

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

**Proclaiming the Good News of
Jesus Christ since 1888**

December 17, 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

Ring the Bell and Welcome

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness (*Matthew 28:19; 1 John 1:8-10*)

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.

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 30

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

Apostolic Greeting (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Please be seated

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

Verse 3, Page 34, Lutheran Book of Worship

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;
3to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
4They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

8For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
9Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

10I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Responsive Readings

Psalm 126

Please read responsively the bold print verses.

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise the words of prophets, 21but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22abstain from every form of evil. 23May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” 21And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” 22Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” 26John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” 28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 as you are able for the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day

Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn. ***Refrain***

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved.
Used by permission. Duplication in any form protected with permission from One License copyright administrator.

Confession of Faith

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

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in

accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in One holy, Christian, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Sharing of the Peace (*John 20:19-21*)

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 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.

Special Music

“Mary Did You Know”

Allys Kahn, Allyson Nielsen, Laurel Jacobsen

Offertory Response

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

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 (2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136)

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9)

Lutheran Book of Worship front section page 89

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest**

Words of Institution

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20)

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 *(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)*

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 Hymn

“Lamb of God” (John 1:29)

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.

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—Song of Simeon *(Luke 2:29-32)*

Pastor: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;

All: Your word has been fulfilled.

Pastor: My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

All: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Pastor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

All: Amen.

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 *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

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 “O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus”

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward to my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, never more;
How he watches o'er His loved ones, did to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Love of every love the best;
Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
Tis a haven sweet of rest.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

CCLI Song # 137178 Samuel Trevor Francis | Thomas John Williams Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1825563

Dismissal (*Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:4, Romans 12:1, John 12:26, Matthew 28:16-20*)

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

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

Postlude

Laurel Jacobsen

Today's service is reprinted by permission under our Church Copyright License through CCLI
Sundays and Seasons v.20210119.1257 Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
One License Copyright number 730424-A

Announcements

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by the Bennetts and Reynolds families for glory and honor to God and in memory of Carol and Sharon's father, Roy Johansen.

Prayer focus this week on God's Christmas gift to us. John 3:16 NIV. For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Thank you to everyone who helped with FCA in any way. We served over 600 lunches throughout the three Wednesdays. Thanks to our faithful cookie crew, we had more than enough cookies for each week. We freezer packed them and plan to enjoy leftover cookies during church fellowship time. Your efforts are very much appreciated. We also had a great crew on Wednesdays helping to prepare and serve lunch. Many hands make for light work. **We will be back at it on March 20, 2024.** Blessings to you, Ericka Gardner

Sign up today for the next Fellowship Luncheon on Thursday, **December 28th** at noon in the Social Hall. Please invite your friends to join us for nice meal.

Aprons for the Social Hall Renovation Fundraiser! Check out the Christmas Color Aprons made by Margaret Fletcher. If you would like one for your holiday gift giving or yourself, please take what you need. Simply leave a donation in the offering plate marked Aprons for the Hall. Thank you Margaret for sharing your gifts with us.

Women's Bible Study gather on Tuesday mornings at 9:00AM. Pastor Taylor leads the study about the Lord's Prayer. The next study is on the book of Exodus.

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.

Next Sunday is Christmas Eve. We will not have Sunday School at 9:30AM. We will have a 10:30AM Worship & Christmas Eve Candlelight Service during our morning worship time and another Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 9:00PM next Sunday Night.

This year the Special Christmas Offering will be sent to Iglesia Lutreana Santa Cruz in Santa Maria California. This is a migrant farmer congregation in need of support. Since Christmas Eve is on Sunday, please note on your checks, or place cash in an envelope marked Christmas Offerings so the office can differentiate the differences between Christmas Offerings and regular offerings next Sunday morning. Thank you for your help.

We have cookies to serve next Sunday after church we need volunteers to serve. If you would like to set up and clean up after Fellowship time next Sunday, please sign up on the Gold bulletin board in the church entryway

Next Sunday our morning service on Christmas Eve at 10:30 am, we'll also have an interactive Christmas story, inviting kids to put on costumes and help us tell the nativity story. If you have a kid in your life who would like to be a part of this pageant-- please invite them to come along! We'll have costumes available for them to pick out before church begins and after they take communion, they'll be invited to transform into shepherds, angels, and maybe even Mary and Joseph in the church library. Our adult volunteers will help guide them through the story of Christmas.

If children are available for a brief rehearsal of the story and would like to pick out their costume ahead of time, they can stay after church today This Christmas pageant is designed to be accessible to folks who can't make rehearsal as well.

On January 7th, Immanuel will be launching our Children's Sunday School class-- geared to help kids of all ages learn the stories of scripture in a fun and engaging environment. On the 7th, we've got a special day planned learning about the Three Wise Men and the season of Epiphany, and we'd like to invite the kids in your life to come be a king for a morning and learn about the King of Kings! This day will also give them a chance to meet all of our Sunday School teachers and get to know each other. Sunday School starts at 9:30 in Grace Hall and we're excited to continue passing on our faith to the next generation.

Betty Moore has moved and has a new mailing address: 1079 E. Springfield Ave. # 105, Reedley CA 93654.

Change of address for the church directory: Immanuel will be printing a new directory for 2024. If you have any address changes, please send them to the church office as soon as possible.

Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2024 today. If you do not see envelopes with your name on it, please call the office know and we will have them for you next week.

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, Crystal Burns, Gaye Cissel, Steve Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Josh Hammers, Jim Hansen, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Marian Lawrence, Marcus Miranda, Joann Ortega, Gloria Payne, Larry Pickens, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Pastor Amy Schifren, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

For those morning the loss of loved ones: The family of Janice Robinson, *Shirley Rasmussen's daughter*, and the family of Sally Caglia, *Nick's aunt*.

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 _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Time Guest <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Time or Regular Attender <input type="checkbox"/> 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
- 11:30AM Children's Rehearsal

Monday:

- 7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

Tuesday

- 9:00AM Women's Bible Study

Thursday

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

Next Sunday: Christmas Eve

- 10:30AM Worship & Candlelight Service
- 11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside
- 9:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Worship Assistants This Week:

- Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland
- Greeters:** All of Immanuel
- Sound & Technology:** Allys, Fred, & Gina
- Scripture Reader:** Fred Cogan
- Fellowship Servers:** Bennetts & Reynolds
- Council Lock Up for December:** Daniel Hartwig

Worship Assistants Next Week:

- Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland
- Greeters:** All of Immanuel
- Sound & Technology:** Allys, Fred, & Gina
- Scripture Reader:** Fred Cogan
- Fellowship Servers:** we have cookies we need servers: _____



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