

# *Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church*

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

*Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888*

*August 27, 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](mailto:ptmarie96@gmail.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 and they recommend that wearing a mask at all indoor gatherings 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 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

**Ring the Bell** *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**

**“Count Your Blessings”**

When upon life's billows  
You are tempest tossed  
When you are discouraged  
Thinking all is lost  
Count your many blessings  
Name them one by one  
And it will surprise you  
What the Lord hath done

***Chorus***

**Count your blessings  
Name them one by one  
Count your blessings  
See what God hath done  
Count your blessings  
Name them one by one  
Count your many blessings  
See what God hath done**

Are you ever burdened  
With a load of care

Does the cross seem heavy  
You are called to bear  
Count your many blessings  
Every doubt will fly  
And you will be singing  
As the days go by ***Chorus***

When you look at others  
With their lands and gold  
Think that Christ has promised  
You His wealth untold  
Count your many blessings  
Money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven  
Nor your home on high ***Chorus***

So amid the conflict  
Whether great or small  
Do not be discouraged  
God is over all  
Count your many blessings  
Angels will attend  
Help and comfort give you  
To your journey's end ***Chorus***

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**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

## **Prayer of The Day**

O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Please be seated*

## **Reading of the Word**

### **The First Reading**

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

1Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. 3For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. 4Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. 5I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. 6Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 138**

<sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup>**I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

<sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

<sup>4</sup>**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

## **The Second Reading**

## **Romans 12:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For

as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function,<sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.<sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;<sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;<sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

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

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: 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      “God Will Take Care Of You”**

Be not dismayed whate'er betide  
God will take care of you  
Beneath His wings of love abide  
God will take care of you

**Chorus**

**God will take care of you  
Through every day o'er all the way  
He will take care of you  
God will take care of you**

Through days of toil when heart doth fail  
God will take care of you  
When dangers fierce your path assail  
God will take care of you **Chorus**

All you may need He will provide  
God will take care of you  
Nothing you ask will be denied  
God will take care of you **Chorus**

No matter what may be the test  
God will take care of you  
Lean weary one upon His breast  
God will take care of you **Chorus**

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P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **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.**

Pastor: Peace be with you

**All: And also with you**

Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another.

*Please be seated*

## Offering

*Offerings may be placed in the plate as it is passed along with the worship registration slip from the back of the bulletin. There is a QR Code printed on the back of the bulletin for those wishing to donate online through our website.*

## Special Music During Offering

### He's Always There

Oftentimes I wonder  
How it is that He could love Me  
Like He loves me, despite that way I am  
On the days when I'm so selfish  
So full of pride that I can't even start  
To begin to understand

I try so hard to please Him  
But I fail, yet He opens up His arms to me  
To come in and rest my soul  
Yes, I know that I'm forgiven  
What a joyous feeling to know  
That my Savior loves me everywhere I go

And that He's always there  
He won't ever let me go  
Just when I'm sure I'm alone  
His love is there to show me  
That He always cares  
The trials of life are there to grow  
He'll give no more than I can bear

Yes, I know He's always there

Listen all you lost and lonely  
There's a God who cares about you  
More than you can ever comprehend  
He knows where it is you're coming from  
And where it is that you're going  
No matter where you look  
You'll never find a dearer friend

Because He's always there  
He won't ever let you go  
Just when you're sure you're alone  
His love is there to show you  
That He always cares  
The trials of life are there to grow  
He'll give no more than You can bear  
Yes, you know He's always there

*Performed and streamed with permission by the songwriter Bruce Carroll  
On August 1, 2023*

## Offertory Response “Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful”

*Front section page 86 in Lutheran Book of Worship*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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## 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**

*Please repeat the names of those we pray for this week.*

## **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 and 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 Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy 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 Thine 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 Hymns

### **“Lamb of God”**

*Page 92 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, grant us peace.

### **“In The Garden”**

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses

*Chorus*

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;**

**And the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known**

He speaks and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing *Chorus*

I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Tho' the night around me be falling  
But He bids me go thro' the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling *Chorus*

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## **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

### “I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away  
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away

#### *Chorus*

**I'll fly away O glory I'll fly away  
When I die hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away**

When the shadows of this life have grown, I'll fly away  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away *Chorus*

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away  
To a land where joys shall never end  
I'll fly away *Chorus*

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## Dismissal

*P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!*

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

## Postlude

Laurel Jacobsen

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# ***Announcements***

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**Prayer focus this week on** God's love for us. Deuteronomy 7:9 NIV. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

**Women's Bible Study will meet this Tuesday morning.** Join Pastor Taylor for a Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study on the book of Hebrews from 10:00-11:00AM in the church library. The weekly readings for our next meeting on August 29th will be on: Hebrews 11, Genesis 5:21-24, Revelation 7:9-17.

**Thank you to all the blood donors today!** Please stay for lunch after church today!

**There will be a Fair Board Food Booth meeting at 6:30p.m. this Thursday at the Caruthers Fair Grounds** for all the food booths we will review food safety procedures and discuss the management of the non-profit food booths. If you would like to attend please call Victoria at 559-285-5181.

**The Easton Food Distribution is this Friday; volunteers are appreciated from 12:00-2:00PM.** Please meet under the shade at Easton Presbyterian Church and wear close toed shoes and bring your own bottled water.

**Assistance is needed with the service in September.** If you would like Facebook, computers and microphones please call the church office. Fellowship servers and altar flowers are needed next Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the gold bulletin board.

**Prayers for 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, & Kenneth Selzer, Bonnie Terkelsen.

**Those in need of pain relief & healing:** Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Don Cathey, Gaye Cissel, Margaret Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Jan Kersgaard, Kay Jensen, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Gloria Payne, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Sharon Reynolds, Richard Smith, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

**For those morning the loss of loved ones:** The family of Murray Cline McCann, Larry Pedersen, and Valarie Cooper.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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  
11:30AM Lunch in the Social Hall!

### **Monday:**

7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

### **Tuesday**

10:00AM Women's Bible Study in Library

### **Wednesday**

12:25PM FCA Lunch

### **Thursday**

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

### **Friday**

12:00 PM Easton Food Distribution

### **Next Sunday:**

9:30AM Sunday School in Grace Hall  
10:30AM Worship & Communion  
11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside

### **Worship Assistants This Week:**

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen,

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** Fred & Gina & Lee

**Scripture Reader:** Terry Gardner

**Fellowship Servers:** Lunch in Hall- Come and Eat!

**Council Lock Up for August:** Carol Bennetts

### **Worship Assistants Next Week:**

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** Allys Kahn, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture Reader:** Gina Cogan

**Altar Ware:** Jackie Caglia & Family

**Fellowship Servers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Lock Up for September:** Gina Cogan

*Sign up to volunteer for scripture reading, altar flowers and fellowship service on the blue bulletin board.*



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.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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: _____                          |  |