

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**5955 South Elm Avenue**  
**Fresno, California 93706**



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*Return Service Requested*



# The Immanuel Chimes

## October 2023

### Early Edition

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
A mission of the North American Lutheran Church  
5955 South Elm Avenue  
Fresno (Easton), California 93706  
Church (559) 237-7909

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Read this newsletter online at: [www.immanueleaston.com](http://www.immanueleaston.com)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christian Education in Grace Hall At 9:30AM  
Worship in Sanctuary At 10:30AM  
Communion served every Sunday

**Come to our Caruthers Fair Food Booth**  
**Sept 27- 30, on the Corner of Raider and Superior**  
**in Caruthers, just inside the main entrance and across**  
**from the main stage! Support Immanuel's efforts to**  
**raise money for the Fresno Mission!**  
**See the fair entertainment schedule on the back page!**

**Sweet Treat on Elm Street At Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Host or Sponsor a table of fun in front of Immanuel!**

**Sunday October 29th from 3:00-5:00PM**  
**Get into the Halloween Spirit**  
**with a trunk-or-treating style event!**  
**Costumes, candy booths, and yard games**  
**for the community kids!**  
**This event is open to all ages, so please bring a friend!**



## The Fun in Funerals

“Alright, who wants to die!” I immediately raised my hand. This is as good of a summation of my seminary experience as you’re likely to find.

We were going over occasional services in my liturgy class. So far, we had practiced baptism on a teddy bear and a married couple in my class had received a free, impromptu vow renewal. Now, we needed a dead body for a funeral, and I was ready to volunteer. Dr. Schiffrin, my liturgy professor, had me walk to the back of the church, where I stood in the entrance, a very mobile “corpse” flanked by my “pall bearers.”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.” My friend Colin proclaimed hands spread apart as a dutiful priest would. “Thanks be to God,” my classmates replied. “I’m really relieved about my untimely demise,” I whispered as we walked down the aisle. “I was stressed about the Greek exam.”

One of my pallbearers rolled his eyes, which I felt is rude. People should laugh at your jokes at your own funeral. That should be a rule. This was fun and games as Dr. Schiffrin had me lay down at the front of the nave before the little steps. I crossed my arms over my chest as she began to explain the pall. I think many people assume “pall bearer” means “coffin carry-er” or something akin to that, but a pall is actually a white cloth that is used to cover the casket. For centuries that was the practice. Flowers, flags, and pictures were all saved for the visitation or the graveside. In the sanctuary the casket was just adorned with a plain white cloth. It’s a representation of the baptismal cloth. It was placed on every casket when it arrived before the altar, as a reminder that every single person, rich or poor, man or woman, pastor or laity, is the same as they laid before the Lord. We only have one hope and one redeemer in this moment.

As the body is covered with the pall, the pastor reads a promise, “When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

My classmates pantomimed covering me with a white sheet as Colin reaffirmed this baptismal promise for me, and this silly little exercise stopped being so silly. Here I am, laying flat on my back, probably wearing a Hawaiian shirt, in the middle of a church, and my breath is catching in my throat as a fake pall settles on my face.

We talk a lot about how funerals are for “the living,” and that’s true. We gather together to grieve and hold each other. We tell stories about those we

## Caruthers Fair Entertainment

It’s game time folks, it’s Immanuel’s the 20th year! All hands on deck, we can do this, YES WE CAN! It’s quite the adventure, the last week in September, let’s make it fun for everyone. Many hands make for light work, it’s a change of scenery and a way to break out of everyday norm for a new way to serve and share God’s love. Think of all the help the mission can offer with the work that they do from the fruits of our labor. Please PRAY for this project! Be sure to listen to for our radio advertisements on The Legend, 105.5 FM radio station from September 26-30 for 5 spots each day complementary advertising from One Putt Broadcasting for our contributions to the Fresno Mission!

