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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

*Happy New Year to
Everyone!*

Ministry Staff

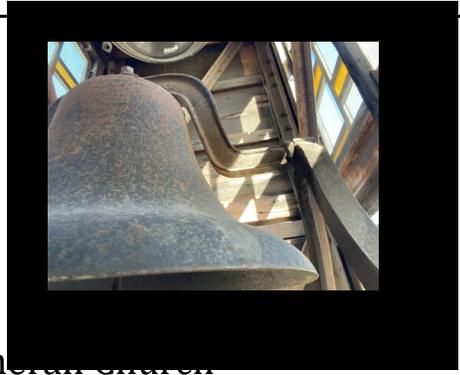
Pastor: Rev. Taylor Stempniak
Office Secretary: Victoria Salwasser
Chimes Editor: Victoria Salwasser
Organist: Laurel Jacobsen

Immanuel's Church Council

President: Fred Cogan
Vice President: Kristi Hollenbeck
Council Secretary: Allyson Kahn
Financial Secretary: Sharon Reynolds
Treasurer: Pat Griffin
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
January 2023**



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

Email: office@immanueleaston.com
Email/Pastor: ptmarie96@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS
10:30AM Worship & Communion

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Annual
Congregational
Meeting will be on
January 29, 2023
Following Worship**

Pastor's Page

“You know, Christmas is only in December because the church wanted Pagans to stop celebrating the winter solstice.” “You know, Easter wasn’t originally a Christian holiday. It’s named after a Pagan fertility deity, ‘East Star’.” You know, sometimes the internet drives me crazy.

For a decades now, I’ve heard people insist that the date we celebrate Christmas is based solely on the church’s desire to erase a pagan festival and that Easter is just a rebranded version of a pagan birth and rebirth ritual. For a while, I just rolled my eyes at the smug Facebook posts and tweets and scrolled on past, but recently a startling trend has begun to emerge. Churches have started to promote this line of thinking. Over the past few years, more and more big churches across the country have begun to promote the idea that celebrating the feasts of Christmas or Easter—you know the two biggest festivals in the church that point towards the birth and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—is actually pagan.

You know, sometimes the internet really, really drives me crazy.

So let’s talk about it. We’ll tackle Christmas this month, and look at Easter next month. Christmas celebrations began in Rome in the year 336 AD, but they weren’t widely celebrated until around the 9th century. Up until around the 9th century, birthdays were paid very little mind in cultural thought, including in the church. Historians were less interested in when you were born, and more interested in when you died or when you were baptized or circumcised. However, to provide a calendar for Christ’s life, monks did mark the day they suspected Christ to have been born. The most popular guess was December 25th—which was nine days from another, very special date in the calendar. March 25th was considered the day of the Annunciation, the day that Mary found out she was pregnant with Jesus. It only made sense that nine months later, she’d have her little boy.

Now, in full transparency, this gets a little weird to modern readers. The Gospel of Luke says that Mary found out she was pregnant in the sixth month of the year, which by our calendar is June. However, what month started a new year and how calendars are structured has changed multiple times over the centuries. I also want to be honest. March 25th was the day of the Spring Equinox for ancient Rome and

Christmas Caroling at Bethel Village

Immanuel sang Christmas carols for the residents at Bethel Village on Wednesday evening, December 20th. This was the first time we have caroled at the Village and we learned that next year we should try caroling in the afternoon rather than the evening. There were about 16 residents that gathered after caroling in the dining hall for an old fashion sing along with Laurel Jacobsen on the keyboard and Rich Kahn on the guitar. Everyone had a lot of fun enjoying cookies and cocoa and visiting with their Pastor Taylor who preaches at Bethel Village once a quarter. Thank you to everyone who made that ministry happen!

Demant Family and the earthquake

The Demant family had a heck of a shake on December 20th. They lost their television in the earthquake because it was not strapped to the wall and that along with a small water heater was the worst of their loss. They are very grateful that they were all safe and only left with a mess to clean up. Food fell from the panty, books fell from their shelves and pictures fell from their walls. Luckily they had a generator so they had power and were able to keep warm. They had a lot of glass to clean up and they did so gratefully since they all were safe and were not hurt. Thanks be to God! He is so good.

