

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

Reaching the world with the good news of Jesus Christ



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:
Worship 10:30am

*Lessons and Carols
December 31, 2023*

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 31, 2023

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

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. Masks are optional at indoor gatherings. 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 aligned with 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

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lutheran Book of Worship page 45

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels

Chorus

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God all Glory in the highest *Chorus*

Yea Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing *Chorus*

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The Christmas Versicles

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night he shines for all to see.

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

P: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Opening Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—First Candle

First Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Lutheran Book of Worship page 54

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

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Second Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Second Candle

Second Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lutheran Book of Worship page 41

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep
The angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth

And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

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Third Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Third Candle

Third Carol

Away In a Manger

Lutheran Book of Worship Page 67

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes

I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:8-20

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath- Fourth Candle

Fourth Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lutheran Book of Worship Page 71

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, In excelsis Deo, Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song
Gloria, In excelsis Deo, Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Gloria, In excelsis Deo, Gloria, In excelsis Deo

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angel's praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise
Gloria, In excelsis Deo, Gloria, In excelsis Deo

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Fifth Reading

John 1:1-14

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come

into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Fifth Carol

Go Tell It on The Mountain

Refrain **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born**

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn *Refrain*

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Offering

Offerings and worship registration slips found on the back page of the bulletin may be placed in the plate as it is passed by the ushers. There is a QR Code printed on the back of the bulletin for those wishing to donate online through our website.

Please stand as you are able and sing as the gifts are brought forward.

Offertory Special Music

“Christmas Isn’t Christmas (Till It Happens In Your Heart)”

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.

The Lord's Supper

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 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, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

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.

Communion Blessing

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 Your name, Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours 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.

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.

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

Blessing

P: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C: Praise God, all creatures here below!

P: You are the shepherds telling the story.

C: We tell it in the streets and across the land.

P: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

P: You are the angels announcing peace.

C: We live with joy and go now in peace.

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy
He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His love

Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the Highest!

C: Peace to God's people on Earth!

Postlude

Laurel Jacobsen

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Church Announcements

Prayer focus this week on creation. Genesis 1:1 NIV. In the beginning God created heaven and earth.

Children's Sunday School Starts Next Sunday! It Is Epiphany! The Wise Men find our Savior! Sunday School for all ages will be at 9:30AM in Grace Hall. Children's Sunday School kicks off the new year with a "**King For The Day**" **celebration with a new team of teachers!** This will be a fun day for kids so please plan to wear the royal color of purple like the kings and if they would like to bring gifts for babies, instead of frankincense and myrrh, they can bring baby gifts to donate to the Pregnancy Care Center in Fresno. Next week, the kids will celebrate Epiphany with breakfast style Epiphany themed snacks. Don't miss the first Sunday of the new and children's Sunday School!

This Friday is the Easton Food Distribution: volunteers are encouraged to help with the distribution, we work outside at Easton Presbyterian Church starting at 12:00pm. Please wear close toed shoes and bring your own water.

Women's Bible Study resumes this Tuesday at 9:00AM in the church library. Join us as we discuss the Lord's Prayer.

Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00AM in the Social Hall on Thursday mornings for breakfast and Bible discussion led by Phil Tews. Try it in 2024. Bring a friend, it's Community Bible Study.

Are you (or someone you live with, or someone you know) looking forward to your senior years, what care you might need, will your present living quarters work for later? Join us for an in-depth discussion at 11:30am on Tuesday, January 9th at Sierra View Homes-Terraces in Reedley, CA. Our panel will discuss senior care options, and two women will share the journey they are taking to empower themselves in their senior years. Betty Ann Moore and Terry Sayre will share their personal experiences with you, as they have made different choices. **SAVE THE DATE!** Tuesday January 9th, 11:30-1 pm. Come check out Sierra View Homes - Terraces in Reedley where Betty Ann is now living with her husband Bruce. RSVP to Betty today A light lunch will be provided.

Prayers of 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:

Bobbie Beshears, Fred Bologna, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Steve Fletcher, Amanda Garcia, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Josh Hammers, Jim Hansen, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, 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* and Marian Lawrence, *Jackie's aunt*, The family of Crystal Burns, *Victoria's friend*.

For people dealing with loneliness and depression. For those battling the illness and the health care providers tending to those in need.

Please complete both sides, detach and place in the offering plate as it is passed.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Attender	<input type="checkbox"/> Member I came as a guest of _____
Home Congregation	_____		

This Week at Immanuel

Please check the appropriate box and write your message in the space below.

- I want to learn more about faith. I want to learn more about baptism
- I want to receive the monthly newsletter (“The Chimes”) I want to become a member of Immanuel
- I am receiving communion today I want a visit from the visitation pastor
- I want to speak with the parish nurse I want to speak with the pastor
- I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor
- I have a prayer request: _____

I have hymn suggestions: _____

Today:

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

Friday

12:00PM Easton Food Distribution

Next Sunday: Epiphany

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30AM Worship & Communion
11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys, Fred, & Gina

Scripture Reader: Fred Cogan

Fellowship Servers: Lee Terkelsen

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:

Fellowship Servers: _____

Council Lock Up for January: Allyson Nielsen



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