### Entertainment Schedule

#### Main Stage Across from Immanuel

**Wednesday, September 27**

6:30 pm – Coronation

**Thursday, September 28**

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Fred McCarty

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Boomers

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Jeremy “Elvis” Pierce

**Friday, September 29**

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – The Last Chance Band

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Dakota Crossing

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM – Country Rewind

**Saturday, September 30**

12:15 PM -1:00 PM – We Got The Beat

5:00-6:00PM –Happy Times Jazz

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Fresno Community Band

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM – Revival Tribute Band

Fortunate Son-Creedence Clearwater

#### Back Stage by the Barn

**Wednesday, September 27**

No Entertainment

**Thursday, September 28**

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – John Pemberton

8:00 PM – 9:30 PM – Richie Blue

**Friday, September 29**

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Auberry Road

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM – Q-Pop

**Saturday, September 30**

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Wishes for Fishes

8:00 PM – 9:30 PM – John Pemberton

# Car Show Enthusiasts

The Veterans are going to host another Car Show! Their first one since 2019, they are very excited to invite everyone to their Veteran Appreciation Car Show at the Fresno VA Grounds on **Saturday, October 14th 2023!**

Veterans and Non-Veterans alike are invited to register vehicles along with **proof of insurance by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023** under the following categories:

- **CLASSIC**
- **MODERN**
- **MODIFIED**
- **MOTORCYCLE**

**To register please pick up a registration form on the blue bulletin board in the church entryway.**

Registration forms can be submitted through email to: [V21FRECarShow@va.gov](mailto:V21FRECarShow@va.gov) or by walking in to CDCE office located at: VA Fresno CDCE Office, 2615 E Clinton Ave., Building 24, Room A124, Fresno, CA 93703. Enter in the first set of double doors from main build into breezeway next to stairs.

**Vendors are welcome!!** Vendors may not sell items, but the distribution of resources that might assist our Veterans is welcome! Registration forms are available on the blue bulletin board in the church entryway.

## VA VETERAN APPRECIATION CAR SHOW

VA Fresno CDCE Office

2615 E Clinton Ave

Fresno, CA 93703

Event start time: 9:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremony: 10:00 a.m.

Door Prizes: 11:30 a.m.

Awards Ceremony 12:00 p.m.

Event End time: 1:30 p.m.

Event space: Fresno V.A. grounds/parking lot and front entrance areas.

Lunch will be provided

For more information call 559-228-5364

mourn and we laugh and sing songs. We do these rituals to provide comfort, but as Christians funerals are so much more than a chance to remember someone who means a lot to us. Funerals are a chance to worship a living God who shows up in the midst of grief to comfort those who cry out for him. Funerals are a chance for us to hear once more the promises God made to Abraham and David and Peter and Paul and to you and to me. As Christians, we should know that when we say that funerals are for the living, we do not just mean those mourners in the pews, but those saints who we cover softly with palls and commend to the hands of the Lord.

It's a beautiful thing to hear about the new life we are promised in Christ as you lay in your grave. I remember thinking, as Colin went on with my funeral service and the class discussed appropriate hymns and readings, that every Christian should have this opportunity. Then I was giggling as I realized that part of what we believe is that every Christian will in fact be given exactly that—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Death will be swallowed up in victory, drowned in the waters of baptism, covered by the faultless pall of Christ. I can't earn that. Not by passing my Greek exams or making my pall-bearers laugh or through works of righteousness. Neither can I squander it through sin or snide remarks or carelessness. This is the promise we are given as those who were dead in sin, but made alive in the righteousness of Christ. This is the promise we are given as those who were dead in the grave, but pulled into the new life of the resurrection by the pierced hands of our savior.

“Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Taylor. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.”

Colin read the commendation of the dead, his hand hovering over me, dead in sin. Then he offered me a hand and pulled me up out of my grave. This is as good of a summation of what the church is meant to be as any you are likely to find, and I returned to the pews, risen from the dead and entrusted to God. My baptism and the new life in Christ that exists there had been affirmed in a service that the world tells us is for death and decay, but for you, my friends, I want you to know that you are the living saints. It's a service of renewal and life.

