

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

April 23, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

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ImmanuelEaston.com

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Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

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. Masks are optional at all indoor gatherings. 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 a member of 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

“I Know My Redeemer Lives”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 352

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.

He lives to grant me rich supply;
he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint;
he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears;
he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart;
he lives all blessings to impart.

Words & Music Public Domain: Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

Please be seated

Prayer of The Day

Living God, in the midst of our doubts and fears you bring your peace and presence through the wounded hands of Christ. Breathe on us the power of your Spirit, increase our faith, and quell our doubts and fears; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Acts 2:14, 36-41

14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

(Congregation, please read the bold print verses responsively)

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

²**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴**Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"**

¹²What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.**

¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

The Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with

the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St Luke the twenty-fourth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that

he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

You may be seated.

The Children's Message

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Children are invited up to the altar with Pastor Taylor.

Homily

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Please stand for the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day

“Ancient Words”

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart O let the ancient words impart
Words of life words of hope give us strength help us cope
In this world where'er we roam ancient words will guide us home

Chorus

**Ancient words ever true
Changing me changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart**

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice O heed the faithful words of Christ ***Chorus***

Martyr's blood stains each page they have died for this faith
Hear them cry through the years heed these words and hold them dear

Chorus

We have come with open hearts O let the ancient words impart
O let the ancient words impart

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Confession of Faith

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

Confession of Faith – *Nicene Creed*

All: 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.

Collection of the Offering

Offerings may be placed in the plate as it is passed along with the worship registration slips found at the back of the bulletin. There is a QR code printed on the back page for those wishing to donate online.

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

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.

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.

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 Hymns

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.

“Lamb of God”

Page 114 in the front section of Lutheran Book of Worship.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. A-men

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Words and music on page 212 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 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.

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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

“A Closer Walk With Thee”

Led by Rich and Allys Kahn

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk let me walk close to Thee

Chorus

**Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it Jesus is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be dear Lord let it be**

Through this world of toil and snares
If I falter Lord who cares
Who with me my burden shares
None but Thee Dear Lord none but Thee *Chorus*

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore to Thy shore *Chorus*

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Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God! Sing: Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude

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Announcements & Opportunities

Prayer Focus this week on life with Christ. Galatians 2:20 NIV. I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave up himself for me.

Sign the sheet today for Immanuel's Fellowship Luncheon this Thursday at noon!

Please sign up today to donate blood next week. The 2023 Russ Dunbar Memorial Sunday Blood Drives are: April 30th, June 25th, August 27th, and November 5th from 8:30AM-12:30PM. There are no appointments needed, but it's helpful to know how many plan to donate. This link is available to sign up online or manually on the gold bulletin board in the church entryway. <https://signup.com/go/ZvnBijE>

Easton May Day Celebration is planned for May 6th. Our church has a few volunteers to host a Mini Country Store & Boutique Booth. More volunteers are needed and we need an inventory to sell so we are looking for donations of craft items and baked goods. Let's meet for a planning meeting next Sunday after church. If you can't make the meeting and still want to help please call the church office if it sounds like fun, booths must be set up by 5:00pm and taken down by 8:00pm. **All proceeds will go towards the Social Hall Remodel.**

Immanuel Library is filled with wonderful books highlighting Easter! Check them out and enjoy!

Immanuel is serving FCA lunches for the next 1 more Wednesday. If you would like to help, make lunches or help donate cookies meet in the social hall at 9:00AM this Wednesday.

The Easton Food Distribution will resume on the first Friday of every month: the next one is May 5th at 12:00PM at the Easton Presbyterian Church. Volunteers are appreciated to help distribute food. Volunteers are asked to wear close toed shoes and bring your own drinking water.

Family Camp at Logger Flat Group Campground in the Sequoia National Forrest is June 11-18th! The campground is near Hume Lake and Immanuel has it rented for the week. Come when you can and leave when you must. Pack up and come for the weekend or pack up for a few days' mid-week or come and stay all week. The choice is yours the venue is beautiful. Bring your food and shelter.

Ladies Day Away on April 29th

Immanuel Women's Ministry is planning a Ladies Day Away from life as we know it and break in the routine! Early birds can meet at Kingsburg Kuppa Joy on Saturday at 9:00 AM for no host refreshments and fun conversation prior to:

A Miniature & Succulent Garden Party

We will gather at 10:00 AM at across from Kuppa Joy at

"For the Birds Garden Gifts" located in the Village Mall, at 1332 Draper Street in Kingsburg.

Bring your own planter* and create a garden! Select from a variety of:

- Succulents \$2 to \$4 each (filtered/partial or full sun varieties)
- Miniatures from 25 cents to \$8
- Potting mix, decorative butterflies, birds, stones, glass/acrylic gems, sand, gravel, moss, etc. \$2 for all these items

* If you don't have a container, planters will be available for purchase. A 6-inch planter holds approx. 4 plants or miniature items.

Please kindly let us know how many will be attending by responding so very promptly by April 26th, to the church office at 237-7909. The gift shop will have the studio all set up for our group. Invite you friends, this is a great outreach event! Come for a relaxing day of creativity!

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by Mike & Laura Nielsen for glory and honor to God and in celebration of Marilyn's birthday.

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, Connor Mannix, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

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

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Donnie Cathey, Gaye Cissel, Valarie Cooper, Jody Daly, Demant Family, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy Diane & Darel Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Gloria Payne, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Debbie Pilegard, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Kenneth Selzer, Richard Smith, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

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

Date _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Names / ages of Children living at home _____

1st Time Guest 2nd Time or Regular Attender Member I came as a guest of _____

Home Congregation _____

This Week at Immanuel

Today:

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30AM Worship & Communion

11:45AM Fellowship Time

Monday:

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

Tuesday:

10:00AM Women's Prayer Group

Wednesday

1:00PM FCA Lunch for WUHS Students

Thursday

6:00AM Men's Bible Study

Saturday

9:00AM Women's day at Kingsburg Kuppa Joy

10:00AM Women's Garden Party

Next Sunday: Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30AM Worship & Communion

11:30AM Fellowship Outside

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: John, Allyson & Lee

Scripture Reader: Mike Nielsen

Fellowship Servers: Gardner, Hollenbeck & Nielsen families in celebration of their mother, Marilyn's, birthday!

Council Lock Up in April: Jackie Caglia

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: John, Allyson & Lee

Scripture Reader: Terry Gardner

Fellowship Servers: Reynolds & Bennetts



Scan our QR code for links to our website, subscription, and online giving!

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 have hymn suggestions: _____

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