

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

October 29, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

Office: (559)237-7909

ImmanuelEaston.com

office@immanueleaston.com

Pastor Taylor Stempniak: ptmarie96@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

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

Ringing 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 “A Mighty Fortress Is My Lord”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 229

A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of The Day

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please be seated

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Responsive Reading

Psalms 46

Please read the bold print verses responsively.

1God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

3though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

5God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

6The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

7The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

8Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

9He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

10"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

11The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

19Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in

Jesus.²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

John 8:31-36

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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

Stephanie Hollenbeck

Please stand for the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day

“Build Your Kingdom Here ”

Praise Band

Come set your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made

Come set our hearts ablaze in full
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now

We are Your church
We need Your power In us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause

We are the church,
We need your power
This earth!

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land

Set Your church on fire

Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray!

Unleash Your kingdom's power

Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts

You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ

We are the church
We are the hope
On earth!

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray!

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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 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.

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

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 “The Church Is One Foundation”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 369

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900 Words & Music Public Domain

Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

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

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Announcements

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by Jackie Caglia for glory and honor to God and in memory of her grandparents.

Prayer focus this week on trusting God. Nahum 1:7 NIV. The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.

This Saturday Pastor Taylor will be the guest speaker for Easton Presbyterian's 'Tea With Taylor' event in their family center at 9:30AM. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased today from Victoria or you may make reservations today and pay on Saturday at the door.

Immanuel is hosting a Country Store this Saturday and Sunday from 11:30am—1:30pm. If you would like to donate items to be sold at the Country Store, please get them to Laura Nielsen in the Social Hall before the tea on Saturday and before church on Sunday. All profits will go towards the Social Hall Renovation. There are lots of quilts and crafts to see. Come and have fun!

Sign up for the Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive next Sunday at Immanuel using this QR code! Pick your time between 8:30am-12:00pm



For the month of October, Immanuel will be collecting coats for the Fresno Mission. Please place your clean, in good condition, or new coat in the box located in the church entryway. The Fresno Mission is collaborating with the Central California Food Bank to offer a warm meal to families in need.

Apron fundraiser for the Social Hall! Margaret Fletcher has been busy sewing aprons to help us raise money for our Social Hall Renovation project! The adorable aprons are hanging in the church entryway on the coat rack. Spruce up your attire while cooking and baking this holiday season and choose a favorite. Please leave a donation for the hall in the offering plate, please mark donations: Aprons for the Hall.

Women's Bible Study will meet this Tuesday morning at the new time of 9:00AM. Join Pastor Taylor for a study about the Lord's Prayer & Christian Life. We have an extra book available in the church office, see Victoria.

Men's Bible Study gathers from 6:00-7:00AM on Thursday mornings in the Social Hall. All men are welcome and each first time attendee receives a new Bible. Invite your friends for breakfast and a quick hour of study.

Immanuel will begin serving FCA lunches on Wednesday, November 29th. Please contact Ericka Gardner if you would like to help with this ministry.

Tech Support needed for the month of November. If you would like to volunteer to help with the sound and streaming part of Immanuel's worship, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Fellowship Servers needed in November. Please see the bulletin board in the church entryway if you would be willing and able to serve refreshments after church.

Easton Food Distribution is this Friday at 12:00PM under the covered area at Easton Presbyterian Church. Volunteers are asked to wear close toed shoes and bring your own water for hydration. Immanuel hosts the distribution under the shaded area at Easton Pres.

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: Carol Bennetts, Gordon Bennetts, Joy Bratton, Sophie Brewer, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Steve Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Marcus Miranda, Betty Moore, Gloria Payne, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Janice Robinson, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

For those morning the loss of loved ones: The families of Diane Mehrten & Donnie Cathey.

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 _____ 1st

Names / ages of Children living at home _____

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
3:00-5:00 Sweet Treat on Elm Street!

Monday:

7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

Tuesday

9:00AM Women's Bible Study in Library

Wednesday

12:25PM FCA Lunch for WUHS students

Thursday

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

Friday

12:00PM Easton Food Distribution

Saturday

11:30AM Country Store in Social Hall

Next Sunday:

8:30 AM Russ Dunbar Mem. Blood Drive

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 & Allys

Scripture Reader: Mike Nielsen

Fellowship Servers: Laurel & Randy

Council Lock Up for October: Allys Kahn

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys, _____, _____

Scripture Reader: Mike Nielsen

Altar Ware: Fred & Gina Cogan

Fellowship Servers: _____

Council Lock Up for Nov.: Kristi Hollenbeck



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