

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

March 19, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

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Immanueleaston.com

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Pastor Taylor Stempniak: ptmarie96@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 19, 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

Ring 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.

Opening Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 448

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this

one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsive Reading

Psalm 23

(Congregation, please read the bold print verses responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 5:1-20

1Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. 4Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. 5Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. 7Therefore do not be associated with them. 8For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — 9for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; 13but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you." 15Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, 16making the most of the time, because the days are evil. 17So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, 19as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, 20giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

John 9:1-15

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St John the ninth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

1As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." 13They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

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

Wake Up Oh Sleeper

Rich & Allyson Kahn

by Dave Kreft

Wake up O sleeper and rise from the dead

And Christ will shine on you

Wake up O sleeper and rise from the dead

And Christ will shine on you

Live now a life of love just as Christ loved us

And gave up himself an offering to God

For you were once darkness but now you are light

Live then as children of life and of power

Wake up O sleeper and rise from the dead

And Christ will shine on you

Wake up O sleeper and rise from the dead

And Christ will shine on you

Live not as the unwise be filled with God's spirit

And a heart full of song will be your reward

From death unto life he has called you to praise him

In heavenly reunion to sing evermore

Wake up O sleeper and rise from the dead

And Christ will shine on you

Wake up O sleeper and rise from the dead
And Christ will shine on you

Written by Dave Kreft and Ephesians 5, used by permission from Dave Kreft.

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

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

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 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Page 482 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

Be Thou My Vision

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

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

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

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

Text: Irish, 8th-10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt

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

Prayer Focus this week on: God's love. Psalm 145:8 NIV. The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Choir Practice starts today following worship. Please join us today after church if you would like to sing in the special Easter Choir Performance. If you enjoy singing this group is for you! It's just a three-weeks of practice after church.

Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers are this Wednesday in the Social Hall at 6:30PM. If you would like to bring a pot of soup to share, sign up on the gold bulletin board. If you were born in the months of Oct -Dec, please sign up if you can bring a dessert to share. This year's Lenten offering is going to the **NALC Disaster Relief Fund**, checks should be made payable to Immanuel and memo NALC Disaster Relief.

Fellowship Luncheon is Thursday, March 23rd at 12:00PM in the Social Hall! Invite your friends and sign them up! Bring your friends to lunch at our church and sign up so we know you are coming. Volunteers are welcome to help with the prep and clean up. Call Gina Cogan for more information on how or where you can help.

Next Sunday is our All Church Potluck and Polish Day. Sign up today! 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. We need at least 13 more people on the sign-up sheet. Please join us for the polish day, we had a great time last time we did this on February 6, 2015, it's too much fun to be called work! Also great for stress relief.

Margaret Fletcher is hosting an Easter Card Making Day on Saturday, April 1st at 9:00am. Lunch is provided, just come to her home and enjoy a morning of creativity. Her address is 6036 S. Cherry Ave. Please let her know you are coming at 559-346-9497.

Immanuel will start serving FCA lunches beginning this Wednesday! We would love for you to join our crew supporting this important ministry for Washington Union student athletes. We typically gather at 10:30am and begin preparations we finish between 1:30/2:00 after clean-up. We also like to serve the students homemade chocolate chip cookies, preferably without nuts in case of allergies. Cookies can be marked FCA and placed in the church freezers or delivered by Wednesday mornings. If you are able to supply cookies, please let me know how many you can provide so I'm sure we have enough. We plan for 200-220 per week. Thank you so much! Ericka Gardner (559)859-3327 or email: Blessedmommy74@yahoo.com

April chimes deadline is March 24th at 8:00AM. Please submit all articles to the office by that Friday. If you have exciting news or anything you would like to share with your church family, please let the office know by email, phone call or send it in.

Sign up for Family Camp! June 11th - 18th! Immanuel has a group campground reserved for a week. Bring your shelter and food and camp under the beautiful stars at Logger Flat group campground. Tents and trailers gather together for fun, food and friendship. Enjoy evening meals together and lots of hikes and fishing in the creek. Come when you can and leave when you must. Check in is at 2:00pm and Check out is at 12:00pm

Save the dates! Memorial day weekend! Help decorate Washington Colony Cemetery with beautiful American Flags. On **Saturday, May 27th from 7:30am-9:30am** we will set out the flags and adorned crosses on all the Veterans graves. **The Service Returns!** After the COVID shut down a new committee from the community has formed to provide a Memorial Day Service to remember and honor those who served. **On Memorial Day, May 29th at 10:00AM the service will feature music from each branch of the military, a guest speaker from Lemoore Naval Air Station, Michael G. Stokes and more.** Flag folding and packing begins at 3:00pm that day. If you are willing and able to help, many hands make for light work. Bring a friend. It's a great way to get some exercise and meet new friends too.

We have opportunities to serve for Scripture Readers, Fellowship Servers and Altar Flower providers. If you are willing and able to help please see the Gold Bulletin board and sign your name on the date where you can help.

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, Emmerson Gardner, Ed Gomez, Donna Kennedy, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Gloria Payne, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Debbie Pilegard, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Pastor Dawn Rister, Kenneth Selzer, Richard Smith, & Keitt Wilson.

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
Home Congregation _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Member I came as a guest of _____

This Week at Immanuel

Today:

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

Choir Practice after church!

Monday:

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

Tuesday:

10:00AM Women's Book Study in Library

Wednesday

12:25PM Immanuel serves FCA Lunch
6:30PM Soup Supper in Social Hall
7:00PM Lenten Worship in Sanctuary

Thursday

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

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: Fred, Gina, John

Scripture Reader: Luke Stempniak

Fellowship Server: Carl Jensen in honor of John's Birthday tomorrow & Victoria Salwasser in honor of Pat's birthday tomorrow!

Council Lock Up in March: Mark Salwasser

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Fred, Gina, John

Scripture Reader: _____

Fellowship Servers:

All Church Potluck & Polish Day!

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: _____