

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706



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Return Service Requested

Immanuel would like to thank our outgoing council members for their service: Jim Hansen, Karl Nielsen and Barbara Petersen. Thank you for sharing your time and talents serving on the Church Council for two terms.

THE IMMANUEL CHIMES FEBRUARY 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

Pastor: ptmarie96@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS

9:30AM Sunday School for Everyone

10:30AM Worship & Communion

Ash Wednesday Service on the 22nd at 7:00PM

**FAT TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 S ELM AVE,
EASTON CA 93706

6:30PM
FEBRUARY
21, 2023

**NALC Central
Pacific Mission
District
Annual
meeting**

**February 4th
9:30am-1:30PM
At Pea soup
Andersen's
in
Santa Nella**

Read more about these events inside.

From Our Pastor

The Easter Bunny is going to steal your children and turn them into pagans! You heard it here first, folks. I know he looks cute and cuddly but under those whiskers and that cotton ball tale, he's hiding pure evil and temptation.

I'm kidding, of course, but there has been a lot of discourse around Easter being a pagan holiday in disguise, and with the Lenten season just around the corner, I thought I'd take the opportunity to dispel some myths about Easter. The first is an issue of timing. Christmas takes place around the winter solstice, and Easter, in turn, takes place around the Spring Solstice. This has led to rumors in recent history that Easter was another attempt by the church to swallow up a pagan holiday (like the feast of Eostre, but more on her in a little bit). Now this is the part of the article where I could choose to regale you about the history of the church. I could point to the fact that Easter is actually the earliest church holiday and has been celebrated since at least the 2nd century. I could point to the fact that the date was so essential to early Christians that it was talked about at the Council of Nicaea. I could point to written arguments between the western and eastern church about when exactly we should celebrate, but I'm not going to do any of that. I'm going to point you to scripture itself. In the Gospel of Matthew, as Matthew begins to describe the last supper, he writes, "On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'" (Matt. 26:17). The last supper, the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion took place at the same time as the Passover celebration of the Jewish people, and it was the Jewish lunar calendar that helped early Christians determine when to celebrate Easter—not the pagan traditions. In fact, the Latin and Greek name for the holiday Pascha, is the same word used to refer to the Jewish holiday of Passover.

So let's take a look at the English name for Easter. You may have seen a Facebook post or received a chain email or even heard a particularly fiery televangelist insist that we should stop celebrating Easter because it's a celebration of either Ishtar, a Mesopotamian goddess, or Eostre, the pagan goddess of spring, disguised as a Christian holiday. First, no credible historian will link Ishtar to the Easter holiday. The only tie is the similarity of the name. Taylor Swift and I have the same first name, but I'm not selling out stadiums and breaking album sales. Let's address the more popular Eostre. The argument tying this goddess to Easter hinges around the writings of a pagan theologian in 1874, a good seven-teen centuries after Easter began being celebrated. Adolf Holtzman, who

Prayer Focus For The Week

Week of 2-6-2023. Focus on keeping watch. Acts 20:28 NIV. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Week of 2-18-2023. Focus on reconciliation. Romans 16:17 NIV. I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teachings you have learned. Keep away from them.

Week of 2-20-2023. Focus on repentance. Luke 5:32 NIV. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Week of 2-27-2023. Focus on loving one another. Romans 12:10 NIV. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourself.

Prayers for Our 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, Caanan Campbell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Leah Linger, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

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

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Lisa Anderson, Mike Moser's sister, recovering from a stroke; Sandy Britter, battling bone cancer; Ed Bordin, Sandy Britter's cousin, battling kidney cancer; Gaye Cissel, continual pain; Valarie Cooper, Victoria Salwasser's sister, battling pancreatic cancer; Ed Gomez, Sandy Britter's friend, at St. Agnes hyperbaric chamber; Donna Kennedy, heart & lung issues; Darel Mehrten, recovering from shoulder re-replacement; Diane Mehrten, mobility issues; Marcus Miranda, Velia's son, with spine problems; Lance Petersen, regaining strength through physical therapy; Christie Pettitt, mobility problems due to knee and back pain following hip re-replacement; Debbie Pilegard, recovering from surgery; Patti Price, awaiting treatment for cancer; Sharon Reynolds, recovering from knee replacement; Kenneth Selzer, Daniel Hartwig's grandfather, aging health issues; Richard Smith, Sean's father, recovering from an accident; & Keitt Wilson, Pastor Taylor's grandfather, aging health issues.

