

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

January 7, 2024



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

Sunday Schedule:
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Welcome! Wherever you are; whether at home and on-line, or joining us in our beautiful sanctuary, we welcome you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are united as a people of God in worship as a Body of Christ, the Church. May God grant you safety and protection during these unprecedented times. Immanuel follows the current Centers for Disease Control Guidelines during the pandemic and they recommend that wearing a mask at all indoor gatherings is optional. Please share our worship opportunities with your family and friends and those who don't know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Immanuel is a member of the North American Lutheran Church whose Core Values are: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday and other special occasions of the church year. If you have received instruction concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor following the service or check the box on the worship registration form to schedule an appointment. Only non-alcoholic wine is used in communion at Immanuel.

Moms and Dads, we love children and we welcome children to worship with you and the whole congregation. If you so desire, we do have a nursery – the room with the large window next to the Library at the back of the sanctuary. In there is a rocking chair, toys, as well as a speaker and large window so you can see and hear the service. Your kids may enjoy the activity bags on the rack at the back of the church.

To learn more about Immanuel please be sure to fill out the worship registration slip on the back page of your bulletin and place it in the offering bag as you exit the sanctuary or fill out the guest registry located in the church entry.

Restroom facilities are located in the church entry (the narthex). When walking out of the sanctuary take a left and they are at the end of the short hallway.

Join us outdoors immediately following our worship service where we can greet you more personally.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Laurel Jacobsen

Ring the Bell 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.

Opening Hymn

“Glorify His Name”

Father we love You
We worship and adore You
Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Jesus we love You
We worship and adore You
Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Spirit we love You
We worship and adore You
Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

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Please be seated

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

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

All: Amen.

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Responsive Readings

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Please read responsively the bold print verses.

All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out^l in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the

same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Matthew the thirteenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been

written by the prophet.⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

You may be seated.

The Children's Message

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Children are invited up to the altar with Pastor Taylor.

Homily

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Please stand for the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day “Holy Child Within The Manger”

Holy Child within the manger,
 Long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev’ry stranger,
 Come as hope for ev’ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
Greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken,
Teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story--
How your love for us was shown,
 When the image of your glory
 Wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
Come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
 Kindle ev’ry land and race.

Holy Child within the manger,
 Lead us ever in your way,
 So we see in ev’ry stranger
 How you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living
Give us strength to live as you,
That our hearts might be forgiving
And our spirits strong and true.

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 “A Carol For The Baby”

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

Communion this morning will be served at the altar. Immanuel Lutheran Church invites all believers in Christ to come forward with the direction of

the ushers. The Pastor will invite you to kneel as you are able at the rail, communion will be served by placing the bread, the body of Christ, in your hand, and pouring the blood of Christ, the wine in the cup. Clean cups are upside down on the rail. Please leave your used communion cup right side up on the rail as you are blessed and leave. Please take as much time at the altar as you need for prayer and reflection. Immanuel only serves non-alcoholic wine during 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, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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

The Pastor will invite you to kneel as you are able at the rail, communion will be served by placing the bread the body of Christ, in your hand, and pouring the blood of Christ, the wine in the cup. Clean cups are upside down on the rail. Please leave your used communion cup right side up on the rail as you are blessed and leave.

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 Cantic

“Thank the Lord”

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;

Tell everyone what he has done.

Let everyone who seeks the Lord

Rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He recalls his promises and

Leads his people forth in joy

With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

“Spirit Song”

Oh let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh let Him have those things that hold you
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole

Chorus

Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs
Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs

Verse 2

Oh come and sing this song with gladness

As your hearts are filled with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness
Give Him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

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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

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Announcements

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by Allys & Rich Kahn for glory and honor to God.

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

Sew Caring Day! Join us Saturday January 13, 2024 from 10:00am-2:00pm with lunch provided. We will be assembling sensory mats for Alzheimer, Dementia, Stroke, ADHD or Autism patients. The textures and trinkets help with fidgeting and calms anxiety and stress. Please bring your sewing machine, and basic sewing supplies. Laura will have the fabric, batting and notions to add to the mats. If you can sew on a button or crochet a flower, we need those skills too! Join us for some fellowship, food and fun as we serve the needs of others through our crafting. Please let Laura Nielsen know if you plan to come so she can set up a work space for you and we have enough food for lunch.

Immanuel's Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28th following worship.

The next Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive will be on January 28th from 9:00-12:00PM. Please sign up just for record, on the Gold Bulletin board if you plan to donate. No appointments are necessary. Come when you can and be sure to eat a healthy breakfast and drink lots of water the day before and that day of donation.

Daily Devotionals are available on the table under the Blue Bulletin Board. Please help yourself to anything on the table.

The next Fellowship Luncheon will be on Thursday, January **25th** at noon in the Social Hall. Sign up today and invite your friends to join us for nice meal.

Weekly Bible Study: Women meet Tuesday at 9:00AM in church library, Men meet Thursday at 6:00AM in Social Hall. Invite your friends, we are called to make Christ known.

Next Sunday will be Congregational Prayer time after worship service in the sanctuary. Join us for a time set aside for the prayers of our people.

Our Mission District's Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:30 am at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in San Jose, and **EVERYONE** is invited to attend to get updates about regional events and national news. There will be special guest speakers from the NALC Stewardship Committee. Check out the January Chimes for more information.

Save the Date, February 29th for the congregational Birthday Dinner to celebrate our Pastor's 7th actual on the day birthday! The party will start at 6:00PM in our Social Hall. If you would like to help with the party planning, please see Mark Salwasser.

The opportunities to share your gifts and talents with us on Sundays are diverse and plentiful. If you would like to read the lessons, place fresh flowers on the altar, serve refreshments after church, work on the tech table, or help with altar ware we would appreciate your help. Please check out the Gold Bulletin board after church today and if you have any questions please find Pastor or one of our ushers after worship or call the church office tomorrow morning.

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

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City / State / Zip _____ Email _____
Names / ages of Children living at home _____
 1st Time Guest 2nd Time or Regular Attender Member I came as a guest of _____
Home Congregation _____

This Week at Immanuel

Today:

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

Monday:

7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

Tuesday

9:00AM Women's Bible Study this week.

Wednesday

12:25PM FCA Lunch

Thursday

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

Saturday

10:00AM Sew Caring Day in Social Hall

Next Sunday:

9:30AM Sunday School in Grace Hall
10:30AM Worship
11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside
11:45AM Congregational Prayer Time

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys,

Scripture Reader: Daniel Hartwig

Fellowship Servers:

Altar Ware: Allyson Nielsen & Family

Council Lock Up for January: Allyson Nielsen

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys,

Scripture Reader: _____

Fellowship Servers: _____



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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to learn more about faith. | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to learn more about baptism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes") | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to become a member of Immanuel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am receiving communion today | <input type="checkbox"/> I want a visit from the visitation pastor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to speak with the parish nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to speak with the pastor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a prayer request: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have hymn suggestions: _____ | |