

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

February 26, 2023



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:

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 26, 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: 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.

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

Lutheran Book of Worship page 479

My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
Oh, 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, oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs 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 Savior, then, in love
Fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Prayer of The Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-8

15The Lord GOD took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16And the Lord GOD commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. 8They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 32 (Congregation, please read the bold print verses responsively)

1Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

6Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

7You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

8I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

9Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

10Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

11Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

The Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

12Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — 13sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. 15But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. 18Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

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

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Lutheran Book of Worship page 482

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the prince of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Presentation of Council Members

P: In Holy Baptism, we are set apart for the mission and ministry of Christ's Church, to serve in our own unique ways, using the talents and gifts that God entrusted to us. As Jesus commissioned his disciples after his resurrection, saying: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

P: The following brothers and sisters in the faith have been approved by this congregation to serve Christ's mission in a capacity of leadership, for the good of the entire faith community. We ask them to come forward as their names are read: **President, Mark Salwasser, Vice President, Kristi**

Hollenbeck, Recording Secretary, Allyson Kahn, Financial Secretary, Sharon Reynolds, Treasurer, Patricia Griffin, Trustees, Daniel Hartwig, & Mike Moser, Deacons: Carol Bennetts, Gina Cogan, Allyson Nielsen, John Jensen, Women's Ministry Vice President: Jackie Caglia

P: Concerning our mutual ministry in Christ and our calling to serve, St. Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians: "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Statement of Intent

P: Will you accept this position of leadership and responsibility within Immanuel Lutheran Church, in submission to the Word of God?

R: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Will you strive to be an example of the Christian faith and life by your daily witness, and by your faithful participation in worship through Word and Sacrament?

R: We will, and We ask God to help and guide us.

P: Will you promote harmony in this faith community, and use your God-given gifts in service to the Lord's mission, by striving to be a faithful disciple of Christ in the position to which you have been called to serve?

R: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Will you, as the people of God, by our Lord's grace and mercy, pray for, uphold and support these brothers and sisters in their positions of leadership in this congregation?

C: **We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things graciously give you the strength and spirit to carry them out.

You are hereby installed as council members in this congregation.

P: Let us pray: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have called these people to serve in leadership roles in the parish, to work together for the mission and ministry of this congregation, and to encourage all the baptized to live faithfully. Bless them and their work by pouring out your Holy Spirit upon them. Give them your holy wisdom, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Confession of Faith

Pastor: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right Hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in One holy, Christian, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 morning.

Communion Music Take My Life, That I May Be

Page 406 in Lutheran Book of Worship

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

All The Way My Savior Leads

All the way my Savior leads me
What have I to ask beside
Can I doubt His tender mercy
Who through life has been my Guide
Heav'nly peace divinest comfort
Here by faith in Him to dwell
For I know whate'er befall me
Jesus doeth all things well

For I know whate'er befall me
Jesus doeth all things well

All the way my Savior leads me
Cheers each winding path I tread
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial
Feeds me with the living bread
Though my weary steps may falter
And my soul athirst may be
Gushing from the Rock before me
Lo a spring of joy I see
Gushing from the Rock before me
Lo a spring of joy I see

All the way my Savior leads me
O the fullness of His love
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above
When my spirit clothed immortal
Wings its flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages
Jesus led me all the way
This my song through endless ages
Jesus led me all the way

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Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God! *Sing:* Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude

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Announcements & Opportunities to Serve

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.

Tech Team Volunteers, please sign up for your favorite months in 2023 to help with sound and technology.

Thank you to all the Blood Donors on Ash Wednesday.

Council members, please pick up your packets in the narthex.

Children's Sunday School: 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 does a great job leading music with the kids.

Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers begin this Wednesday in the Social Hall at 6:30PM. Please sign up to bring a soup to share and if you were born in the months of Jan – Mar you can bring a dessert to share. Volunteers are welcome to help set up and clean up each week.

SAVE THE DATE! March 26th is our All Church Potluck and Polish Day. Pull Pork Sandwiches will be provided by your Council President this year. Please bring a side dish to share and plan to stay after lunch to help polish the altar ware. **Communion at the altar rail will resume on the first Sunday of the month starting on April 2, Palm Sunday.** Volunteers are needed to care for the altar ware each month, setting out and washing up. See the Gold bulletin board to sign up and help.

Please take home one of the Daily Devotionals in the church entryway.

The 2023 Church Directories are available in the church entryway.

Check out the gold wall in the church entryway for places to help at church.

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, Donnie Cathey, Gaye Cissel, Valarie Cooper, Jody Daly, Ed Gomez, Donna Kennedy, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Gloria Payne, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Debbie Pilegard, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, 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 _____ | |

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:

10:00AM Women's Book Study in Library
7:00PM Church Council in Grace Hall

Wednesday

12:25PM FCA Lunch
6:30PM Soup Supper in Social Hall

Thursday

6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall

Saturday

Next Sunday:

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages.
10:30AM Worship & Communion
11:30 AM Fellowship Time

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allyson, John and Lee

Scripture Reader: Mike Nielsen

Fellowship Server: Council celebrating Pastor Taylor's birthday on Tuesday!

Council Lock Up in February: Pat Griffin

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Fred, _____

Scripture Reader: _____

Fellowship Servers: _____

Council Lock up in March:

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.

I want to learn more about faith.

I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes")

I am receiving communion today

I want to speak with the parish nurse

I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor

I have a prayer request: _____

I want to learn more about baptism

I want to become a member of Immanuel

I want a visit from the visitation pastor

I want to speak with the pastor

I have hymn suggestions: _____