Farmers don't usually have off switches either, so I know farmer is in my DNA also.

And while I had the need to nurse, which I believe is a calling, I was directly called into wound care by God. I was asking God what I could do to NOT work 12-hour shifts on cement floors as my body was hurting and wearing out and He wafted the words "WOUND CARE" across my line of vision. And I answered the call.

I find now I have a valuable wealth of specialty knowledge that I strongly feel I must pass on to my fellow nurses and to be a mentor to all the young nurses who cross my way every day.

So I really don't know when I will retire my scissors and bandages. And yes, I have become one of the oldest nurses on all the units.

I am now comparing being called into nursing/wound care with being called into service for God, especially because we are discussing stewardship right now.

I believe we are called into service the moment we accept that Jesus Christ is our Savior. At first, we are babies in Christ that lean on others to teach us all about Him. As we age and learn more, we are called to share the gospel with others - to tell them the Good News.

I believe as Pastor Taylor has been saying lately that stewardship is more than just the giving of money to the church to keep the doors open. I just hadn't thought of it that way until she brought it up. Stewardship at church always meant tithing to me - the money part.

But long have I said that we give of our time, our talents and our treasures. Lance and I gave of our time and talents during the years when our treasures were few. Now that our bodies are wearing out, we are giving more of our treasures to help further the kingdom of God while allowing the younger ones to serve with their time and talents.

And that is what I heard Pastor Taylor saying. There are many ways to be a steward to the church.

But when do we finally get uncalled for stewardship?

Well, I believe we don't.

As I tell my patients resting and recuperating in the hospital bed who are fretting about not being able to do things, we all need prayer. There is always someone or something to pray for. And that is being a steward also.

I hold you all in my heart,

Barbara

Prayer Focus Each Week

Week of 5-2-2022. Let us focus on telling others about Jesus. Psalms 73:28 NIV. "But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds".

Week of 5-9-2022. Let us focus on our mothers. Proverbs 31:26 NIV. "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue".

Week of 5-16-2022. Let us focus on faithfulness. Psalms 89:5 NIV. "The heavens praise your wonders, LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones".

Week of 5-23-2022. Let us focus on hope. Romans 15:13 NIV. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".

Week of 5-30-2022. Let us focus on those who serve. 1 John 3:18 NIV. "Dear children, let us love not with words and speech but with actions and in truth".

Immanuel Lifting Prayers UP:

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 (cancer), Sandy Britter (pain in foot and shoulder), Ed Bordin (kidneys not working), Gaye Cissel (overall pain from surgeries), Gaylen (recovering from heart surgery), Esther Gutierrez (recovering from broken hip), Al & Judy Hooper (Al's seizures & Judy in therapy after knee replacement), Kim Jennings (cancer), Carl Jensen, (recovering from broken ankle), Donna Kennedy (heart issues), Diane Mehrten, (hip issues), Laura Nielsen (recovering from surgery), Marilyn Nielsen (recovering from a broken bone), Marcus Orum (dialysis), Christie Pettitt (severe leg pain), Tony Pings (recovering from ski accident), Margaret Raven (health issues), Kenneth Selzer, (recovering from a fall in rehab), Caitlin Tyler (Rhett's Syndromes), & Keitt Wilson (aging ills).

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.



**COME ONE,
COME ALL**

You are invited:

Annual Danish-American Historical Society

ÆBLESKIVER BRUNCH

SELMA'S PIONEER VILLAGE

Between Home Depot and Cattlemen's

***Just west of Highland Avenue,
north of Floral Avenue***

Suggested Donation – \$10.00

CHILDREN, AGE 3-10 – \$5.00

**Bring a big appetite
and lots of Friends**

*All the trimmings – Applesauce, medisterpølse,
orange juice and lots of coffee.*

SUNDAY, MAY 15

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Visit the Society's Archives!

***Special mini-concert and history presentation in
St. Ansgar's Church after 11 a.m.***

The church is not a cruise ship where a handful of people serve everyone else who is relaxing.



Photo by Matthew Barra from Pexels

No, the church is a battleship where it's "all hands on deck" and everyone serves the mission.



Journey

So these last few weeks have been better. The sun seems to be shining a little brighter. And that's a good thing. I was so overwhelmed by things that I had to get done and by things I wanted to get done. Little by little the layers of the onion started peeling away. Do you ever feel like that? I think you probably do.

I know that there are many of you who carry bigger burdens than I do. You, my dear friends, have my utmost respect. Life is hard. Life is downright mean sometimes! It would seem we sometimes go one step up and two steps down. Those of us in the club often feel the extra sting of doing life by ourselves. And that sucks! I know that I am surrounded by that great cloud of saints, both living and departed. But there is still a heavy feeling of utter loneliness even in a crowd. Even on a joyous Sunday morning like we just had. We celebrated Christ's resurrection once more. It was wonderful. It was joyous. But you who are within my group of clubbers will understand when I say that at some point in the day, there we were, at home alone.

Right now, in the middle of reading this *Journey*. Stop. Turn to your spouse of significant other. Say to them, call them on the phone, text them and let them know how much you appreciate them in your life. Do it NOW, because the day will come when you can't. I'll wait until you're done. Whoa, that got a little melodramatic. Did you do it. Okay.