**Fresno—Washington FFA
Together, We Are One
Annual Dinner Fundraiser
Saturday, January 28th, 2023
C.P.D.E.S. Hall in Easton
New York Steak Dinner
Tickets \$50.00 Each
Dinner 7:00pm**

For Tickets see Emmerson Gardner or Mark Salwasser

Christmas Ummata



Christmas Ummata was on December 4th this year and started off with the famous Baked Potato Bar! Thank you to Brad and Ericka for bringing back the delicious Baked Potato Buffet filled with all the delicious toppings. Nativity scenes were made, Christmas cards were made for those who serve our country, blankets were made for animal shelters, cookie tins were packed for our members who are not able to get out and about anymore. Food boxes were packed and delivered to families in need in our community. Christmas songs were sung and cookies and were shared before everyone departed for home feeling refreshed and ready for the Advent season. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success. Keep your eyes out for the next Ummata event coming this summer.

What God Did For Us

Written by Darlene Maddox

Here we all gather
Anticipating the holy advent season

We need to remember
What God did for us

Through the hustle and bustle
And all the muss and fuss

As we sing O' Holy Night and The First Noel
Even Jingle Bell and White Christmas

We need to remember
What God did for us

It is a wonderful time of year
Full of good cheer and loved ones

We need to remember
What God did for us

Oh, we get on that Christmas train
To decorate, bake and sing

We need to remember
What God did for us

So, as we wrap our presents
Trim our trees with festive ornaments
We need to not only remember—but to
thank, praise, and pause
For What Jesus has done for us.

December 25th was the day of the Winter Solstice. I don't find this suspicious. Ancient monks knew that the Annunciation took place in March, but they didn't have a date. Why wouldn't they pick a date that they already associated with new life? Spring has long been considered a herald of growth and new life, and if they were trying to pick a day to remember, the equinox certainly served that purpose. It's kind of like how Luke and I originally planned to get married on December 12, 2020. I am notoriously bad at remembering dates, and I figured 12/12/2020 would stick in my head. (COVID messed this up for us, and now I have to think really hard to pinpoint our anniversary.) Ancient monks were mostly trying to be considerate and pick a date that was easy to remember and made sense.

Which brings us to another, more glaring issue, with the idea that the dates for Christmas and the Annunciation were picked to trick the pagans. We have no written evidence for the idea. Our church fathers and mothers wrote down almost everything, and they were prolific in writing about how they were interacting with the pagan believers in their communities. The Apostle Paul, Origen, Chrysostom, and even regular, every day, less famous monks, wrote about how the Christian community was interacting with their pagan neighbors. Considering we have records of St. Nicholas punching out Arius at the council of Nicaea, it seems unlikely that we'd have no record of a widespread conspiracy by the church to erase pagan holidays with some clever scheduling.

Now, let's be fair to the pagans, they knew how to throw a party. Some of our most beloved Christmas traditions can, in fact, be traced back to pagan traditions. Two of the most obvious are Yule Cakes, Christmas Trees, and, to a lesser extent, Christmas caroling. The celebration of Yule was Germanic in origin and offered pagans a chance to worship various gods and goddesses associated with darkness, light, hunting, and winter—all of which were important to surviving winter season. When Christian missionaries began to convert Germanic pagans, they often used familiar entry points to build interest in relationships. "You worship a goddess of light? Jesus called himself the light of the world. Isn't that neat?" There's nothing particularly nefarious about that. When I describe grits to people that have never had them, I do the exact same thing. "You've had polenta? It's like that, but grittier." This is how conversations and relationships work.

Eventually, through the development of relationships or through the

decision of their tribal chief, a lot of these Germanic people converted to Christianity. In their conversion, they abandoned the old gods, but there wasn't a good reason to abandon the party. In fact, the party became useful. Yule cakes were sweet and hearty and gave people something to look forward to in the winter, and cake is cake. Yule trees began to be talked about differently. Now the candles that adorned their branches pointed towards the light of the world, Christ, and their evergreen needles that spoke of life in the season of death symbolized the resurrection of Christ himself. Yule singing? Well, the Christian church had been singing since Mary found out she was with child (and much earlier than that), and the former pagans were more than happy to learn new lyrics. Just like Paul pointed Roman pagans to the altar for the unknown God to explain who Christ is, fledgling Germanic Christians took their formerly pagan beliefs and transformed their purpose to reflect the God they now worshipped. That's not all that unusual. We love the familiar. I didn't abandon grits and boiled peanuts and the phrase "y'all" when I crossed the Mason-Dixon line. These things are useful, and I love them. I just add sun-dried tomatoes to my grits on occasion now because California is useful, and I love her too.