If you've got a loved one nearby, pull them aside to have them place a hand on your forehead and pray the commendation for you and return the favor for them. If not, place a hand on your heart and entrust yourself to the Lord.

*Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, [name]. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive [him/her] into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.*

Blessings to y'all,  
Pastor Taylor

# Journey

John laments:

All mighty God, it's time we had a talk. I really didn't want it to come to this but...So here's the deal, you've just been taking too many of the people I love and care about. So first of all, you need to stop. You've taken so many lately and they were all great people, top of the heap. Some of these people I've looked up to and depended on to guide me through the maze that is my life. I know I'm not supposed to question your choices, but to be honest, I can't help but wonder why. People that I wanted to spend time with and learn from. People who still had things to teach me and you know I still have a lot to learn. People who brought balance to my life. People I was watching and that I was saying, oh that's the way to go about that particular thing. And I know that there is still a lot of people around for me to encounter. You also know me well enough that I don't easily mesh with everyone, that takes time. It would be a lot easier if you just left those that are still here alone. I know that those that are gone were good people and deserved their reward. To be blunt, this is really about me and what I want. So I'm asking you ever so respectfully to just take a few minutes and review who you may be calling next. Check with me before you take any more in my orbit. If you need a list of those that I might be okay with you taking, just ask, I'll email you the list. So, what have you got to say for yourself? I await your response. What's that, you already have a response?

God responds;

Who do you think you are John Jensen? Certainly you weren't listening in church this morning. Pastor Taylor told you over and over again that I am God and you are not! I can only imagine what things would look like if you were in charge. Look at all the things you have already come up short on in your life.

My time is my time. My plan reaches from eternity. I knew who I would take unto me and when, long before I made order out of the chaos. If you paid closer attention you'd see how I have woven not only your life but all lives so that no matter how many stitches you drop, I've got many more to pick up and continue this patchwork. I am God and you are not, accept that and you will be much better off.

I'm sorry you miss those loved ones. That's nice to hear. You're right, they were good people, very good people. They were people who acknowledged that I am God and they were not. Frankly they didn't question my path. Look, I know you mean well, even in your selfishness. But you need to trust me completely. I'm sorry you miss your people; it tells me that you really loved them. Love after all covers a multitude of your shortcomings. Here's what you need to realize. I didn't leave you all alone. You are sur-

Thanks to God and these folks for expanding our circle. Most importantly, please continue to pray!

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank You! You hear our prayers and in Your good timing bring answers to bless Your plans!*

*Help us to be patient as we move forward, and to act when You give us opportunities. Open a time for our two churches to meet together for prayer and thank You for every individual prayer we offer.*

*Keep us hopeful and reminded to pray for Your Spirit to move in the hearts of young people! Bless the workers from Young Life and bring together the friends You are calling and equipping to serve You here in Easton. Amen*

Not long after that was sent out we received another email from Janet Flores with more information moving towards the hopes and possibilities of Young Life coming to Easton:

God is moving us forward!

With a minimum of four adults, we can begin training with Young Life to give us tools to engage in meaningful conversations with our WU students. We have the perfect opportunity with so many kids at the FCA lunches each Wednesday. Fresno State has a dynamic YL group on their campus, and there is the possibility that several of them could come to work with us in this outreach. Please continue praying for God to inspire a combined group from our two churches to commit to this ministry. May we be dedicated to being present consistently for this training opportunity to prepare us in our hope to be open and friendly to our community's youth.

*Dear Lord God, direct our hearts and energize those You are calling to this ministry. Help us to reach our high school students with Your love, for Your glory. Amen*

As we continue to work towards our hopes of bringing a Christian Organization to Easton for our high school students please continue to pray and listen to God speak to you, are you encouraged to share God's word with the youth in our Easton Community? For more information about the Young Life program go to: [YoungLife.com](http://YoungLife.com).

