

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706



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Return Service Requested

The Immanuel Chimes



AUGUST 2022
READ THIS ONLINE AT
www.immanueleaston.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am
Worship and Communion at 10:30am

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, (Easton) California 93706
Church Phone Number (559) 237-7909
Church Office E-mail: office@immanueleaston.com
Pastor Taylor's E-mail: ptmarie96@gmail.com

August School Highlights!

August 2nd and 4th Ummata for all ages!
August 5th Easton Food Distribution!
August 7th Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive
August 14th Rally Day
August 20th Flower Arranging Fun!

Pastor's Page

I went to graduate school not far from the quiet Pennsylvania field where Flight 93, one of the planes hijacked on 9/11, and theorized to be headed for a Washington DC attack, was crashed into the ground after passengers on the plane fought back against the hijackers. The crash resulted in the death of 49 people: two pilots, three hijackers, and forty-four passengers. Tom Beamer was one of the passengers aboard this flight, and his legacy and the legacy of the other men who joined him, is a legacy of a man willing to fight back against an unspeakable evil, even knowing that he had nothing personal to gain and that his actions would undoubtedly lead to his untimely death. Before taking action against the hijackers, seeking advice and clarity, Tom called 911. The operator, Lisa Jefferson, is the reason that we know the actions that took place on Flight 93. Lisa received information about the position of hijackers and passengers from Tom, and she listened as he began to recruit other passengers to fight back. She was on the phone as they planned their revolt against the evil that had taken control of the flight. And she was there, as Tom and the passengers that would join him, prayed the Lord's prayer aloud in preparation for what they knew was brave and right and deadly.

"Father, deliver us from evil."

Since I first heard this story, as a child catching snippets of coverage from a horrific day, I have thought about what it must have meant for these men to pray to their Father in face of the evil they were being asked to be delivered from, and I have marveled that in a moment where death was real and brutal and inescapable, they didn't turn to inspirational speeches or war chants to bolster their heroism, but to a prayer passed down from generation to generation. Asking for deliverance in the face of inevitability.

Thankfully, it is incredibly unlikely that anyone in this room will ever be in the position Tom and his fellow passengers found themselves in, but we will face pain. We cannot trust God to keep bad things from happening to us, and we cannot decide whether or not God is good or bad, real or make believe based on whether or not our life is mostly good or bad in that moment. It is true that throughout our days, we are spared a thousand little disasters at the hands of a loving God, but this very same loving God does not promise us that this life will be free from pain, free from temptation, free from evil. In fact, many of us will find ourselves in moments of deep despair. We lose loved ones too early and without explanation. Our health suffers without reason. Depression and anxiety

NEXUS Institute Recap

The NEXXUS Institute is a program that brings together high school students for a week of on-campus learning and growing in faith and calling. This summer, there were 18 students representing NALC, ELCA, and LCMC congregations from 10 states. The gathering is held at and sponsored by Grand View University, Luther Memorial Church of Des Moines, the NALC, Lutheran Core, 1517, the Lutheran Bible Institute, The Rasmussen Group; Trinity Lutheran Church of Ashland, OH, and other individual sponsors. The programs is led by Kate Faas, the NEXUS Director, Pastor Kari Lee, Pastor Danny Housholder, Darrik Sheek, director of youth and family ministry at Trinity Lutheran in Ashland, OH, as well as seven college-age mentors. The week included theology classes, community fellowship, NEXUS Late Night, and worship first thing in the morning and last thing at night in the beautiful Luther Memorial Church Sanctuary. The high school students stepped up to leading roles of worship throughout the week. This year they incorporated evening small groups with the St. Ignatius' Daily Examen, a time of quieting oneself, reflection on one's day and listening for the still, small voice of the Lord. The attending students enjoyed their week of bonding, sharing, pointing each other to Jesus and praying for each other. One participant said: "I came to NEXUS to grow in my faith, thinking I wanted to serve in the military. Now I feel called to be a military chaplain." Lutheran Congregations are grateful for the work of NEXUS, supporting, strengthening and guiding high school students to grasp their futures with a strong faith. The intentions are to guide the students into ministry if that is where their heart leads them. This year, Stephanie Hollenbeck attended from our Congregation.