As Christians, we should be critical of our history. We should acknowledge places where our forefathers and mothers were tempted to behave violently and oppressively so that we may repent and walk differently than those who came before us. However, we should also be shrewd. We should be willing to look at what our history says and not just what others say about it because if we take every whisper and jeer at face value, we risk losing ourselves or even repeating the mistakes of our ancestors. (We'll talk more about that next month.) Was Jesus born on December 25th? Probably not, but the monks were doing their best and I appreciate their attempts to figure something out. Is there ever a bad day to celebrate the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, who took on flesh and dwelled alongside his beloved people? Definitely not. The date means far less to me than the God we worship on it.

Wishing you God's beautiful blessings in this new year,
Pastor Taylor

Join us as we celebrate the story of Christ's birth on Christmas Eve at 10:30PM and Sunday morning Christmas Day at 10:30AM!

Tips from Waste Management **REDUCE, REUSE, REJOICE!**

From thoughtful gifting to recycling rules for the holiday and every day, we've rounded up some tips for a sustainable celebration!

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency:

- ◆ 1 M tons of additional trash generates per week during the holidays!
- ◆ 17% of annual methane emissions (third-most) are attributed to food waste in landfills
- ◆ 219 pounds is the average amount of food waste per person, per year in the United States.

Here are some tricks to diverting food waste:

- ▶ Encourage friends and family to take leftovers.
- ▶ Make the most of your freezer for long-term storage and use your food later.
- ▶ Compost tea and coffee grounds, eggshells, and produce scraps.

Here are some ideas for greener living:

- ◇ Shop sustainable: Consider a gift of an experience, membership or gift card to local business.
- ◇ Reduce packaging. Reuse cardboard boxes and break them down before recycling. When you must wrap: opt for recyclable paper and last year's bags, ribbons and twine.
- ◇ Give items a second life. Upgraded a device? Donate locally if it's still in good shape or check with manufactures for mail-back recycling programs.

Recycle Right

Remember these rules to help us reduce, contamination by 10% by 2025:

- ⇒ Recycle empty and dry bottles, cans, paper and cardboard
- ⇒ Keep food and Liquid out of your recycling.
- ⇒ No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

Children's Sunday School January 15th

Children's Sunday School is back in action starting on January 15th. We will start at 9:30 in first floor double classroom for Kindergarten through 5th grades. We will begin with crafts! Singing some songs and talk about the Bible story of the day. Preschool will start at 10:00am with singing, story time and crafts. Parents are welcome to stay with the preschool kids and help where needed. We will have three – 6 week sessions from January 15th through May 29th. There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday or Mother's Day. Volunteers and substitutes are always helpful. If you feel called to serve the little ones please call church office for more information.

Pastor Taylor's inter-generational Sunday School Class will resume on January 15th as well. This class is for confirmation students 6th grade through retirement. This is your chance to learn about the Bible, confirm your faith and enjoy some quality time with your church family learning the stories of the Bible!

Young Life Ministry in Easton

On December 15th twelve community members gathered at Easton Presbyterian Church to learn about the possibility of Young Life coming to Easton to start a ministry at Washington Union High School.

Two representatives from the Young Life organization explained how the program works. It starts with Young Life training volunteers to work as missionaries to high school students. Once a team of volunteers have been established from our community, Young Life trains the team to be leaders. These leaders would be considered the foundation or start up team. Once the team is trained to be the missionaries to the high school students they would go out to high school events and begin to interact and meet students and build a foundation. Once the foundation is built, a Young Life staff supervisor will be hired for our community to work with our students at Washington Union High School and our churches.

This start up process involves prayer, monthly meetings, and time with students getting to know the kids. All age groups can make this happen with the right training. The Young Life Vision is that no young person would graduate from high school without having had the opportunity to know and grow in Christ. Many of the neighboring communities have Young Life programs: Corcoran, Fowler, Fresno, Kingsburg, Manteca, Merced and Sanger.