So what can we do when these times come? Like these times that I'm starting to emerge from. We have to fall back on what we have been taught our whole lives. God is God. God comes first. Jesus is our friend, our companion, our confidant. The Holy Spirit is there hovering over us, leading us on our path. We meet all three of these in that greatest book of all. It is why I keep pestering you to read through the Bible in a year, every year. I might get chastised for this but... the Bible doesn't have a one-to-one solution for all of our life's problems. What it does have is a promise. The promise that if you will acknowledge God before him and others. If you will admit your short comings to him. Admit when you are wrong. The Bible tells us God will surround us with his love and keep us going. That's my anchor and my rock. Nothing else will ultimately see you through. We've heard this from the time the pastor wiped the water from our foreheads at our baptisms. God is the answer.

I recently heard a statistic that made me cringe. In a poll, 43% of Americans say they are atheists. Let that sink in a bit. About half the people you encounter don't believe God exists. Wow, what hope do they have? They have the same issues that we do, but they have no back up, no plan, no hope.

Wait a minute. They do have hope and that hope is in us. If it's within you, tell them God does exist. If you can't, then pray for them. Pray that God will find a way to let them know about him. There are many ways to pray for them. Let me suggest one for you. Let me invite you to become a part of our email prayer community. There is a significant number of our Immanuel family who participate in this prayer community. I've started an email string. You can ask for prayers for yourself or for someone or something in your life that needs prayer. You can be specific or you can be vague. The commitment on the group's part is to pray for your concern, or praise or celebration. Confidentially is our one rule. If you ask us to pray for someone, NO ONE will go to that person and say we were asked to pray for them. We are NOT a gossip group. Ask for prayers every day or very seldom. We just ask that you pray for the petitions.

What good does this do? Well, to be sure, prayer works. It will also draw you into the community and you will benefit. Call me if you need more clarity. Let me know if you want to join in.

Love you guys, John.

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow...”

Immanuel News Notes

More birthday wishes to: **CAROL COX** on her 97th birthday May 7th; **VELIA MIRANDA** on her 87th birthday, May 14th; **LOIS RASMUSSEN** on her 92nd birthday May 25th.

Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary to Wayne & Eva Orum!

Thank You Immanuel!

Carl Jensen and his family would like to thank everyone who is involved in the “Meal Train” ministry. Food arrived at just the right time and was delicious and very much appreciated. This is a wonderful ministry and we appreciate all who are called to this service. Carl is getting stronger every day and is looking forward to being boot free!

Thank you so much, Carl and John.

Thank you to the Youth and Friends who worked on the Easter Pancake Breakfast! The crew made pancakes and sausage and served about 55 folks . They collected \$1460.00 for SON Network that connects North American believers with indigenous Christians living in former communist and Soviet bloc nations. NALC supports this organization. They are focused on immediate, short term and long term help for Ukraine. You can read more about this organization at SONetwork.org

Memorial Day Weekend Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery

This year, the Veterans at Washington Colony Cemetery deserve to be recognized and volunteers are needed to help adorn their graves for Memorial Day. Charlene Jaehne will coordinate the volunteers to place 200 crosses, flags and flowers on the graves of Veterans who are buried in our local cemetery. If you would like to help, the work begins at 7:30 am on **Saturday, May 28th**. Many hands make for light work. We need all the volunteers we can get. The same holds true on **Memorial Day at 3:00pm** when we will take down all the flags and fold them back to the trunks where they can be stored for next year. Please join us at Washington Colony Cemetery located at 7318 S. Elm for service and fellowship that's too much fun to be called work.

In Celebration of our members

Birthdays

- 5 Mim Gould
Eva Orum
- 7 Carol Cox
- 11 Kathi Mehrten
Elijah Cisneros
- 14 Velia Miranda
- 17 Christie Pettitt
- 23 Nick Bennetts
- 25 Lois Rasmussen
- 26 Fran Hansen
- 28 Joan Lindsey
- 29 Bethany Gardner



May



Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Wayne & Eva Orum (40)
- 4 Richard & Allyson Kahn (37)
- 4 Dennis & Joan Wynn (20)
- 21 Aaron & Meghan Anderson (11)
- 25 Jim & Fran Hansen (37)
- 31 Joseph & Jennifer Perez (19)

Baptismal Birthdays

- 1 Leona Rosendahl
- 5 Jennifer Hartwig
- 6 Christian Jensen
- 9 Alexandra Gardner
- 15 Debbie Goff
Joseph Orozco
Vincent Orozco
- 16 Wayne Orum
- 20 Audra Salwasser
Victoria Salwasser
- 22 Marilyn Nielsen
- 24 Stacy Avedisian
Kay Jensen
- 31 Cody Caglia



Immanuel Serves FCA

Immanuel serves Fellowship of Christian Athletes lunch for the Spring turn in March and April. They fixed over a thousand lunches. Each week they served between 140-220 students. The group tried Pizza from Costco and it was well received. They never ran out of cookies for treats and the everyone enjoyed serving. Our crew along with Nancy Marthedal and friends made each week an inspiration for all who attended. The students who attend are not all athletes or Christians. This is an ecumenical outreach to share God's glory. Speakers come from all over and share the good word. St. Jude will finish off the school year. FCA was started in 1988 through the efforts of many led by Neil Marthedal. His wife Nancy continues leading this ministerial legacy. Thank you to all who help with FCA.