# Immanuel Youth

## NALC Youth Convention 2024

Save the date for the NALC Continental Youth Gathering on July 1-4, 2024 in Boerne, Texas! This is for youth ages 12-18, leaders in training ages 19-24 and team leaders ages 25 and up. This four-day gathering provides opportunities for NALC youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the body of Christ. Youth will worship together, study God's Word, participate in large and small sessions, reach out to the community through mission events and engage in fellowship and fun!

## Young Life Youth in Easton

Earlier this summer, Janet Flores, a member of Easton Presbyterian Church, called our church office in hopes to start a prayer meeting for our two congregations who have had hopes to bring/start a Young Life organization in the community of Easton. With the business of summer for our congregations and Pastors she decided to start prayer requests through the email prayer chain.

The first prayer request sent out was:

*Dear God our Father,  
We praise You for the love You give so freely!  
Please lead us as we seek to communicate Your love to the young people in our community. Give us wisdom as we begin to bring Young Life to Easton. We ask for receptive hearts among the youth. Please continue to raise up enthusiastic volunteers and energize those You call to this outreach.  
Thank You for Your guidance, we love You Lord. Amen*

Soon after we sent that email out another prayer request was received and sent out from Janet Flores through our email prayer list:

Praise God, we have an early response to our prayers! Spencer Boulter has reached out to us. He's the Associate Regional Director of Young Life for Fresno and the surrounding areas and that includes Easton! In addition, Jon Spearman, another Young Life associate, focusing on Fresno High, was at the Washington Union/Fresno High game one night, making connections with students. Jon is the husband of the Easton Presbyterian Church administrative assistant, MariAnne.

rounded by people who love and care for you. And I'm first among that group. You're going to have to adjust. Embrace those who are still with you, just like you needed to adjust to the void of those departed.

Here's your biggest stumbling block, John. You are not the only sheep in the flock. Don't worry so much about yourself, I've got you! You are not alone and you never have been. I am with you, always. I'll push you when you need pushing. I'll pull you when you need pulling. I'll walk with you always. Look up and look around, I am there. I've always been there even when you didn't think you needed me. That just makes me laugh to even say that.

So just relax and focus on the what matters. Being in worship, reading the scriptures, Bible studies and especially don't neglect your prayers. Praying is when I can communicate with you best.

So, what have you got to say now?

John response:

Okay, I'm sorry. I got a little full of myself. You are God and I am not. You always have the best ideas for me. Thanks for not being mad at me. I appreciate that. I'm glad we had this talk. I'd still like to ask you, please, slow down on the exist calls.

Thanks,  
John.

## Prayer Focus This Month

Week of 10-2-2023. Focus on trusting God. Proverbs 3:5,6 NIV. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean on him not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, he will make your paths straight.

Week of 10-9-2023. Focus on trusting God. Psalms 112:7 NIV. They have no fear of bad news, their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

Week of 10-16-2023. Focus on trusting God. Psalms 84:12 NIV. LORD almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Week of 10-23-2023. Focus on trusting God. Jeremiah 17:7 NIV. But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who's confidence is in him.

Week of 10-30-2023. Focus 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.

# Immanuel Convocation 2023

Hello Immanuel,

We had the chance to represent Immanuel Lutheran at the gathering of the North American Lutheran Church. Stephanie was the delegate so she was responsible for voting on various issues. Kristi was able to go as the representative to the Women's event and as support for Stephanie.

