

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

December 11, 2022



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

Office: (559)237-7909

ImmanuelEaston.com

office@immanueleaston.com

Pastor Taylor Stempniak: ptmarie96@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule:

Inter-Generational Sunday School 9:30am

Children's Advent Sunday School 9:45am

Worship 10:30am

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 pandemics. Currently masks are optional at indoor gatherings. 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 a member of 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

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Please sing the first verse as the candle is lit and the Bethlehem Stars progress in.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The Children's Message

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

All: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

All: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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Prayer of The Day

Gracious God, the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, may your Spirit kindle in us a heart so willing to follow your Son that your reign of righteousness and peace is made visible through our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 146:5-10

Please read bold print verses responsively.

5Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

6who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

7who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

9The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

The Second Reading

James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

Luke 1:46-55

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St Luke the first chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

⁴⁶And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Message

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Please stand for the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day

Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past

To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn. ***Refrain***

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. ***Refrain***

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Confession of Faith

Pastor: 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

Pastor: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

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

Offering

Offerings and worship registration slips found on the back page of the bulletin may be placed in the plate as it is passed by the ushers. There is a QR Code printed on the back of the bulletin for those wishing to donate online through our website.

Offertory Response

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: 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.

Prayers of the Church

Special Music

“Mary Did You Know”

Laurel Jacobsen

Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him thanks praise.

Communion Preface

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciple, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: 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.

Communion Distribution

Communion will be served this week by intinction. Please follow the direction of the ushers, as you come to the altar the host will be dipped in the non-alcoholic wine and served to you by Pastor or a Deacon. Immanuel welcomes you to communion this morning.

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

ALL: Amen

Post Communion Response: The Song of Simeon
please read responsively.

Pastor: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;

All: Your word has been fulfilled.

Pastor: My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

All: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Pastor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able.

Benediction

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

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God! Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude

Laurel Jacobsen

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Church Announcements

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by Betty Moore for glory and honor to God and in celebration of Allyson's 60th birthday!

Prayer focus for the week: Focus on being prepared. Matthew 24:44 ASV. "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him".

SIGN UP TODAY: For this Thursday's Christmas Luncheon at 12:00PM in the Social Hall. Come for Lasagna! Bring a side dish or a plate of cookies to share if you like. Laurel will play the piano and we will sing Christmas Carols after lunch.

Next Sunday at Immanuel will be New Member Sunday! Amos and Nathan Harding will be Baptized as well as welcoming into our official roll of membership: Chris Harding & Ellen Kahn, Terry Gardner and Floyd Harlan. If you would like to join Immanuel's membership, please contact the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Advent Bible Study Soup Suppers on Wednesday nights during Advent: The corrected discussion schedule is: Dec. 14th: Ruth. Dec. 21: 2 Samuel 11 and 2 Samuel 12:15-25.

The 2023 Volunteer Sheets are up! If you would like to help with worship on Sundays, please sign up on the blue bulletin board.

Immanuel's Church Library is full of Christmas books and DVD's! Check some out this week to enjoy during the Christmas season!

Advent Fun for Kids is on Sunday mornings at 9:45 to make an ornament or decoration that relates to the Advent candle of the day. At 10:10, the kids will then be able to dress up in costumes for the candle lighting and children's sermon during worship to help them understand the theme for the day. We hope this will get the kids excited to kick off our new Sunday School Program in January.

Thank you Immanuel:

1. Thank you to all of the Blood Donors today.
2. Thank you to all the Strong Furniture Movers! The floors look great!
3. Thank you for all the cookies for FCA lunches. We have plenty and do not need any more for this Wednesday. Thank you for all the Volunteers who served 170 plus students lunch each week.

Bethel Lutheran Home Board Members are selling Sal's Vouchers to raise money for the Residents and Staff at Bethel Lutheran Home this year. See John Jensen or Laurel Jacobsen for a \$20.00 voucher today!

Immanuel Thursday: All men are invited to Bible Breakfast in Social Hall at 6:00AM. All Women are invited for book discussions in church library at 11:00am.

Save the Date for Christmas Caroling at Bethel Home and Village on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:00PM. Stay tuned for more details.

Church Offering envelopes are available to be picked up in the church entryway under the Gold Bulletin Board. If you wish to not receive offering envelopes any longer, please inform the church office. Thank you.

Readers Needed: We are looking for 5 scripture readers for Christmas Day! If you would like to read a short passage from the Bible for our Lessons and Carols service, please sign up on the blue bulletin board. If you would like a copy of the scripture you will be reading, see Victoria after church today.

Join for Congregational prayer about 15 minutes after the start of Fellowship Time today. The bell will ring when it's time to gather in the Sanctuary for prayer.

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, Canaan Campbell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Leah Linger, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

Those unable to travel about: Gail Hansen, Paul Pedersen, Christie Pettitt & Bonnie Terkelsen.

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Lisa Anderson, Joanie Ascencio, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Mim Gould, Fran Hansen, Al Hooper, Donna Kennedy, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Margaret Raven, John Reynolds, Evelyn Rister, Kenneth Selzer, Rowena Shaterian, Richard Smith, Gary Terkelsen, & Keitt Wilson.

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.

Please complete both sides, detach and place in the offering plate as it is passed.

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 _____

This Week at Immanuel

Today:

9:30AM Inter-Generational Sunday School
9:45AM Advent Sunday School for Kids
10:30AM Worship & Communion
11:45AM Fellowship Outside
12:00PM Congregational Prayer in Sanctuary

Monday:

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

Tuesday

7:00AM Women of Hope in Grace Hall

Wednesday

6:30PM Advent Bible Study

Thursday

12:00PM Christmas Lunch in Social Hall

Next Sunday:

9:30AM Inter-Generational Sunday School
9:45AM Advent Sunday School for Kids
10:30AM Worship & Communion
11:30AM Fellowship Outside

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allyson, Fred, Gina

Scripture Reader: Phil Tews

Fellowship Servers: Betty Moore, Luke & Audra

Council Lock Up in December: Allyson Kahn

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allyson, Fred, Gina

Scripture Reader: Daniel Hartwig

Fellowship Servers: Reynolds & Bennetts

*Sign up to volunteer for scripture reading, altar flowers
and fellowship service on the blue bulletin board.*



Scan our QR code for links
to our website, calendar
texts subscription, and
online giving!

Please check the appropriate box and write your message in the space below.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to learn more about faith. | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to learn more about baptism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes") | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to become a member of Immanuel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am receiving communion today | <input type="checkbox"/> I want a visit from the visitation pastor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to speak with the parish nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to speak with the pastor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a prayer request: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have hymn suggestions: _____ | |