For those mourning the loss of loved ones: The families of Carol Cox, Mim Gould, Al Hooper, and Lorraine Slaton.

Sympathy Love and Prayers...

For the family of Mim Gould. Mim grew up in Minnesota but decided to get away from the snow and cold winters and attended the University of Hawaii where she met a U.S. Serviceman and fellow Minnesotan, Gary Gould. They married and saw the ministry that God would give them as a partnership. Together, they served churches in San Jose, Madera, Auberry, Selma (Pella), Easton (Immanuel) and Madera Ranchos. The churches in which they served were blessed with lots of great music, puppets, drama, and laughter. Life was never boring for the Gould's.

During their years of ministry, they raised four children: Kirsten, Tim, Mari, and Lisa. The Gould children inherited their parent's love for Christ, music, drama, laughter and the ministry of Gary and Mim will continue with the next generation.

Gary passed on in 2021. Mim, who said she had hardly been sick a day in her life, was shocked to receive a diagnosis of stage 4 colon cancer on September 7, 2022. Chemo treatments were hard on Mim and she was sick during the Christmas Season. She wrote to friends: "I have not had the kind of Christmas season I was expecting. I am focusing on the baby in the manger. He IS holding my hand and getting me through. He IS my strength and power. He IS my healer." God did answer prayer and heal Mim. Maybe not the way we expected, but she is now free from pain. God, out of His love, took Mim home on Tuesday, January 17. Mim loved the people God brought into her life and she diligently prayed for their needs. We were fortunate to have a friend like Mim and will miss her. Celebration of Life for Mim Gould will be Saturday, March 4 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fresno.

For the family of Al Hooper. Al passed away on January 14 at age 93. Al was a retired school administrator at several schools in Fresno Unified. He was proud of being married to his wife Judy, for 70 years. He enjoyed traveling all over the world. He also especially enjoyed taking his grandchildren on a trip to what ever country they chose after they graduated from high school.

Al and Judy Hooper began attending Immanuel's Country Gospel Service in 2003 and started attending Sunday mornings during the Purpose Driven Life series in 2004. That very year, Al and Judy formed the best committee ever and re-instated the Fellowship luncheons. They had so much fun.

Al and Judy raised two sons and a daughter. Al was preceded in death by his beautiful daughter, Robin; their grandson, Jason, and their great-granddaughter, Bronwin. He is survived by his wife, Judy; his sons, Tom and Tim and their wives and their son-in-law, Kurt Wolfe. They have 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

was writing with the explicit purpose of bolstering the survival of paganism, used the existence of the Easter Bunny tradition and the similarity of the names to link this goddess and Easter together. Unfortunately for Holtzman, the overwhelming consensus of historians agree that the name for Easter comes from the Germanic word, "austrā" or "eostre," which translates to the word "dawn." Images of dawn, or the rising of the sun, have been popular Easter motifs because Easter is a celebration of the rising of the Son from the dead. The name of our most popular feast can't be credited to a pagan goddess, but it can be credited to a pun.

So what about the pesky little Easter Bunny. Adolf Holtzmann, in his attempt to further bolster claims that Easter was tied to Eostre, appealed to supposed images of the goddess Eostre, which included images of rabbits. About ten years after the publishing of this article, in the year 1889, an American folk-lore journal published a story explaining the affection German immigrants had for the Easter Bunny. They offered a story of Eostre turning a bird into a bunny, which caused the creature to be quite upset. To make it up to him, she allows him one day a year to lay eggs. This is the earliest documentation we can find tying this funny little critter to Eostre, and if we take it at face value it would seem that this cute mascot may be a pagan sleeper-agent, even if our holiday is decidedly Christian.