Bethel Lutheran Home Board Meeting

The annual board meeting was on June 26th at the Bethel Lutheran Home in Selma. Deanna Dunbar and Randy McFarland were Immanuel's representatives. Laurel Jacobsen is the board president and John Jensen is a board member. The board has applied for and received a two-million dollar grant from the government. They have also been approved to take in Medicare patients. The cost of labor has gone up. As of June 26th, Bethel Home is at capacity and there are eleven vacancies at The Village, assisted living apartments. The meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed refreshments. If you would like to learn more about The Village or Bethel Home, call 896-4900 or talk to Laurel or John after church on Sunday mornings.

News Notes

Happy Birthday to: Laurel Jacobsen on her 76th, August 2nd; to Barbara Petersen on her 71st on Aug. 7; to Llewellyn Ostergard on her 80th birthday on the 11th.

Happy Belated Second Anniversary to Luke and Pastor Taylor. Their second wedding anniversary was July 30th!

August Milestone Anniversaries:

Congratulations to Al & Judy Hooper on their 70th wedding anniversary August 2nd and to Ed and Ellen Vike who are celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary on August 16th. They were married at Immanuel in 1959.

New Addresses:

Lois Rasmussen has moved to new home in Fresno, her new address is: Calimyrna Assisted Living, 1545 W. Calimyrna, Fresno, CA 93711. Visiting hours are from 10:00AM-4:00PM daily.

For those getting their Christmas Card Lists up to date and need to update their 2022 directory, please note these changes of those who have moved:

Susan, Brittany & Hilary Gardner: 2340 S. Claremont, Fresno, CA 93727

Robert, Kaylee & Carter Hollenbeck: 6257 N. Anna St. Fresno, CA 93710

Mark & Victoria Salwasser went on a week-long trip to Ohio for five days



of sprint car racing and sightseeing. They were in Oskaloosa for the World of Outlaws Race, then four nights in Rossberg at Eldora Speedway. The history of this track is fun. The short story is Earl Bates, a band leader, and ballroom owner broke down in front of a race track, fell in love with dirt-track racing, built a track

next to his ballroom and was very successful.

When he got old, he sold the track to racing super star Tony Stuart and he keeps the legacy alive. It's old school style and so much fun. Mark and Victoria also enjoyed watching it rain! Victoria has a video on her phone. Ask her to see it if you miss rain. They visited the Aullwood Audubon Nature Center in Dayton. Thomas Danbo is the world's leading recycle artist from Copenhagen, Denmark. He has a cool display of giant trolls and pays tribute to Dayton's place in aviation history.



weigh on us like heavy stones. We are treated with cruelty, with violence, sometimes by strangers and sometimes by those we loved. We are not spared from that, and yet our God, our Lord, Christ Jesus, teaches us to pray to our Father in heaven, that we would be delivered from evil.

And this is not a futile prayer sent up to appease an angry God, but a reminder to us that even in the midst of suffering, in the midst of pain, in the midst of evil, our God is still there. Our God is still present. Our God is still walking with us. I am not here to tell you that your suffering or mine or the suffering of Tom and his family and the thousands of other families impacted that September day and the millions of other families whose lives have been impacted by the evil of violence, that suffering has some divine purpose. But I am here to repeat to you the promise of our God, that suffering doesn't have the final say. You do not belong to pain. You belong to God. You are not promised an easy life in this place, but you are promised a new life in the Kingdom to come. When the Lord teaches us to pray, he teaches us words that come to us in moments of darkest despair and fear, so that even in the midst of this, we may be reminded that God's story, a story of small joys and big pains, is also our story, and that this story does not end in violent death at the hand of evil, but with an empty tomb and the promise of deliverance on this day and evermore. Amen.

Blessings of peace,
Pastor Taylor

Rally Day Date Change to August 14th!

Let's kick our school year off with a bang! This year, we'll be celebrating Rally Day or Every Member Sunday on August 14th. During the Sunday School hour, 9:30 to 10:15, we'll gather in Grace Hall for an intergenerational event where we make prayer crosses together so you can carry a reminder to pray throughout the year. We'll all contribute to a community mosaic to remind us of the ways that we support and pray for each other. Everyone is welcome!



During church, all of the teachers, educational workers, and students are invited to bring their backpacks. We'll do a blessing of the backpacks, praying over them and sending them into the school year.

After church, we'll gather together for a family potluck. Everyone is invited to bring a dish of their choosing—desserts, sides, and main dishes are all welcome. We can't wait to celebrate the love of God and the community he's gifted us with here at Immanuel. See you there!



Welcome to Camp Ummata 2022!