## **Women of the North American Lutheran Church**

This was my second time attending the women's conference. It is really a beautiful thing to worship with women from across the nation. This day-long conference is half business for the group and half spiritual development. We voted to fill 3 seats on the board of the WNALC. This board doesn't have any representatives from our side of the country, so if you would like to get involved with Women's Ministry at the national level let me or Pastor know as we would love to get you in touch with the right people. The other issue we had to vote on was a constitutional change. All this change did was make it so our constitution called for meetings in line with what the whole NALC is doing. So, if we are meeting every other year for convocation then that's how often the women will meet. The last business issue they asked us to consider is they would like a female representative for our mission district. This person would be the point person in connecting the churches in our district with the hopes of having district-wide events. They would also be who the board would call when they wanted to know what's happening in our area and would be able to ask the board for any ideas or resources needed. If this is something that you are interested in, again please let me or Pastor know. On the spiritual development side, the most impactful part was the potter they had come in and talk to us. She sat up front spinning a pot on her wheel and explained to us how what she was doing was related to what God does in our lives. The biggest takeaway for me was sometimes we are happy being a lump of clay on God's wheel but he calls us to be so much more. Sometimes life is hard and we feel like we are in the fire but the fire is what makes us strong and God knows how long and how hot we can handle.

## **Faith Formation Festival**

The Faith Formation Festival explored how to better minister to youth and families and some problems surrounding those topics. One

# News Notes

**Nancy Newsom is a grandma again, welcome baby Della!** Over three years ago, Syd Newsom and his wife Andrea lost their home and everything they owned in a major fire in the Santa Cruz mountains. While living in a 300 square foot loft, they cleared and planned for a new home.

In January of 2021 they had their daughter, Araxi. They were fortunate to find a larger home to live in while designing a new home to replace the one that was destroyed. On September 14th, they welcomed another daughter, Della. The final inspection on the new home cleared the same day.

Many donated to help them when the fires destroyed everything. More have prayed for them! I am very thankful for this church family that cares for those who move away.

God is good, all the time. Nancy Newsom

**Mike & Laura Nielsen, Jim & Fran Hansen and Kevin & Debbie Johansen** experienced a 16 day adventure to Alaska. We were 7 days on a cruise ship, then traveled by bus and train inland. We saw so many amazing sights; glaciers, snow covered mountains including Denali, the northern lights, 5 bears catching salmon, 5 moose, several bald eagles, many mush dogs and a native Alaskan village. We learned so much and were able to pan for gold, fish for trout, ride a float plane and a paddle boat. It was a trip that fulfilled many dreams. We are so thankful for the opportunity to experience this amazing place with friends.

**Mark & Victoria Salwasser traveled to Iowa in August and September.** We are getting use that state. In August we took our annual trip to the Knoxville Nationals World of Outlaws Sprint Car Races. It's fun and exciting. This year was extra special because Mark's sister, Patty and her husband Rusty Rasmussen went too. Although we didn't see them much, we did get together for the Sprint Car Hall of Fame Museum and dinner at the Rib Shack the first night and a family lunch on with our Iowa kids, Shane and Megan on the last race day. We drove home through Minnesota and enjoyed lunch with Pastor John, Debbie and Karl Saethre at a great restaurant in Rochester. Then drove to South Dakota, saw the High Limits Race at Husset's Speedway and then went to Mount Rushmore for the night show presentation. It's a must see, if you are ever in South Dakota in the summer don't miss that.

We were happy to be home, until on September 1st we received a great phone call from Shane, he passed his bar exam and all he had left was to take his oath and be sworn in by the state of Iowa as an attorney at law. We couldn't miss that so we made another quick trip in September. Shane is now hard at work for a law office that represents insurance claims.

# News Notes

**Birthday blessings** to: PASTOR JOHN SAETHRE on his 76th birthday on October 8th and to DONNA KENNEDY on her 78th birthday on October 17th.

**October is National Book Month!** Please come visit the library in October to check out books about Martin Luther and the Reformation.

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes** started gathering on August 31st outside in front of Grace Hall. Sandals Church fixed lunches for the first and Easton Presbyterian is serving next, followed by St. Jude and then Immanuel will finish out the semester, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13. Ericka Gardner will lead Immanuel's team to prep lunch, but she needs lots of volunteers to help. Volunteers are needed Wednesday mornings from 10:00—2:00PM to serve. If you are able to help with the lunches, please contact Ericka Gardner.

Hello everyone!