So what do we do with the Easter bunny? Well, first, we should recognize that the Easter Bunny isn't a Christian symbol. He never has been. The ancient church didn't treat him that way and we certainly shouldn't either. He won't be making appearances in our sanctuary or Easter sunrise service, and we shouldn't allow any argument that hinges on his existence to effect how we view Easter. He's always been a fun little extra thing, like Christmas stockings or secular music; things that aren't religious, but are a lot of fun. We should also take the myths that tie his origin to Eostre with a grain of salt. A lot of secular historians are divided on the existence of any worship of Eostre or an existing tradition of her prior to the 1800s. Many historians actually believe that she was fabricated by the neo-pagan and New Age movement, ironically, to discredit Easter. You can find a ton of information about this on the Library of Congress' website if, like me, you are a huge nerd.

So how did we get this hippity, hoppity, egg laying fella? I want you to consider what things you associate with the different seasons. Pumpkins and red leaves for fall, pine trees and snowflakes for winter, sunshine and dragonflies for summer, and flowers and bumblebees for spring. These associations aren't new. Our world changes with the seasons and new things appear. Eggs, baby animals, sprouting plants, and yes, bunny rabbits, have long been associated with spring because spring is a season of growth and

birth for the world around us. For most Germanic people, the emergence of rabbits during the day for the mating season was the first indication that the winter world was thawing for spring. In other parts of Europe, the association was different. Cuckoo birds bring eggs and treats in Switzerland and in Westphalia the eggs are brought by foxes. It's just as likely that the egg-laying rabbit wasn't so much paganism as he was an enduring part of seasonal décor and celebrations, like jack-o-lanterns and sunflowers in the fall. The rabbit is out, the hens are laying, and it's time to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Of course, if you find yourself viewing his long ears and cotton tail as a stumbling block, feel free to toss him aside, but don't toss Easter morning out with him. Instead, let us give thanks that the fathers and mothers of our faith recognized the need for us to gather together, every year on Easter morn and celebrate once more the defeat of sin and death and the dawn of a new age. Let us gather together with the apostles and second-century Christians and nineteenth-century saints and all those faithful believers who have gone on before us and rejoice that the Son of God has risen.

February Blessings,
Pastor Taylor

What is Fat Tuesday?

The quickest answer to this question is, "One of Pastor's favorite days in the church year." I love any excuse to eat breakfast for dinner. Fat Tuesday, or Shrove Tuesday as it's also called, is the last day before the season of Lent begins. The season of Lent is a season of fasting, where many Christians choose to refrain from rich, decadent foods (That's right! Not everyone gives up their least favorite veggie every year for Lent!), Fat Tuesday is an opportunity for Christians to use up the last of the fat before Lent so it doesn't go to waste. All of the butter, flour, milk, and fatty meats were cooked up and a last feast was had to fill bellies and empty cupboards. For centuries, Christians were making cakes to use up the fatty goods, and over years, that's transformed into pancake suppers. A night with good pancakes, rich syrup, and some yummy sausage. This year, we invite everyone to join us in the Social Hall on February 21st at 6:30 pm for a traditional Fat Tuesday supper. There's no cost but we welcome donations so we can do it again next year! Can't wait to see you there!

Pastor Taylor

Immanuel Women's Ministry

Happy February Immanuel Women! It's time to plan our annual meeting and plan our year long events. We have had no and I mean an adamant no interest in the positions on the women's ministry board. Therefore, we do need to talk as women of the congregation as to what part of this ministry do we want to continue and how do we want to continue as faithful sisters in Christ at Immanuel. Having a title as a president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer is not what our congregation is interested in. No problem, but what's our next step forward to keep our ministry rolling?