Campers of ALL ages are invited to join us for a camp experience unlike any other. We will provide dinner for the first three days and finish with a potluck on the last Sunday.

Camp held at Immanuel Lutheran Church includes skits, camp songs, and fun classes.

Schedule:

- July 31 from 12pm-2pm
 - Theme Night: Hawaiian- Come decked out ready for a beachside luau.
- August 2 from 6pm- 8pm
 - Theme Night: Favorite Color-Wear your favorite color from head to toe.
- August 4 from 6pm- 8pm
 - Theme Night: Western/ Cowboy- Dress for the old west or the dusty fields.
- August 7 from 12pm-2pm
 - Rally Day- Wear an Immanuel Shirt or Red and bring something for the lunch potluck.

Sign-ups will be done at church or by texting Kristi Hollenbeck @ (599)974-4408



Thanks to my dearest cousin and friend for being honest and open about the struggle. For feeding me a line that's given me something to think about for a while. Know that you have done just the right thing by expressing a feeling and lifting me up.

To the rest of you. Hang in there. Take a chance, get involved. Voice your feelings. Trust Jesus to walk with you. Call me. Grab me after church. I'll listen.

Love to you all,
John.

Written by Joseph Medicott Serivin in 1855.

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Prayer Focus For Each Week

Week of 8-1-2022. Focus on what the LORD wants from you. Micah 6:8 NIV. "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".

Week of 8-8-2022. Focus on the Way. John 14:6 NIV. "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"".

Week of 8-15-2022. Focus on those spreading the gospel. Ephesians 6:19a NIV. "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel".

Week of 8-22-2022. Focus on those needing healing. James 5:15 NIV. "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven".

Week of 8-29-2022. Focus on hope. Romans 12:12 NIV. "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer".

Journey

As I've often mentioned before, some months are a struggle to come up with an idea that fits in with the general theme here and is what, I'd like to believe, is somewhat interesting to you. Sometimes I'll know what the story line for the next month will be as I'm finishing the last month's ramblings. Sometimes I'll have no idea where I'm going until I sit down to write it out, or even after trying a couple of ideas that end up in the trash. This month was different yet. A couple of weeks ago, I was talking to my dearest cousin and friend and she said a line, off the cuff, that smashed me right between the eyes. I knew right then what I'd write about. A widow herself, we were lamenting about life and that we sometimes feel like we've lost our purpose. The line she graciously gave me was that sometimes she felt like she was floating above just watching life go by. That may not have been her exact words but that's what stuck with me.

I thought, you know that's how I feel too. And by extension I wondered if we in the club don't experience that as well. It's not that we see our lives as being void of all purpose. Not at all. But more a sense of being not sure where we fit in anymore. To be clear, I know that I have value as a human and more importantly as a Christian human. But sometimes I just would rather not be out there because I'm not sure of my filters. Am I doing enough or too much or should I not be involved in whatever at all? I think it's an issue of not having that intimate person to bounce things off of. Intimate in the sense of a person you feel comfortable enough to say, what do you think and not be hurt when they say, maybe not.

So what to do about this problem? I'd like to suggest that floating above and not involving yourself may not be the best solution. I think I need to force myself to step out there. I know that means getting whacked over the head once in a while. It means taking a chance that I may not fit in with the situation, and I may need to excuse myself and leave. It means that I'm going to have to depend on God to be there with me., to pat me on the back when I've chosen wisely and to be there to pick me up and dust me off and say I'll be alright when I've chosen unwisely.

Maybe everyone can relate to these feelings of floating above. I really think those of us who have had and lost feel it differently or more. All the more reason to cling tightly to Jesus and to rest in his loving arms. Reason to find like-minded or like situated people and express your feeling and trust that they'll lift you up. Planting yourself in the pew or a Bible study group is a really good plan as well.

Caruthers Fair

Last year was a record breaker! This year, we will try again to serve our community through a food booth at our local Caruthers Free Gate Fair! We asked the congregation at the semi-annual meeting and it appeared that this is a ministry that Immanuel wants to continue.