I wanted to let everyone know that I have completed my bachelor's degree through Grand Canyon University. I finished my classes on August 27th and obtained a B.S. in Health Science. I will finally be graduating on October 19th in Phoenix, AZ. It was a long year but I managed to get it all done faster than originally planned and I want to thank everyone at Immanuel who encouraged me every Sunday. This isn't the end of my education journey and continued prayers are appreciated as I navigate the next steps for what I want to do with my career.



*The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7.*

Alex Gardner

**Immanuel received an email from Lutheran World Relief** requesting for emergency help for the victims of the massive earthquake in Morocco. The council voted to send the \$1,000.00 2023 Budgeted Benevolence to Lutheran World Relief Morocco Disaster Response immediately. This will ensure they can use those funds directly where needed as soon as possible.

speaker's topic that I particularly liked was the importance of being a part of all of the aspects of the youths' lives and helping to grow them in every aspect because we need Christian baseball players, lawyers, and businessmen. Another really impactful speaker talked about seeing the person behind the attitude and how to discern what was really causing the youth member to act in the way they are. Then to take what you have found and to love them as the whole person they are and guide them to be both a better person and have a better attitude once you know them as a whole person and not just an attitude. I also learned about some upcoming events to bring our youth together as a larger church body. One such event is the Young Adult Lutheran Mission trip in Winnipeg, Canada May 5-11, 2024. It is \$50 to go with everything but flights provided and you email Pastor Teresa Peters at [tpeters@thenalc.org](mailto:tpeters@thenalc.org) to get the application. All in all I really found the Faith Formation Festival to be an impactful seminar to go to.

## Convocation

Convocation had an amazing turn out with many people very interested in the inner workings of the NALC and the votes that we had. We first voted on who our new Bishop was and now is yet again, Pastor Dan Selbo. Bishop Dan Selbo won by a very large majority. Our new executive council lay member is Julia Hartfelder, a wonderful woman that we got to meet and get to know. After casting many votes we narrowed down our Executive Council Clergy to Scott Ness. Then our new Court of Adjudication members are Ryan Hinkle, who we as a church body nominated, and Leslie Haines. Aside from all of the voting we also got to hear from a few of our different church body groups. One that really stuck out to me was when Mary Bates went up and talked about the disaster relief group because while we were there at convocation the Maui fire began and we were able to hear reassurance that they were already planning to help and we all prayed together for those affected by the fires in Maui. All in all convocation went really well and I learned a lot about the inner workings of the church as a whole.

Thank you for this opportunity! We enjoyed meeting our brothers and sisters in Christ from across the nation including connecting with some of Stephanie's friends from Nexus, a conference for those who are discerning the call to be a pastor.

Kristi Hollenbeck and Stephanie Hollenbeck

# Member's Celebration Dates in October

## Wedding Anniversaries

- 6-David & Allison Terrones (6 yrs)
- 11-Ed & Cindy Slaton (39 yrs)
- 22-Tommy & Melissa Tarlton (22 yrs)
- 27-Mark & Victoria Salwasser (33 yrs)



## Birthdays

- 3-Gina Cogan
  - Victoria Salwasser
  - Brooke Messenlehner
- 6-Matthew Nielsen
  - Chris Messenlehner
  - Ellen Kahn
- 8- Pastor John Saethre
- 11-Sandra Jensen
  - Hayley Messenlehner
- 12-Sharon Reynolds
- 14-Timmy Pilegard
- 17-Donna Kennedy
- 18-Vincent Orozco
- 24-Tayla Tarlton
- 26 --Tommy Tarlton
  - Aubrey Nielsen
- 28-Mark Salwasser
  - Jacqueline Caglia
  - Micah Bennetts
  - Mckenzie Bennetts
- 29-Brad Gardner
- 31-Liberty Auer



## Baptismal Birthdays

- 01-Laurel Jacobsen
- 11-Timothy Anderson
- 14-Carl Jensen
  - Dylan Harding
- 16-Elliot Caglia
- 14-Meghan Anderson
- 17-Mike Mehrten
- 23-Emilee Goff
- 28-Sonya Orozco
- 29-Marcus Orum
  - Allison Terrones



She had a joy and a love for people that was evident to all. Everything about Diane's life epitomized being a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and trusting him with every aspect of her life. Those she encountered could feel how very much she loved Jesus and wanted others to know him as their personal Lord and Savior. No one could ask for a more faithful prayer warrior.

