

WELCOME TO IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF
JESUS CHRIST SINCE 1888

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.
Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706
Office: (559)237-7909
ImmanuelEaston.com
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Pastor Taylor Stempniak: ptmarie96@gmail.com

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

Wake Up O Sleeper

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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of The Day

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please be seated

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

4From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." 6Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a

poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 98:1-5

1O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

2The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

3He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

4Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

5Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38

1Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

34When he killed them, they sought for him; they repented and sought God earnestly.

35They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.

36But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.

37Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not true to his covenant.

38Yet he, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them; often he restrained his anger, and did not stir up all his wrath.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

John 3:13-17

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint John the third chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

3No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.16For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.17Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

“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 Words & Music Public Domain

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 passes 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.

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.

“Leaning On The Everlasting Arms”

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 Cantic

“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

“Lift High The Cross”

Lutheran Book of Worship 377

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

All newborn servants of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
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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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Prayer focus this week on praising God. Psalms 26:13 NIV. My feet stand on level ground; in the great congregation I will praise the LORD.

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by Marie Salwasser for glory and honor to God and in memory of her mother, Lillian Fritz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Women's Tuesday morning Bible study** will resume on October 3rd.
- **Assistance is sometimes needed with the service on Sunday mornings.** If you like Facebook, computers and microphones please call the church office. Fellowship servers and altar flowers are needed next Sunday and October 1st. Sign-up sheets are on the gold bulletin board. The Volunteer board has plenty of opportunities for this year!
- **Services for Diane Mehrten** will be at Immanuel on **October 7th** at 11:00am.
- **Would you like to help with Immanuel's food booth at the Caruthers Fair?** If so, check out the sign up table after church today! If you can't work the specific shift, please sign up in the time frame and jot down the hours you will be there.
- **Save the Dates for Family Camp 2024: June 7-14th** at Logger's Flat Group Campground near Hume Lake!

- **Easton Community Men’s Bible Study meet in the Social Hall every Thursday morning at 6:00AM** for breakfast and discussion about Bible verses. Phil Tews invites all men to join them for breakfast! Bring a friend.
- **Easton Community Water Meeting from 6:30-8:00PM on Tuesday October 3rd in the Social Hall.** The meeting is hosted by Self Help Enterprises. The goal for this meeting is to get a better understanding of what the people of Easton want from their water. Everyone is invited to the meeting.
- **See the back page of the September Chimes** for the entertainment schedule for the Caruthers Fair. We hope all that are able can come support our booth and enjoy the entertainment at the fair.
- **“Thank You” cookies needed for JD Foods.** We traditionally take JD Foods trays of fresh baked cookies as a thank you for donating the use of their refrigerated trailer to our church for our fair booth. **Please help us thank them by donating cookies to this ministry next Sunday, September 24th.** Volunteers are needed to plate large trays, and cover the cookies for delivery on Monday morning. **Please sign up on the sheet so we can count on your help. The more cookies we have, the better, it’s a big company and their employees have to work harder with one trailer down at the fair all week.**
- **The Chimes Deadline for October will be tomorrow morning!** Please email your submissions for the chimes to office@immanueleaston.com no later than 8:30am. Thank you for your help with this. **If you would like to help assemble the Chimes please meet in the church office on Wednesday, September 20th at 2:00PM.**

- **Margaret Fletcher has been sewing aprons while she was home sick.** She has donated the aprons to Immanuel. As a way to raise funds for the social hall, please pick the aprons of your choice in the narthex and leave a donation for the social hall remodel. If you would like to write a check please make it out to Immanuel and memo Aprons for Social Hall. Thank you to Margaret for using her talents and gifts to help us beautify the Social Hall! **The aprons will be great to wear at the fair food booth!**
- **Volunteers are needed this Saturday at 8:00am to help move supplies from the church to the fair, hang signs and chords.** If you are strong and good on ladders you are the people we need. Please meet us at 8:00am at the church to load up and head out to the fair to unload.
- **SWEET TREAT ON ELM STREET!** See Kaylee Hollenbeck today for more information and ideas for tables at Immanuel's annual Sweet Treat on Elm Street on October 29th from 3:00-5:00PM.
- **Thank you to all the women** who attended the paint day yesterday! Save the date for the next Women's Ministry Event on October 21st for a group field trip to Fresno's historic Forestiere Underground Gardens.

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: Gordon Bennetts, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Don Cathey, Gaye Cissel, Margaret Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Jan Kersgaard, Kay Jensen, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Darel Mehrten, Marie Meneses, Marcus Miranda, Gloria Payne, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, John Reynolds, Rebecca Stempniak, Pastor Taylor Stempniak & Keitt Wilson.

For those morning the loss of loved ones:
The family of Diane Mehrten.

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 Fellowship Time Outside

Monday: October Chimes Deadline

7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

Wednesday

12:25PM FCA Lunch
2:00PM Chimes Assembly in Church office

Thursday

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

Saturday

8:00AM Move supplies from church to fair

Next Sunday:

No Sunday School
10:30AM Worship
11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside
12:00PM Cookie Plating for JD Foods

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen,
Greeters: All of Immanuel
Sound & Technology: Lee, Betty, Allys, Fred
Scripture Reader: Gina Cogan
Fellowship Servers: Marie & Mark Salwasser
Council Lock Up for September: Gina Cogan

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland
Greeters: All of Immanuel
Sound & Technology: Allys, Betty, John
Scripture Reader: Gina Cogan
Fellowship Servers: _____

*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,
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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: _____ | |