I would like to invite you to a 2023 planning meeting on Saturday, February 11th at 11:00AM in the social hall. I want to bake scones and set a pretty table one last time before the social hall is remodeled. (If you want to do this too, please give me a call and we can work together.) I have a vision of a beautiful time together, sitting at a pretty table in the hall where we have had so many fun events. I want to pray, devote time to our creator, and brainstorm for fifteen minutes about 2023. If you can't make it that day and time please email me your thoughts and ideas about how and what you would like to see happen and how you are willing to share this year at Immanuel.

Thank you ladies, I'm excited about this new effort.
Victoria Salwasser, 559-285-5181; victoriasalt@aol.com

Danish American Historical Calls a special Immanuel Speaker

The Danish American Historical Society of California (DAHSC) will have its annual Frickadelle Dinner in the Immanuel Lutheran Church Social Hall of March 4, 2023. Besides the good food and fellowship, the program this year features an interview with our own, **Carl Jensen**, on 'Growing Up Dane in Oleander'. You will also learn a little about the history of what was the little community of Oleander which is where several of our members have lived. A special feature of the evening is making 'AEBLE KAGE' by Steen. Here are the details of the event:

Date: Saturday, March 4th
Time: 5:00 p.m. is Social Hour
6:00 p.m. is Dinner
Cost: \$30.00 for adults
\$12 for children under 12

Reservations are to be made by **February 27**.
You can pay at the door, but reservations are needed.
Please notify Laurel Jacobsen
by e-mail (loli707@comcast.net) or phone (559 240 8818)
or simply tell her at church

EPC Women's Ministries

Join us for a Women's Ministry Event

"Abounding in Love"

Brunch and Craft Project

with a devotion brought by

Lana Roberts

Saturday, February 25th at 9:30 am

EPC Family Center

Bring a Friend!

\$ 15 each, sign up after church to reserve your place.



Ash Wednesday is February 22nd

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm, but from 5:00-6:00 pm we will also be offering ashes on a drive up basis in the Grace Hall parking lot, like we started in 2021.

