

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

January 28, 2024



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

Office: (559)237-7909

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. 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

Joanna Maragh

Ring the Bell *Calling the community of Easton to worship*

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

“We Believe”

Praise Band

Verse 1

In this time of desperation
When all we know is doubt and fear
There is only one foundation
We believe we believe
In this broken generation
When all is dark You help us see
There is only one salvation
We believe we believe

Chorus

We believe in God the Father
We believe in Jesus Christ
We believe in the Holy Spirit
And He's given us new life
We believe in the crucifixion
We believe that He conquered death
We believe in the resurrection
And He's coming back again
(We believe)

Verse 2

So let our faith be more than anthems
Greater than the songs we sing
In our weakness and temptations
We believe we believe **Chorus**

Bridge

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised
In the here and now let love invade
Let the church live loud our God will save
We believe we believe
And the gates of hell will not prevail
For the pow'r of God has torn the veil
Now we know Your love will never fail
We believe we believe

Ending

He's coming back again
He's coming back again
We believe we believe

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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.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of The Day

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] 15The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." 17Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

R: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Responsive Reading

Psalms 111:1-10

Please read the bold print verses responsively.

1Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

3Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

4He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

5He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

7The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

8They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

10The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

1Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; 3but anyone who loves God is known by him. 4Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—6yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. 7It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? 11So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. 12But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord

21[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.22They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” 25But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

“Blessed Be Your Name”

Praise Band

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

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Confession of Faith

Pastor: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 is passes along with the worship registration slip from the back of the bulletin. There is a QR Code printed on the back of the bulletin for those wishing to donate online through our website.

Offertory *Please stand and sing as the gifts are brought forward.*

Offertory Response

“Praise God From Who 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, 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

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 Cantic

“Thank the Lord” (Psalm 9)

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

“Lift High The Cross”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 377

Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

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

Postlude

Joanna Maragh

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Announcements

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by the Orum Family for glory and honor to God and in celebration of Marcus!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow worship this morning.

Prayer focus this week on why we were created. Ephesians 2:10 NIV. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared for us to do.

New Valentine Aprons available for supporting for the Social Hall! Margaret Fletcher has been busy sewing aprons to help us raise money for our Social Hall Renovation project! The adorable aprons hang in the church entryway on the coat rack. Please take your chosen apron and if you would like please leave a donation in the offering plate marked Aprons for the Hall.

Thank you to all of the Blood Donors today! There is no appointment necessary, donations are welcome until 9:00-12:00PM today! The next donation will be on March 24th!

Support with the Sunday service helps make the worship extras happen. The opportunities to share your gifts and talents with us on Sundays are diverse and plentiful and needed. Next Sunday is in need of help. First Sunday communion cup washing, February tech support, and fellowship servers. Please check out the Gold Bulletin board after church today if you would like to help make these ministries happen next Sunday or on a future Sunday. For questions on how you can help please ask one of our friendly ushers, Pastor, Victoria or call the office tomorrow morning.

Maundy Thursday Easton Community Choir, there will be 4 anthems and 4 rehearsals from 7:00-8:15PM on Wednesdays starting on March 6th at Easton Presbyterian Church. All choir members must attend 3 of the 4 rehearsals.

Thank you to all who participated in the Fellowship lunch on Thursday. The next Fellowship Lunch will be on February 22nd! If you plan to attend, please sign up today on the Gold Bulletin Board.

Weekly Bible Study: The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will this week at 9:00AM in church library. This Tuesday we conclude discussion on our book about The Lord's Prayer. On February 6th we will begin study on the book of Exodus!

The Men's Weekly Bible Study gathers at 6:00AM on Thursday mornings in Social Hall. It's a big room, invite your buddies out for breakfast! We are called to make Christ known!

Our Mission District's Annual Meeting will be this 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.

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, 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 Irene Day, *Eva Orum’s sister*.

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 Annual Congregational Meeting

11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside

Monday:

7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

Tuesday

9:00AM Women's Bible Study in Library

Wednesday

12:00PM FCA Lunch

Thursday

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

Next Sunday:

9:30AM Sunday School in Grace Hall

10:30AM Worship & Communion

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen,

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Victoria, John & Lee

Scripture Reader: Karl Nieslen

Fellowship Servers: Robert & Kaylee Hollenbeck

Council Lock Up for January: Allyson Nielsen

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: _____

Scripture Reader: Alex Gardner

Fellowship Servers: _____

Altar Ware: _____

Council Lock Up for February: Mike Moser



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