Immanuel please pray about this ministry. Is God calling you to serve? Call the church office if this type of ministry is something you are interested in.

Spiritual Orphan Network

Ukraine Relief

This Year's Christmas Offering to Immanuel will be sent to SON, Spiritual Orphan Network for Ukraine Relief.

Ukraine Relief Fund - At the request of our partnering churches in North America and Ukraine, SON opened this fund shortly after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022. To date, we have received over \$815,000 with all distributions going directly to long-time trusted ministry partners, both in Ukraine and to surrounding countries who are lending aid to Ukrainian refugees. Funds have provided emergency short-term needs such as food, shelter, clothing, medicine, petrol, transportation, and computers for students. Long-term plans include equipping partners with resources necessary to re-equip and rebuild the Church in Ukraine.

A Message from SON Ministry Partner, Alexander Gross in Ukraine on December 20, 2022

The first big step to the autonomous supply of electricity of the complex in petrodolins'komu and the house in novogradkivka was made. To be honest, from the beginning of the destruction of our energy system by the occupiers, we have not only suffered a lot from the lack of light, but also from the lack of heating. This affected the possibility of functioning of our Children's Centers in communities in Petrodolins'komu and Novogradkivka, and made the life of 5 displaced families from Kherson region very difficult. I couldn't even sleep properly, all I'm trying to find a way out of the situation. Attempts to buy something in Ukraine stumbled on the favorite odesitami case - to earn from the misfortune of others to the maximum. For example, a weak 3.2 kW generator was sold for 3.2 thousand dollars. With Navar probably 500%. Without any papers or checks. Something more solid and durable actually cost extra money with unlimited delivery waiting. So they began to look for a way out in neighboring Slovakia.

Now we already have generators and in the coming days we have a project to connect our 4 buildings in Petrodolynskyi and the house and chapel in Novogradkivka. Hopefully by Christmas I will get peace in this difficult matter.

Surely there are wonderful friends behind it all. I already thank David Breidenbach and Spiritual Orphans Network (USA), thank you vlado matas and the youth center in velky slavkov (Slovakia) and thank you brot fuer die welt (Germany) for the great pidrimku. And most of all, thank God, who unites us all!

Journey

So this go around let's talk about depression.

Disclaimer: I have absolutely no expertise to speak from here. I am not a doctor, a psychologist, clinician, or a vet. These thoughts are just mine and are not those of Immanuel, NALC, or any other group. They are simply my thoughts.

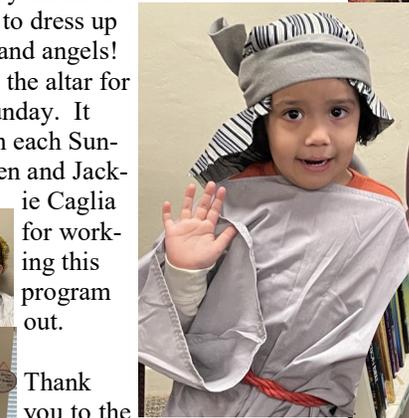
I know enough to know that depression and anxiety are two different things. But I'll lump them together here because they are what I have experience with. Google says depression is a mood disorder. My experience says it is generally caused by intangible feelings of sadness, lack of ambition and a desire to isolate. However, the triggers can be very tangible: loss of a spouse, loss of a job, loss of health or a loss of perceived purpose. Feeling unloved and unneeded are factors. Depression is diagnosable. Those that keep track of such things say 3 million Americans a year are diagnosed with depression. My guess is that the number is very low because most people don't seek a medical evaluation for those feelings of depression. I'd even go as far as to say most of us have periods of depression. Anxiety, like depression, is often triggered by intangible feelings of worry or dread. Anxiety can be just as severe as depression. Anxiety can interfere with normal life. In my mind, that's the point where you should look for help, including when you don't enjoy doing the things you used to enjoy, when you default to just staying home and when you avoid people you used to look forward to seeing. Look for help. Are any of these things reversible? Yes. Is it going to be easy? Maybe, but probably not? Fixing most things of this nature takes work, often with a professional. Don't give up! Don't let anyone tell you to just get over it. Those are people to avoid. Just like the grieving process, depression is a very individual condition. It may take time to engage it. Like grieving, there is no shame in being depressed. It certainly doesn't mean you're a bad person; you are not. Acknowledging that you are depressed is the first step. You'll need to be very honest with yourself. Look around. Everybody has problems. Don't let anyone tell you that they have no issues; their issue is not being honest with themselves. The person who can say they are depressed is the person who is one step further down the road to health. Don't be embarrassed. I don't know any perfect people, certainly not me.