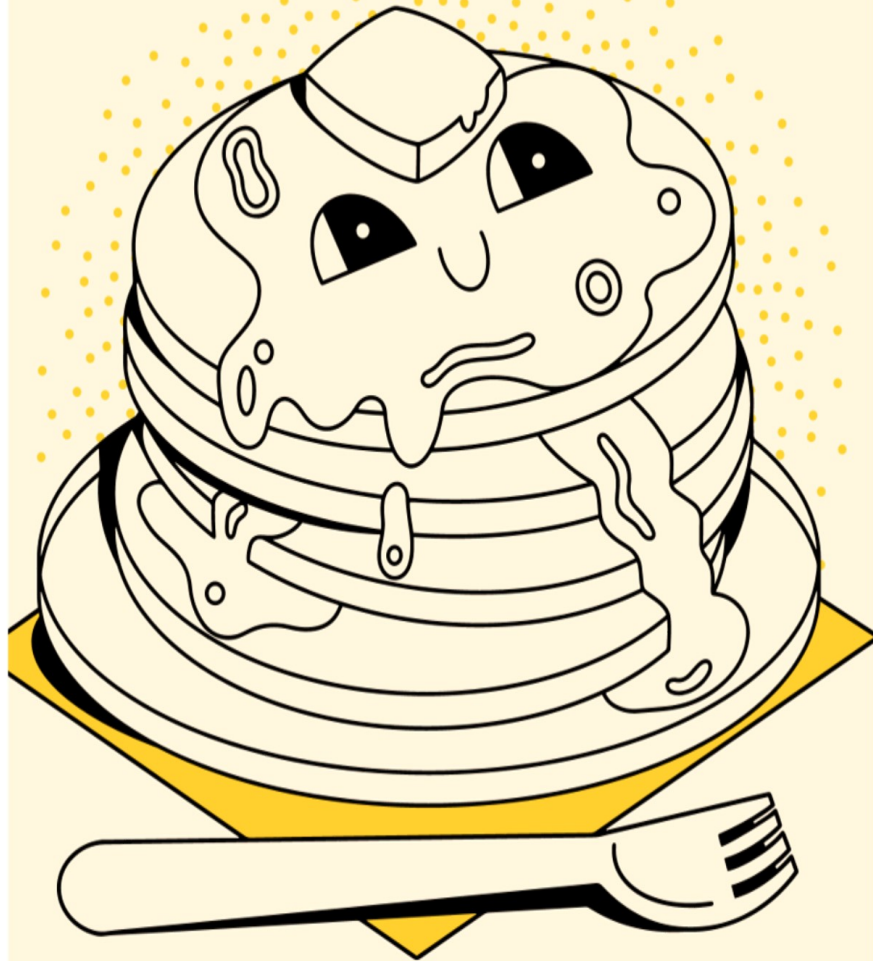
Soup Suppers & Lenten Services

Lent begins in March, and we're so excited to invite everyone to participate in Soup Suppers, with Holden Evening prayer to follow in the sanctuary. Every Wednesday in Lent, starting on March 1st, we will gather for a warm bowl of soup at 6:30. If you're interested in bringing soup, please sign up on the church bulletin board for which Wednesday you'd like to contribute. We're also assigning Wednesdays for desserts. You can find a schedule for desserts below! Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up each Wednesday evening. If you want to help, please sign up on the blue bulletin board! Some nights might be easier to bring a soup and some nights might be easier just to come and stay for clean up. Some nights might be fun to just bring soup and set up. What ever you are able to do is a blessing to serve.

Dates to bring Desserts:	If your birthday is in:
March 1	January-March
March 8	April-June
March 15	July-September
March 22	October-December
March 29	Council Members

See the blue bulletin board or call the church office for more information or to let us know when you can help!

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 S ELM AVE,
EASTON CA 93706

6:30PM
FEBRUARY
21, 2023

Lunch time Kitchen Assistance--We are needing individuals Monday-Friday who will help with our lunch time prep and serving. This volunteer experience will be on our G Street campus.

Kids Care Closet- We are needing a volunteer once a week or every other week to serve in our kids care closet helping organize and helping mothers shop for their children. This volunteer experience is at Rescue the Children. You will need to do a interview prior with our staff. Please email volunteers@fresnomission.org if interested.

Mentors- Rescue the Children, Academy, and Family Center are looking for mentors to walk alongside individuals who are going through our program or staying with us. This is also an opportunity to mentor our teens and children who are at the Mission. The commitment is once a week for up to 18 months. The focus is to come alongside the Mission in helping be the hands and feet of Jesus and continuing to point them back to Jesus. If you are wanting to mentor, the steps are: Complete Orientation, Fill out Relational Application, Have Relational Interview, * For Rescue the Children and Family Center, complete background check and participate in our Relational Training on the second Wednesday of the month.

Professional Development Attire: We are in need of Professional Development Attire for those who are staying with us. We are looking for new or gently used items. Items of biggest need: Men's Slacks, Dress Shirts, Dress Shoes, Sports Coats, Suit Jackets. Women's slacks, Dress Shirt, Dress Blouses, Dress Shoes, Suit Jackets.

If any of these areas interest you, please let use know and we can walk you through the next steps. The best way to reach our department is volunteers@fresnomission.org.

Blessings,
Desmond Camacho
Director of Business Development, Mobilization, and More Than Initiative

Volunteering Opportunities

Last summer, Immanuel volunteered as a group one evening a month for 4 months serving at the mission along with the disciples and sharing dinner with them. Do any of the above areas of need interest you to serve in with a group from Immanuel? If so, please call the church office or contact the mission for more information.

Fresno Mission Volunteer Update

Hello everyone!