She is survived by her husband Darel, daughters Kristi Carlton (Tim Shields) and Lynette Hecker (Doug Hecker), four grandchildren, and countless friends and family. Our heartfelt thanks go to her caregiver Yesina and all of the members of the Hinds Hospice team who walked alongside us and took such loving care of Mom these past 7 months.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

A Memorial Service to remember the joy-filled person she was will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Easton on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 at 11:00 am with a lunch to follow.

As Diane loved spring and flowers, please feel free to wear bright colors or purple for Alzheimer's/Dementia awareness. Any remembrances in her honor may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church or Hinds Hospice of Fresno.

## Thank you Immanuel

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our friends and loved ones for your generous outpouring of love and support during Diane's illness and recent passing. Your calls, visits, meals, and cards each seemed to come at the perfect time and meant so very much to all of us. We have been and continue to be strengthened by every prayer that is lifted up on our behalf, thank you. Immanuel has been a fundamental part of who Diane was her entire life; worshipping, serving, praying, and fellowship with her faith community filled her with immense joy. We love you all.

In Christ,  
Darel, Kristi, Lynette and family



## Sympathy Love and Prayers for the family of Diane Mehrten

Diane Mehrten was born on June 17, 1938, in Fresno, CA to her Danish parents Elmer and Agnes Nielsen, and lived her entire life in the Easton area community. She attended Oleander Elementary School and Washington Union High School. During their senior year of high school, she met the love of her life, Darel Mehrten. She attended Fresno State College and earned her bachelor's degree and teaching credential. She taught 4th grade at Ewing Elementary for 3 years.



When Darel returned from serving in the Navy they were married at Immanuel Lutheran Church where she was a member her entire life and joyfully served in many teaching, leadership, and hospitality roles. They built their family home together in the Easton area and have lived there for over 50 years. When their daughters were in middle school she returned to her love of teaching and taught 1st grade at American Union Elementary for 14 years where she so beautifully inspired a love of learning in her students and had a way of making each child feel special. Diane's love for teaching extended outside of her classroom being compensated only by the gratitude of those she was reaching. She opened her classroom in the evenings to teach English to the parents of her 1st-grade students. She educated herself on local Indian history and took an extensive collection of baskets and relics to speak at summer school migrant programs throughout the valley.

While their daughters were attending Washington Union, she and Darel were honored to be Mom and Pops to many of the students. To this day they are still close to many of their "kids adopted by love." Perhaps the role she enjoyed most was that of Grandma and Mannie to their 4 grandchildren. She and Darel were their biggest and most faithful fans attending local and out-of-town sporting events, horse shows, and concerts. Over their 61 years of marriage, their home was filled with countless happy gatherings, backyard parties, celebrations, and delicious meals with family and friends. Diane's vibrant personality had an impact on everyone she encountered. One of her favorite quotes was, "There are no strangers here, only friends I haven't met."

## Immanuel Recycles!

Immanuel Women's ministry continues to recycle aluminum cans and CA redemption plastic bottles as a fund raising effort for ministry. Please bring your cans and bottles (it's nice if they are separated) to church on Sundays and place them just inside the Social Hall double doors. If you would like to help gather and take the recyclables over to the center across from LB Pit Stop in Easton, we could use your help once a month or so. Contact Victoria if you are interested in helping with that ministry.

## Danish American Historical Society

Invites you to their Dansk Oktoberfest on

At 6:00 PM Sunday, October 15, 2023

at Selma's Pioneer Village

Easy to find: At the Highway 99-43 Interchange

on the north side of Selma. Highland Avenue north of Floral Avenue.