This year when you are reading through the Bible in a year keep track of all the perfect people. There was only one and don't forget he was anxious in the Garden of Gethsemane. Life is hard, there are many losses

Sunday School at Immanuel

Children's Sunday school had a great Advent adventure! The kids met in Grace Hall and enjoyed making craft projects reflecting the advent candle of the day. They started learning about the prophets, then the Star of Bethlehem, then Shepherds and finally the angels. After they finished their craft projects, the kids got to dress up like prophets, stars, shepherds, and angels! They wore their costumes up to the altar for the Children's message each Sunday. It was cuteness overload at church each Sunday. Thank you to Laura Nielsen and Jackie Caglia for working this program out.

Thank you to the families who were able to come to church and participate for Advent.



It took a village of prophets the first Sunday to get the show on the road. We had Grandpa Prophets, mommy prophets and baby prophets.

Each week we were ready for the show!

Prayers for our Church

Members and their families serving in the military: Erica Botello, friend of Audra & Alex; Joey Brewer, Victoria's nephew; Henry Clark, WUHS graduate former helper at Breaking Grounds Café; Ryan Freitas, friend of Salwasser family; Michael Hansen, Jim & Fran's son; Leah Linger, Immanuel raised; & Matthew Tigchelaar, Immanuel raised.

Those unable to travel about: Gail Hansen, Jim's mom living at Bethel; Paul Pedersen, Ellen Vike's nephew, Christie Pettitt, knee problems, & Bonnie Terkelsen, living at Horizon,

Those in need of healing: Sandy Britter, bone cancer treatment; Ed Bordin, Sandy Britter's cousin with kidney problems; Gaye Cissel, continual pain; Mim Gould, battling cancer, Fran Hansen, under treatment for a small aneurism, Al Hooper, seizures and extreme weakness; Donna Kennedy, heart problems; Diane Mehrten, mobility and memory issues, Darel Mehrten recovering from shoulder re-replacement surgery and soon to be undergoing physical therapy for strengthening, Lance Petersen, recovering from a major auto accident, Christie Pettitt, torn meniscus in knee; John Reynolds recovering from back surgery, Richard Smith, Sean's father recovering from major injuries from being hit by a car, Kenneth Selzer, Daniel Hartwig's grandfather recovering from a fall at Willow Creek, Keitt Wilson, Pastor Taylor's grandfather, aging health issues.

Prayer Focus for the Week

Week of 1-2-2023. Focus on new beginnings. Isaiah 43:19 NIV.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Week of 1-9-2023. Focus on newness. 2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

Week of 1-16-2023. Focus on God's plan for us. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Week of 1-23-2023. Focus on the new. Isaiah 65:17 NIV. See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

Week of 1-30-2023. Focus on the newness that awaits us. Revelations 21:4 NIV. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or mourning, or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

and disappointments. After the holidays, when everyone has gone home, and you're back at work facing the bills. It's easy to get lost in all that.

Hang on my friends. Don't give up. Keep moving.

So what good is there in being in a Christian community? Well, you need to be in a nurturing community. We have that here at Immanuel. They will lift you up in prayer: the church prayer chain, 2nd Sunday prayer community and the on line prayer community. Our people care about each other. The catch is that they need to know you are hurting. They don't need to know any more details than you want them to know. Simply ask for unspecified prayers. Maybe you'll need some professional help. Ask the Pastor or Victoria or myself. Trust me, the three of us will understand from first hand experience. We'll help you get what you need. We love you. Immanuel loves you and most importantly God loves you. I promise you we'll walk with you.

God bless you in the new year.

I love you all, John.