2023 is off to a great start for the Mission on groups serving and getting plugged in. We are seeing God work in many ways for individuals to come alongside and use their time, talents and treasures to support us.

In 2022, we had around 1700 individuals call the Mission “home” for weeks to months as we were able to help Rescue, Restore, and Empower through Christ-centered communities of transformation. We served over 400,000 meals and had weekly bible studies, and chapel services in the mornings and afternoons throughout our campuses.

In 2023, we are going to be expanding and creating new serving opportunities to add to our already 38 daily opportunities. We will be updating you regularly of those opportunities and how to sign up. We are no longer doing in-person orientations; we are set to launch in February our Online Orientation. We will email everyone when it is available so that you can forward it to people who wish to complete our orientation or, if you have not completed orientation, you can also complete it.

Areas of need:

For Groups-- If you are interested in having your group participate in one of these opportunities, please email volunteers@fresnomission.org
Group Outreach Meals: Bring your group to help us build 300-500 meals for outreach that will be provided for Saturday Sports for ENP on Fridays from 6pm-8pm. We ask for you to commit to 3 months of a specific Friday evening.

Friday Activity Nights: We have an open weekend for a group to come out on Fridays to Family Center and participate in activity nights, walking alongside the mission and preparing a fun evening. Your group would be responsible for all aspects of the evening from items, games, snacks, etc.

Create Hygiene Kits: Have your small group, youth group, or business collect items for the Mission and then build our welcome kits for one of our various campuses. You can do this from your office or residence and then bring them down to the Mission. Please contact us for a list of items.

For Individuals--If you are interested in serving one of these roles, please login to your account at fresnorm.volunteerhub.com to sign up or for relational, please email volunteers@fresnomission.org.



CPMD ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 4, 2023
9:30 AM -1:30 PM

Ministry Renewal
Pastor Brad Hales, an expert on church planting and aging ministry, will join us to lead a workshop on developing ministry in aging and rural congregations.

Disaster Relief
Hear from Mary Bates about how we can best support disaster relief in our communities and beyond!

Updates & Fellowship
Catch up with friends and hear about developments in our congregations and the national church.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Pea Soup Andersen's
12411 CA-33,
Santa Nella, CA 95322

Questions? Contact Dean Taylor:
ptmarie96@gmail.com



Journey

So I've been thinking about the meaning of life. I've got it all figured out now. So by the end of this article I'll be able to tell you what you need to know.

If you believe that; I've got some property to sell you. Oh wait, the High Speed Rail already took it.

So what about life. I've really come down to this: enjoy today as best you can. Slow down. Pay attention. Look for opportunities to live out your calling from God. Don't let yourself be disappointed. Be ready to change your plans and then change them again. We used to say: We plan and God laughs. When I get asked what am I going to do tomorrow, what flashes through my mind and sometimes comes out my mouth is that I'm not real sure how today's going to work out. I know people who make elaborate plans for one year, five years and ten years down the road. That's fine, that's great and I whole heartedly support them in that effort. I get that it gives you a sense of direction and that's important too. I'm not telling you I don't make plans, but that's seldom the way that it works out. And that's alright. I'm flexible if nothing else. Cindy and I had plans for retirement that included each other. Cancer changed that! So, I sold the Family Truckster to the Griswolds. Staying a few days in Cayucos each month was paradise to me. Doing it alone was the opposite of that. So I settled into living a day at a time sweet Jesus. I like being open to bending with the breeze. I feel like I'm more open to God's leading.

Now that's not going to work for everyone. If you feel convicted to plan, by all means plan. I'm really just telling you where I am in my world. The younger you are, I can see you need a plan in place. I guess what I'm saying is, don't get so locked into your plan that God doesn't have room to operate and lead you in his path.

Make no mistake I have plans in place as well. My final arrangements are made and paid for. My assets have been divided between the kids and they each have their name on theirs; it will simply become theirs. I've written my eulogy and asked the right person to read it. If someone changes things, I guess I won't object.