The fair runs September 28—October 1, 2022! It's Fair Time Folks! Time to sign up for a shift or two or three or four to help out at the Caruthers Fair. We hope to have lots of help and sell plenty of Pull Pork Sandwiches, Rib Dinners and tons of sweet corn! Put on some close-toed shoes, pull your hair back and let's serve up some hearty meals to our hungry friends. If helping isn't what you're able to do, customers make this event work. Come out and support our booth. The meals are FANTASTIC! The MOST important PRIORITY is prayer for this ministry! We need that more than anything else! Prayer is naturally important in our daily life, but this project that Immanuel embarks in is very complex. It's a fund raiser, it's a lot of work, but it's also a ministry. The money raised through our sweaty sore muscles are for a mission in our community to help those who need love, who need God, and who need help. Please lift up this ministry project in specific prayer for strength, endurance, peace, joy, fulfillment and cool weather. Pray these things not only for Immanuel, the Fresno Mission but all who are involved in the Caruthers Fair. Thank you all for volunteering where you can.

Victoria Salwasser
Fair Enthusiast

Thrivent Members: Action Teams

Thrivent offers support for ministry outreach projects like the Caruthers Fair. If you would like to apply for an Action Team grant for the Caruthers Fair please meet after church on Sunday, August 21st in the church office. Please email: Immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net if you plan to attend that meeting.

Men's Bible Study

Every Thursday morning the Men's Bible study group meet in the social hall at 6:00AM for breakfast and scripture discussions. All first timers get a brand new Bible. The discussions are led by Phil Tews. The gathering is over promptly at 7:00am so there is plenty of time to get to work. If you have any questions about Men's Bible study please see Mike Moser, Jim Hansen or Phil Tews after church on Sunday.

WITTENBERG, AT LAST!

From Laurel Jacobsen

Growing up Lutheran, I always heard about Wittenberg, Germany, the city of the Reformation and home to Martin Luther. I felt like a child going to Disneyland when I was finally able to follow Luther's steps in Wittenberg this summer.

Most of Luther's adult life (beginning in 1508) was spent as a resident of the former Augustinian Monastery, called the "Black Abbey" (for the color robes worn by the monks!). The estate was given to Martin Luther and when he married, (1525) his wife, Katharina von Bora, basically ran the whole estate. It was then called 'Lutherhaus'. The Luther family, and the many relatives who often lived with them, lived on the second floor. On the third floor are 40 bedrooms. During Luther's time, it was used as a hospital during the plague, but usually was used for university students as there was a shortage of housing in Wittenberg.



Lutherhouse



Table Talk Room

University students wanted to stay at 'Lutherhaus' because often in the evening, Luther would teach and dialogue with the students while they diligently took notes. These were called 'Table Talks' and there are thousands of written entries in books from these talks. The room that the Table Talks usually took place is still original. You can see the table. The chair in the back ground is where Katharina would often sit, sometimes with a child or two. The University students didn't always appreciate her presence but that didn't stop her. Most of 'Lutherhaus' is now a very interesting museum.

Women's Ministry Flower Day

August 20th at 9:00AM we'll gather for breakfast, Bible time and flower school. Allyson Nielsen will teach us how to make beautiful flower arrangements out of the flowers we can pick up at the grocery store. Bring a vase with about a 3" neck opening from home that you love to use and if you have an extra or duplicate vase that you would like to donate, bring that too and you can make an arrangement to give away to our shut-ins and others who need a fresh bouquet. There will be a free will donation basket on the table to help cover the cost for this event.

Women of Immanuel, we have a question for you. Would you be interested in a mini-retreat? There is a virtual retreat offered by Beth Moore who will lead three one-hour sessions and there will be music in between. It's called a Simulcast Event. We would offer food, to eat in between recorded sessions. We could meet on a Friday evening and Saturday morning or from 8:00am-3:00pm on a Saturday. The sessions would be broadcast either in the sanctuary or on a television screen in Grace hall. The mini-retreat would be in October or November. If this is something that interests you, please let one of us know.

SAVE THE DATES on your calendar: Clothing Swap on Sept 7th, clothing donations can be brought to the church starting Aug. 14th. This will be on a Wednesday, (9.7.22) evening from 7:00-8:30pm in Grace Hall. Clean your closet and bring your donations to church on Sundays prior and even that evening. We will sort and categorize the donations into a make shift trade center for the swap. After our devotional gathering we will shop till we drop. What is old to one is new to another. This is great for our environment too. It's repurposing. Feel free to bring your donatable shoes, jewelry and purses too. When the fun is over we box up the donations and donate the remains to local women's organizations in need.

If you would like to help sort and create the trade center or pack up donations when the event is over we would love any kind of help you can give. Times are flexible. We all have special gifts, please share yours with us if they fit on this project. It's so rewarding to see everyone having a great time. Many hands make light work.