PS. It's not to late to start reading through the Bible in a year. Have you done it before? Do it again.

Stamp Ministry

Sisters of the Holy Cross collect stamps which are sold to stamp collectors. All proceeds from the sales are used for their charitable work here in the USA and around the world.

The stamps must be cancelled and have 1/4 inch border. They especially want commemorative or other unusual stamps, but ask not to receive stamps which come on solicitation envelopes or the US flags. (because they are so common and not collectable.)

The stamps should be sent to: Sisters of the Holy Cross,
407 Bertrand Hall-Saint Mary's
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5000

I will be happy to send your stamps with mine. There is a collection envelope on the Gold Bulletin Board in the church entryway if you would like to drop them off on Sunday mornings.

Sandy Britter

Thank you for your help with FCA

I just want to say THANK YOU to everyone who have faithfully baked cookies for FCA. It is very much appreciated. Because you have been so amazing, we had enough cookies by week 3. Please enjoy a break until we resume our spring lunches in 2023! We are scheduled for March 22, 29th and April 12, 19, and 26th.

We served a low of 170, and a high of 210! Thank you to the team of volunteers that showed up to help and work in new ideas on how to best serve 210 cups of noodles for lunch. It all worked out great!

Thank you again!
Ericka Gardner



Annual Reports for 2022

The following leaders are asked to submit a brief recap of the year's activities to share with our members in our annual report. Submissions requested to the church office via email: office@immanueleaston.com by **January 10th, 2023**.

Audit Committee, Blood Drive, Caruthers Fair, Congregational President, Deacons, FCA Lunch Ministry, Financial Secretary, Library, Music Committee, Friendsgiving and Christmas Lunch Program, Nominating Committee, Quilter/Crafter, Small Group Ministry, Sunday School, Treasurer, Trustee, Ummata Events, Women's Ministry President, Women's Ministry Treasurer, Any Other Programs happening at Immanuel that aren't listed

News Notes

Birthday blessings to Joan Wynn for her 78th birthday on the 9th, to Darel Mehrten for his 85th birthday on the 10th, to Marie Salwasser on her 82nd birthday on the 13th, and to Carol Bennetts for her 70th birthday on the 27th!

Congratulations to Rich and Jen Cisneros on their 25th wedding anniversary on January 24th.

Lots of action took place at Immanuel in December: the kick off for the Advent Season with Ummata on December 4th, the first segment of Immanuel's turn serving FCA lunches finished up in December, Men's and Women's Bible Studies continued, taking two weeks off for Christmas holidays.

Excitement filled the sanctuary on December 18th we welcomed 6 new members into our congregation: Chris Harding and Ellen Kahn joined the church and Pastor Taylor baptized their two sons Amos and Nathan Harding, our two youngest new members! Chris and Ellen were married at Immanuel by Pastor John Saethre on April 6, 2019. Terry Gardner, Dean's wife officially joined Immanuel. Dean first joined Immanuel in 1994 and reaffirmed his faith and membership. Dean and Terry were married on June 15, 2016. They live in Clovis and enjoy the Sunday School and Worship at Immanuel. Floyd Harlan also joined Immanuel he graduated from Washington Union High School, class of 1950. Welcome to our new members!

Some major repairs were made to the parsonage yard, the lawn was graded and sprinklers were put in. Winter rye grass was planted. Bermuda will be planted in the spring.

The fellowship lunches are going strong! We started in November with Friendsgiving and in December with a Lasagna lunch and singalong. We had about 30 attendees at each lunch and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Gina Cogan for spearheading this ministry. If you are interested in helping with the senior ministry at Immanuel give her or call. The next lunch will be on January 26th at 12:00PM

Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive

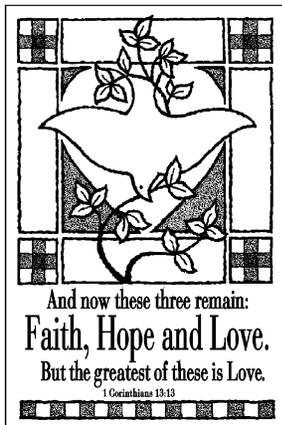
The need for blood is essential. It's also very safe to do even in a blood mobile. Everyone wears a mask, the trucks are well ventilated and sanitized, and the chairs used are safely spaced. If you would feel more comfortable donating at the blood center, simply choose a center closest to you and when you donate, give them Immanuel's Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive Code **i114**. This code will count your unit to our drive total. The dates for 2023 are listed below. Please jot them down on your calendar and prepare to spare a pint when you can.