Okay, so here I need to use another disclaimer. I'M ONLY TALKING ABOUT MYSELF! I wondered a lot about getting in God's way when Cindy was doing chemo. Were we trying to circumvent God's plan. Was the cancer in God's plan for us? I don't know. What I do know is that chemo treatments are hard on everyone. I haven't been confronted with it, but I'm not sure I would do chemo. If that should ever be presented to me, I'll let you know what I decide.

Birthdays

3-Isaac Orozco Sr.
6-Tommy William Tarlton, Jr
7-Kurt Wolfe
12-Kobe Bell
13-Melissa Tarlton
14-Tomas Perez
17-Nicolas Orozco
18-Laura Wolfe
20-Elijah Terrones
22-Ellen Vike
27-Rich Kahn
28-John Reynolds
29- Pastor Taylor

Wedding Anniversaries

07 Jared & Kailie Allred (9)
13-Betty Moore & Bruce McElhoe (13)
22-Brad & Ericka Gardner (26)

In Celebration of Our Members



Baptismal Birthdays

4-Mike Nielsen
9-Robert Hollenbeck
10-Dan Lindsey
11-Margaret Raven
-Noah Cisneros
14-Marie Salwasser
18- Peter Gutierrez
19- Ellen Nielsen
26-Jon Marthedal

News Notes

Happy Birthday to this month, Kurt Wolfe and John Reynolds turn 79 this year and **Ellen Vike** turns 84. Our very special **Pastor Taylor** has a very special Birthdate! She was born on February 29th! Leap year babies get to pick their celebration date for three years, so let's celebrate on the 26th with her! Everybody come to church and we will celebrate with cake and ice cream after church!

The Immanuel Fellowship Luncheon was great fun on January 26th, There were 21 folks for a scrumptious lunch. Pot Roast with carrots and onions, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked chicken, mixed vegetables, green salad and fresh baked bread with butter was served for lunch followed by chocolate cake with chocolate frosting &/or cheesecake topped with strawberries or cherries. Pastor led devotions and a great time was had by all visiting and enjoying time together.

Please join us for our next **Fellowship Lunch** on **Thursday, February 23rd at noon in the Social Hall**. Please save the date on your calendars for the fourth Thursday of the month for fellowship lunch at the church. Since February will be during lent, we will go with a bit lighter fare but it will be delicious and the company will be wonderful. The most important way you can help is to sign up to come. Once we know who wants to come, then we will know how to plan. Please see the blue bulletin board or talk to Gina or Ericka after church.

Thank You Immanuel,

To Immanuel Lutheran,

I'd like to thank Pastor Taylor and the entire congregation for both the Christmas gift I received as well as your continuous support during my time in the Army. Being stationed in Colorado, I am unable to attend services except during the small amount of the year that I can take leave, but knowing I receive prayers weekly fills me with a bit of extra motivation and energy while I work. Your support makes the long days easier and my service as a whole more fulfilling.

Thank you and have a Merry Christmas, Ryan Freitas

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for allowing my family to have my husband's funeral reception in your hall on 12/17/22. The hall that we've become so comfortable in!

With warm regards, Teresa, NA member.

Dear Men's Bible Study at Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the donation to Habitat for Humanity in Dave's name. He found joy in helping the families in different ways and showing God's love. The Men's Bible Study in Easton was a special place for Dave.

Yours truly, Lori Marler

Sunday School Mornings!

Children's classes resumed after the Pandemic Shut Down! Hooray! Bring your kids to church on Sunday Mornings! In February they will be learning about Samuel, David and Jonah! Kindergarten—5th grades meet in the large room at 9:30am and Preschool kids start at 9:45am in the Preschool Room. Come for old fashion flannel board stories, traditional songs (you can receive a the sound track via email) and craft projects.

Inter-generational classes including confirmation class meet in the large room with Pastor Taylor. This class is learning about the New Testament this Spring. Everyone, please join us this Sunday!

