

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

February 25, 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: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

All: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

All: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“My Faith Looks Up To Thee”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 479

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

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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.

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

First Reading: Genesis

17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of

nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”
¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Responsive Readings

Psalms 2:23-31

Please read responsively the bold print verses.

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

30Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD,

31and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written

not for his sake alone,²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8:31-38

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of

Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

How Firm a Foundation

Lutheran Book of Worship page 507

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 passed 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.

Please stand and sing as the gifts are brought forward.

Offertory Response

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your Spirit.

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 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.

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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 Canticle

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

“Oh The Wonderful Cross”

Praise Band

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Chorus

**O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live
O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name**

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all *Chorus*

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

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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

Announcements

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by Sharon Reynolds for glory and honor to God and in celebration of John's 80th Birthday!

Prayer focus this week on how we love. 1 John 3:18 NIV. Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Women's Bible Study begins their study on the book of Exodus at 9:00AM this Tuesday in the church library. Pastor Taylor invites all women to attend.

SIGN UP TODAY! On THIS THURSDAY, February 29th EVERYONE is invited 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. Please sign up on the **GOLD BULLETIN BOARD** in the church entryway, today! See Mark Salwasser for more information.

The next Fellowship Luncheon will be on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, at noon in the Social Hall. Sign up today and invite your friends to join us for nice meal.

The Ummata team would like to invite you to our intergenerational event next Sunday, March 3rd, after church. Join us for lunch and service projects working together as a whole church. Sign Up Today.

Immanuel's Easter Choir Practice begins today after worship. Each Sunday after church except March 3rd, there will be a choir practice for performances on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

The Easton Community Choir will practice THIS WEDNESDAY at 7:45PM, and every Wednesday in March, at Easton Presbyterian Church (next door). Choir members must attend 3 of the 4 practices. See Fran Hansen for more information.

Come Pray with Us TODAY: A group of 12 from our two churches met to pray for God's blessings on youth ministries! We are invited by our Presbyterian neighbors to join together again to continue seeking God's guidance moving forward. **Please meet right after church, 11:55, this morning, in their fireside room. On March 17,** join us for a potluck lunch, same time and place, as people from Young Life visit to bring information and answer questions. **Dear Lord, guide us in Your grace as we come seeking Your wisdom and heart! Amen. Gathering today following worship, 11:55, EPC Fireside Rm to pray. Sunday, March 17, 11:55 EPC Fireside Rm for lunch.**

This Wednesday is our second Soup Supper for the Lenten season. It's a potluck style soup and salad dinner. We have groups of folks listed under Circles in the back of the directory. If you are listed under **Circle B** it is your opportunity to set up at 6:00PM and clean up at 7:30PM. Everyone is welcome to help but we hoped to have Circle B make sure it's done. Many hands make for light work and if everyone takes their soup pot or salad bowl home it's that much easier. These Lenten gatherings are great opportunities to invite your friends to dinner, especially if you have friends that drive at night and you don't.

The Danish-American Historical Society of California is hosting a Frikadele (Meatball) Dinner this Saturday in the Social Hall at 6:00PM. **See Laurel Jacobsen for your tickets today.** Adults are \$30.00 and Children 12 and under are \$12.00. The guest speaker will be Emilia Salveden, an exchange student in California from Aarhus, Denmark. The program is titled "Culture Shock"

This Friday is March 1st! The first Friday of the month the Community Food Bank brings **free food to Easton.** Help us distribute it at the Easton Presbyterian Church under their covered patio. Meet on the East side of their Sanctuary on Friday at noon. If you would like food, it's free just show up and wait your turn. Please get the word out for us. The more folks come the faster we get done. Thank you all for your help.

Chimes article extension: Tomorrow is the last chance to get something in the March Chimes! Please, email or place your submissions in the office secretary box in the church entryway across from the men's restroom door no later than tomorrow at 11:00AM.

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, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Emily, Gaye Cissel, Steve Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ken Goff, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Carol Martin, Randy McFarland, Marcus Miranda, Joann Ortega, Gloria Payne, Larry Pickens, Patti Price, David Stidham, Pastor Amy Schifren, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

For those morning the loss of loved ones. The family of Karen Newell, (*Jackie Caglia's cousin*).

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
11:45AM Choir Practice
11:55AM Prayer for the Youth in Easton at EPC
fireside room

Monday:

7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

Tuesday

9:00AM Women's Bible Study in library.

Wednesday

12:25PM FCA Lunch
6:30PM Soup Supper in Social Hall
7:00PM Lenten Worship in Sanctuary

Thursday

6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall
6:00PM Pastor Taylor's Birthday Party!

Friday

12:00PM Easton Food Distribution

Next Sunday:

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

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys, Lee, John

Scripture Reader: Terry Gardner

Fellowship Servers: Sharon Reynolds in celebration
of John's 80th birthday on Wednesday.

Council Lock Up for February: Mike Moser

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys, Lee, John

Scripture Reader: Sandy Marthedal

Fellowship Servers: Ummata

Council Lock Up in March: Stacy Avedisian



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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: _____ | |