February 12th, April 16, June 25th,
August 27th, October 29th,

Celebrating our Members!

Birthdays

7-Andrea Bell
9- Joan Wynn
10-Darel Mehrten
13-Marie Salwasser
15-Nick Caglia
17-Tim Pilegard
18-Peter Gutierrez
19-Jon Marthedal
24-Carol Bennetts
27-Marcus Orum
28-Kaylee Bennetts
29-Jacob Caglia



Wedding Anniversaries

15-Bill & Janet Messenlehner (51)
15-Bryan & Becky Gant (18)
23- Kenneth & Debbie Goff (35)
24-Richard & Jennifer Cisneros (25)

Baptismal Birthdays

1-Nick Caglia
-Daniel Hartwig
-Terry Gardner
-Chris Harding
- Floyd Harlan
-Scott Hollenbeck
- Carl Jensen
- Ellen Kahn
- Rich Kahn
- Diane Laub
- Joan Lindsey
-Joseph Perez
-Jennifer Perez
-Julius Perez
-Phil Tews
-Cindy Slaton
-Luke Stempniak
5-Andrew Nielsen
12-Laura Nielsen
13-Brad Gardner
15-Emmerson Gardner
19-Deanna Dunbar
20-Michael Moser
27-Janet Messenlehner

Easton Food Distribution

Immanuel Lutheran hosts a Food Distribution each month on the first Friday of the month from approximately 12:00 –2:00p.m. The food is delivered by the Central California Food Bank. Their truck usually brings fresh produce and sometimes other types of food items are delivered. We use the covered area between Easton Presbyterian Church and the Easton Learning Center. The nice high roof over concrete gives us a safe and easy way to distribute the massive amounts of food that is donated by the food bank. If you are willing and able to help with this ministry please come and join the volunteers for a fun afternoon serving those in need. There is usually plenty of food and we encourage the volunteers to take some home too. Often we have more food than those in need. All volunteers are asked to bring their own water bottle and wear close toed shoes for their protection. For more information please call our church office.

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

Contribution envelopes for this year are on the table under the gold bulleting board. Please pick them up this Sunday! **If you would like your contributions credited for 2022**, please have them to the **church office no later than Thursday December 29th.**

Sign Ups for 2023

Altar Flowers, Scripture Readers, Fellowship Servers

The new sign-up sheets are hanging up on the blue bulletin board in the church entryway. If you would like to sign up for a special day to place flowers on the altar for Sunday Worship, or read scriptures during worship or serve refreshments after church, sign up on the papers or call the church office for more information.

Family Camp 2023

Save The Dates: June 11-18, 2023
Logger Flat Group Campground
near Hume Lake!

Sign Up on the Blue Bulletin Board!
It's difficult to reserve this spot so we have to
take the dates we get.

Bring yourself or your family and make memories!

January 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

*Mark your new 2023 calendars:
Family Camp June 11-18th!*

1

1
10:30AM Worship & Communion

2

3 7:00pm
Women's Bible
Study in Grace
Hall

4

5 6:00am Men's Bible
Study in Social Hall

11:00am Women's Bible

6 12:00-2:00pm
Easton Food Dist.

7

8
10:30AM Worship & Communion

9

10
8:00am Annual
Reports Due to
Office

11
12:25pm FCA Lunch

12 6:00am Men's Bible
Study in Social Hall

11:00am Women's Bible

13

14

15
9:30AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship & Communion

16

17

18
12:25pm FCA Lunch

19 6:00am Men's Bible
Study in Social Hall

20

21

22 Annual Reports Distribution
9:30AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship & Communion

23

24

25
12:25pm FCA Lunch

26 6:00am Men's Bible
Study in Social Hall
11:00am Women's Bible
Study in Grace hall
**12:00PM Fellowship
Lunch**

27

28

29
9:30AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship & Communion
Annual Meeting

30

31

February 1
12:25pm FCA Lunch

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4