So as you can see, there are a lot of things I don't know about. That shouldn't surprise anyone. However, there is something that I'm positive of. I'm positive because God has told me through the scriptures. I'm certain that God has a plan for me. My plan was put into place long before God created anything. He knew that I would be writing about my journey. He knew that I would say to you that I'm sure of only one thing. That one thing is that God, Jesus and the spirit love me and that they know what's up with me. Even when I don't have a clue. I don't need intricate plans because he already has that worked out. My job is to stay out of his way. I'm glad he's in charge, because I don't want to be. So, what about tomorrow? We'll see tomorrow. For right now, I need to get this typed into an email and sent to Victoria.

Every right decision I've made, I believe, was made by God through the spirit. Every wrong one was probably me winging it.

Again this whole article is about me. I leave it to you to answer, hopefully with God's help, the questions for yourself.

John.

PS. Please know how much I appreciate this opportunity every month to express myself. Find your means to express yourself. I long to hear what you work out. I love you guys.

Ukraine Family Update

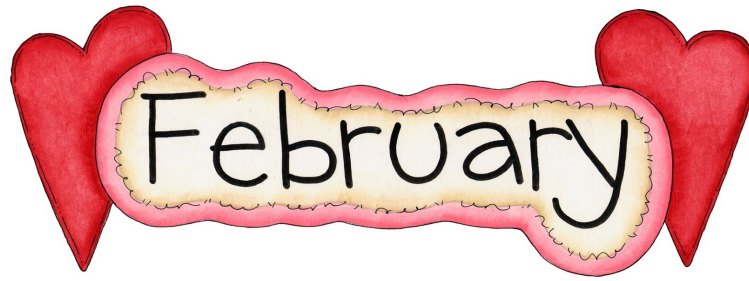
Oleh, Inesa Blokitin and Inesa's brother, Yaroslav, are settled in a house in Kingsburg. Their first month in California was spent living with Susie, Brittney, and Hilary Gardner. The Blotininis and Gardners had a wonderful month together and that friendship will be lasting.

Yaroslav (age 10) is now enrolled in Kingsburg Charter District Home School while he learns English and is awaiting eye surgery. Yaroslav, who has faced many challenges during the past year, is a delight to all who meet him. He focuses on the positives in life and is able to move forward.

Oleh has a job washing dishes in a restaurant for now. Inesa will begin a housecleaning job soon. These jobs give them an income while awaiting for proficiency in English. They are very appreciative to be in California and all the support that they have been given.

Thank you for your continued prayers for this family as they continue to adjust to living in the United States.

Laurel Jacobsen



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>New Church Directories will be printed for Immanuel this month. If your contact information has changed, please call or email the church office as soon as possible!</p>			<p>1</p>	<p>2 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p> <p>700pm St. Olaf Band At Paul Shaghoian Mem. Concert Hall</p>	<p>3 12:00PM Easton Food Distribution</p>	<p>4 9:00AM Central Pacific Mission District Annual Meeting in Santa Nella</p>
<p>5 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Communion</p>	<p>6 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>7 10:00AM Women's Book Study in Library 7:00PM Women's Bible Study in Grace Hall</p>	<p>8 FCA Lunch</p>	<p>9 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 11:00AM Women meet in Social Hall</p>
<p>12 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Communion</p>	<p>13 Valentine's Day 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>14 10:00AM Women's Book Study in Library 7:00PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>15 March Chimes Articles Due FCA Lunch</p>	<p>16 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Communion</p>	<p>20 President's Day 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>21 10:00AM Women's Book Study in Library 6:30PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner</p>	<p>22 FCA Lunch 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>23 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Communion</p>	<p>27 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>28 7:00PM Church Council</p>	<p>March 1 6:30PM Soup Supper Lenten Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 12:00PM Easton Food Distribution</p>	<p>4 Social Hall Reserved by Danish American Historical Society</p>