Call for your tickets by

October 3rd to Lucille Dennis at (559)261-1646

Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$12.00 for kids 12 and under.

## Chimes Deadline

November Chimes Deadline: If you have something that you would like to submit to our monthly newsletter, please email or mail it to our office secretary by Monday, **October 23 at 11:00 AM**. You may put your article in the office secretary's box in the church entryway, mail it early to the church or e-mail it to: [office@immanueleaston.com](mailto:office@immanueleaston.com). Thank you for making the Chimes fun and informative to read!

## Prayers of our church!

**Members and their families serving in the military:** Erica Botello, Caanan 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, 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.



# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>September 24</b> 9:30AM No Christian Ed. In GH 10:30AM Worship Plating cookies for JD Foods	<b>25</b>	<b>26 Caruthers Fair</b> <b>Corn Shucking</b> <b>Out at the</b> <b>Caruthers</b> <b>Fairgrounds from</b> <b>5:00-8:00PM</b>	<b>27 Caruthers Fair</b>  <b>12.25PM FCA</b> <b>Lunch</b>	<b>28 Caruthers Fair</b>  <b>6:00AM</b> <b>Men's Bible Study</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Caruthers</b> <b>Fair</b>	<b>30 Caruthers Fair</b>
<b>1 October</b>  <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Education in GH <b>10:30AM</b> Worship & Communion  <b>After Church</b> haul all supplies <b>back from Caruthers Fair.</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>7:00PM NA</b> <b>Meeting in Grace</b> <b>Hall</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>10:00AM</b> <b>Women's Bible</b> <b>Study in church</b> <b>library</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>12:25PM FCA</b> <b>Lunch</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>6:00AM</b> <b>Men's Bible Study</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>Easton Food</b> <b>Distribution</b> <b>at 12:00pm</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>11:00AM</b> <b>Memorial Service for</b> <b>Diane Mehrten</b>
<b>8</b>  <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Education in GH <b>10:30AM</b> Worship & Communion <b>11:45AM</b> Congregational Prayer <b>following worship in Sanctuary</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>7:00PM NA</b> <b>Meeting in Grace</b> <b>Hall</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>10:00AM</b> <b>Women's Bible</b> <b>Study in church</b> <b>library</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>12:25PM FCA</b> <b>Lunch</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>6:00AM</b> <b>Men's Bible Study</b>  <b>11:00AM Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>No Sunday School This week!</b> <b>10:30AM</b> Worship & Communion	<b>16</b>  <b>7:00PM NA</b> <b>Meeting in Grace</b> <b>Hall</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10:00AM</b> <b>Women's Bible</b> <b>Study in church</b> <b>library</b>  <b>6:30PM Council</b> <b>Meeting in GH</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>12:25PM FCA</b> <b>Lunch</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>6:00AM</b> <b>Men's Bible Study</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Women's Event</b> <b>Field Trip to</b> <b>Forestiére Underground</b> <b>Garden</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Education in GH <b>10:30AM</b> Worship & Communion	<b>23</b>  <b>7:00PM NA</b> <b>Meeting in Grace</b> <b>Hall</b>	<b>24</b> <b>10:00AM</b> <b>Women's Bible</b> <b>Study in church</b> <b>library</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>12:25PM FCA</b> <b>Lunch</b>	<b>26</b> <b>6:00AM</b> <b>Men's Bible Study</b>  <b>12:00PM Fellowship</b> <b>Lunch in Social Hall</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Reformation Sunday</b> <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Education in GH <b>10:30AM</b> Worship & Communion <b>3:00-5:00PM</b> <b>Sweet Treat on Elm Street!</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>7:00PM NA</b> <b>Meeting in Grace</b> <b>Hall</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>November 5th</b> <b>8:30-11:45AM</b> <b>Russ Dunbar</b> <b>Memorial Blood</b> <b>Drive</b>	<b>Save The Dates!!!—Family Camp 2024</b> <b>June 7-14 at Logger Flat near Hume Lake</b>		