

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

January 22, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

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Pastor Taylor Stempniak: ptmarie96@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 22, 2023

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

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 the pandemic. Wearing masks indoors is optional. 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 aligned with 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

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Please Stand as you are able

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

My faith looks up to Thee
Thou Lamb of Calvary
Savior divine
Now hear me while I pray
Take all my guilt away
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart
My zeal inspire
As Thou hast died for me
O may my love to Thee
Pure warm and changeless be
A living fire

While life's dark maze I tread
And grief's around me spread
Be Thou my guide
Bid darkness turn to day
Wipe sorrow's tears away
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside

When ends life's transient dream
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll
Blest Saviour then in love
Fear and distrust remove
O bear me safe above
A ransomed soul

Prayer of The Day

Merciful God, your Son proclaimed the nearness of your kingdom, calling others to follow as his disciples. Help us to receive the gift of your grace given through the cross and to follow as his disciples; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading of the Word

The overwhelming imagery of our readings for this Sunday is light and darkness (though in the Epistle we must work out the connection to the metaphors). A light has shone upon those who dwell in darkness. That light is the given Son of God. He is both our light and the power of God for salvation. Those who follow him will now walk in the light, though they dwell in lands of great darkness.

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

1 But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 (Congregation, please read the bold print verses responsively)

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the

cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

⁹Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St Matthew the fourth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Special Music

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Mckenzie Bennetts accompanied by Micah Bennetts on the tambourine.

The Children's Message

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Children are invited up to the altar for the message.

Homily

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

I Love To Tell The Story

I love to tell the story, of unseen things above
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do

Chorus

**I love to tell the story
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old old story
Of Jesus and His love**

I love to tell the story more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams
I love to tell the story it did so much for me
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee **Chorus**

I love to tell the story 'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet
I love to tell the story for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word **Chorus**

I love to tell the story for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new new song
'Twill be the old old story that I have loved so long **Chorus**

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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.

Time for Offering

Offerings and Worship Slips may be placed in the plates as the ushers pass them through the pews. The slips are for you to use to communicate to the staff at Immanuel and for our congregation to keep track of our attendance numbers. Thank you for your help.

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

Leader: 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

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 evening.

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 Canticle

“Thank the Lord”

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
Tell everyone what he has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord
Rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and
Leads his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

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

Have we trials and temptations
Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden
Cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise forsake thee
Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield thee
Thou wilt find a solace there

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Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

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

Postlude

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Announcements & Opportunities to Serve

The February Chimes deadline is Tuesday, January 24th.

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.

Volunteer opportunities for 2023 Sundays: Altar Flowers, Scripture Readers, Fellowship Servers: If you would like to be part of the worship experience at Immanuel on Sundays there are opportunities to place flowers on the altar, or read scriptures during worship or serve refreshments after church, sign up on the sign-up sheets on the blue bulletin board Please call the church office for more information.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be NEXT SUNDAY January 29th following worship. Annual Reports are available this morning, please take one per household. If you have any questions with the report please call the church office tomorrow.

Save the Date: January 26th at 12:00pm for the next Fellowship Luncheon. Please sign up on the blue bulletin board today if you plan to attend on the 26th. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Gina Cogan today.

The next Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood drive will be February 12, from 10:00-12:30! Note the new time! Due to changes and staff shortages the blood center can't get out here earlier than 10:00AM. Our early morning donation times did not seem to attract more donors last year so hopefully this ministry will work better with the later time frame. Please sign up on the blue bulletin board if you plan to donate on February 12th.

Services for Carol Cox will be this Friday, January 27th at 10:00AM at Wallins Funeral Home in Fowler.

Services for Al Hooper will be planned sometime in the Spring.

Daily Devotionals and Offering Envelopes are located under the Gold Bulletin Board in the church entryway. Please help yourself to the devotionals if you would like envelopes and do not see any with your name on them please call the church office and Victoria will have them for you next Sunday.

Children's Sunday School: We had a great kick-off to this semester of Sunday School on January 15. We learned a few things that will enable us to improve this coming Sunday. For preschool-aged kids, we will move our start time forward to 9:45 to give us enough time to complete all the planned activities. The elementary kids will still meet at 9:30. Laurel did a great job leading music for the kids. We have a playlist of the songs we will be doing over the next few weeks. This playlist was sent out through the church email. It will be updated as new songs are added to the kids' repertoire.

Weekly Book Study will move to every Tuesday at 10:00am in the church library. We will be reading "Prayer in the Night" by Tish Harrison Warren. This author is profound; she has a spectacular way of writing that speaks straight to your heart. The cover of the book states that this book is for "Those Who Work or Watch or Weep". We hope all who can will join us on Tuesday morning for discussion. The book is available at local book stores as well as on Amazon.

Monthly Women's Bible Study continues to study The Portraits of Jesus. Women meet the first Tuesday of every month in Grace Hall. Next meeting is February 7th and the discussion is titled: "I am the Good Shepherd" Readings: Ezekiel 34:1-16 and John 10:11-30. If you would like a copy of the discussion questions pick them up on the table under the gold bulletin board today.

Women's Ministry Leaders have all served four years and it is time to refresh the slate. If you are interested in working with women's ministry please let one of the board members know today: Victoria Salwasser, Marcia or Kristi Hollenbeck, Carol Bennetts, Gina Cogan or Kay Jensen. We have opportunities for all areas of ministry. Hurry and let us know you if you are interested, it is close to Valentine's Day and we would like to get started planning a "Galentine's" Event! What ideas for this event sound like fun to you?

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, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Valarie Cooper, Ed Gomez, Donna Kennedy, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Velia Miranda, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Debbie Pilegard, Patti Price, Sharon Reynolds, Kenneth Selzer, Richard Smith, & Keitt Wilson.

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

For people dealing with loneliness and depression. For those battling the illness and the health care providers tending to those in need.

Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	Phone _____
City / State / Zip _____	Email _____
Names / ages of Children living at home _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Time Guest <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Time or Regular Attender <input type="checkbox"/> Member I came as a guest of _____	
Home Congregation _____	

The Flowers on the altar this morning are provided by Kathi Mehrten, Deanna Dunbar, Mike & Elaine Mehrten for glory and honor to God and in memory of their parents Paul & Virginia Mehrten.

This Week at Immanuel

Today:

9:30AM Sunday School for EVERYONE!
10:30AM Worship & Communion
11:30AM Fellowship Time

Monday:

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

Tuesday: February Chimes Deadline!

10:00AM Women's Book Study

Thursday

6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall
12:00PM Fellowship Luncheon

Next Sunday:

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages.
10:30AM Worship & Communion
11:45AM Annual Meeting
12:00PM Fellowship Time

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: John, Victoria and Lee

Scripture Reader: Gina Cogan

Fellowship Server: Mike & Laura Nielsen

Council Lock Up in January: Gina Cogan

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Jim, Victoria & Lee

Scripture Reader: Gina Cogan

Fellowship Servers: Gina & Fred Cogan

Sign up for worship assistant opportunities on the blue bulletin board in church entryway.

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: _____ | |