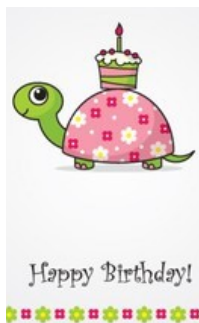
Charcuterie Fun on Oct. 15th at 9:00am, more details on that when we have them. Women's Monthly Bible Study starts on the First Tuesday of October, the 4th, on the Portraits of Jesus. We will gather in Grace Hall the first time and decide if we want to rotate meeting in peoples homes and or continue in Grace Hall.

Please check out the bold print paragraph above and let us know if this is something you would be interested in attending. Thank you,
Victoria Salwasser, Marcia Hollenbeck, Carol Bennetts, Gina Cogan, Kristi Hollenbeck

Our Members Celebrating in August!

Birthdays

1-Richard Cisneros
2- Laurel Jacobsen
Margaret Raven
5-Sandy Marthedal
-Elliot Caglia
7- Barbara Petersen
9-Susie Gardner
Ed Slaton
11-Elaine Mehrten
-Llewellyn Ostergard
13-Clarissa Johnson
19-Marcia Hollenbeck
20-Chase Clarkson
21-Fred Cogan
23-Dale Ewing
28-Timothy Anderson



Baptismal Birthdays

8-Susie Gardner
Linda Wozniczka
11-Nancy Newsom
14-Jacqueline Caglia
19-Lee Terkelsen
22- Carly Johnson
26-Jennifer Cisneros
30-Sandy Marthedal



Wedding Anniversaries

2 -Al & Judy Hooper (70)
16 -Ed & Ellen Vicke (63)
19 -Pastor John & Debby Saethre (44)

If we have missed your special day,
please call the church office or email
Us with your missing dates.

Prayers of the Church

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

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

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Dave Angel, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Al Hooper, Kim Jennings, Donna Kennedy, Dave Marlar, Diane Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Velia Miranda, Christie Pettitt, Glenn Rasmussen, Margaret Raven, Evelyn Rister, Kenneth Selzer, Richard Smith, Phil Tews, Caitlin Tyler, Keitt Wilson & Laura Wolfe.

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.

While in Wittenberg, Luther was the pastor at the City Church of St. Mary, first documented in 1187. The first mass in the German language was held here. St. Mary's is considered the 'mother church' of the Reformation. It is also the church of his marriage and baptism of his six children. Every year there is a celebration and reenactment of his marriage along with a street fair in Wittenberg.

St. Mary's Church —>



However, the 95 Theses were posted on the door of the 'Castle Church' which is just about 100 yards from St. Mary's Church. The original door was destroyed in the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763, but a new door was installed in 1858 with the 95 theses engraved in bronze.

95 Theses on Castle Church Door —>

When Luther died, he was buried in the 'Castle Church', right under the pulpit.

One day in Wittenberg was not enough! If I have the opportunity to return, I hope it would be during all the festivities at Reformation time. Meanwhile, I can celebrate this historical event wherever I am.



Back to school Mission Project: We are collecting Backpacks and school supplies for the local elementary students in need through August 14th. Pastor Taylor will bless them on Rally Day as well as the backpacks of our church family. Please place items in the marked container in the church entry. If you would like to donate money, mark it “Backpacks” or give it to Laura Nielsen and she will do the shopping for you.



August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 31 10:30AM Worship & Communion 11:30 Fellowship = Ummata for everyone! School Supplies donations!	1 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	2 6:00PM Ummata	3	4 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in Grace Hall 6:00PM Ummata	5 12:00PM Easton Food Distribution	6
7 Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive 8:30-11:30am 9:30AM Sunday School for all 10:30AM Worship & Communion 11:30Fellowship School Supplies donations!	8 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	9	10	11 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in Grace Hall	12	13
14 Rally Day & Blessing of the Back Packs 9:30AM Cross Making for all 10:30AM Worship & Communion 11:30Fellowship Congregational Prayer Last day of School Supplies donations!	15 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	16 7:00PM Council	17	18 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in Grace Hall	19	20 9:00am Women's Flower Arranging & Devotions from the Bible Brunch!
21 9:30AM Sunday School for all 10:30AM Worship & Communion 11:30Fellowship	22 September Chimes Deadline 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	23	24	25 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in Grace Hall	26	27
28 9:30AM Sunday School for all 10:30AM Worship & Communion 11:30Fellowship	29 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	30	31	September 1 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in Grace Hall	2 12:00PM Easton Food Distribution	3