

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

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**SPRING FORWARD
ONE HOUR FOR
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ON MARCH 10TH**

Ministry Staff

Pastor: Rev. Taylor Stempniak
Office Secretary/Chimes Editor: Victoria Salwasser
Organist: Laurel Jacobsen

Immanuel's Church Council

President: Mark Salwasser
Vice President: Kristi Hollenbeck
Council Secretary: Stacy Avedisian
Financial Secretary: Sharon Reynolds
Treasurer: Pat Griffin
Trustees: Daniel Hartwig, Mike Moser
Deacons: Alexandra Gardner, John Jensen,
Diane Laub & Allyson Nielsen,

Return Service Requested

The Immanuel Chimes

March Edition 2024



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church

5955 South Elm Avenue

Fresno (Easton), California 93706

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Visit our Website at: ImmanuelEaston.com

**Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 10th.
Spring Forward one Hour**

Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Sunday School
for Everyone in Grace Hall

10:30AM Worship and Communion
For Everyone in Sanctuary

Lenten Services Every Wednesday in March
6:30PM in Social Hall for Soup Supper
7:00PM in Sanctuary for Lenten Worship

Fellowship Lunch-March 28th at 12:00PM

Sign up sheets are on the Gold Bulletin Board!

The Son Rise Service

By Pastor Taylor

In the darkness of the early morning, a woman makes her way slowly through a garden. She carries with her tokens of mourning and the weight of grief rests heavy on her shoulders. She walks a path that many had walked before her, and many have walked since. Stricken by loss, and traveling under the shadow of the death of someone she held dear. The first Easter morning was not the triumph we know day, instead Mary's heart longs for the loved one who's grave she journeys towards, but when she arrives she is met with an empty tomb. Though she does not realize it in that moment, what she believed to be a solitary funeral procession will not end in being confronted by death, but instead with our reunion with life. At the entrance to the grave, with fears of uncertainty about even the location of her lord, Mary weeps aloud—"Where have they taken my Lord?" she cries out, searching for the one that she has come to grieve, but her pain is interrupted by Christ, who comes with good tidings. He is ascending to his father-- your father, to his God-- your God.

The words of comfort that Christ speaks to Mary on Easter morning are the words we long to hear. They are an affirmation that God has claimed us as precious children. Through the death of our lord on the cross, we have been redeemed. Through his resurrection and ascension, we have been set free from sin and from death. While, like Mary we may at times find ourselves in mourning for those that have gone on before us, no longer do we mourn death because we can no longer die.

As Paul writes to the Corinthians, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." The reality of the resurrection is almost too much to comprehend. We are tempted to think of ourselves as Lazarus or the daughter of Jarius, our brother and sister who were miraculously raised from the dead by Christ, but while these miracles show us just a glimpse of the power of God, they don't paint the full picture of the resurrection. Lazarus and the daughter were raised as they had always been. They were given a type of second chance, to dwell amongst the earth, but they were still vulnerable to the plagues



Being born on February 29th has its advantages. Since your birthday only comes around once every four years, friends and family are apt to give you a big party when the day finally arrives. That's what Immanuel's Council did for Pastor Taylor who celebrated her 7th actual birthday with more than 70 others in the Social Hall February 29. Council members organized the party and cooked up a rib, chicken and mac 'n' cheese dinner.

Entertainment was provided by Fresno magician Bradly Lee who baffled everyone with his appropriately titled "Laugh Out Loud Magic" show. Among his acts, he made Mark Salwasser's 20-dollar bill disappear and then reappear in the center of a lemon. He cornered Luke Stempniak in a comical word game and fooled the entire congregation into attempting a magic trick with their hands. Cody Caglia was thankful Bradly made water disappear from the cup before he tipped it over his head and brother Elliot watched as the magician made fluffy red balls disappear.





A magical night for Pastor's 7th birthday



TOP: Pastor Taylor attempts to extinguish magical candles lit by Stacy Avedisian.

MIDDLE LEFT: MC Dan Hartwig.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Pastor Dawn, Pastor Taylor's mother, reveals a few stories about her daughter.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Pastor Taylor examines the birthday gift the congregation presented to her - a trip to the San Diego Zoo. **ABOVE:** Pastor Dawn, Pastor Taylor and Attorney Luke enjoy their dinners.



of the body and plagues of the soul. But the promise of Easter morning is more than a second chance at our mortal life. Our lives, as Paul points out, aren't simply prolonged; they are transformed. In the resurrection of Christ, we have been changed.

Our mortality has been exchanged for immortality. We rest with the knowledge that with the final blowing of the trumpet, our bodies will be made new. No longer will we suffer in illness or in pain. No longer will our children or our neighbors go to bed hungry or poor. But so too will our souls be transformed. No longer will hate pass from our lips, slung like arrows towards our neighbor, but our mouths shall glorify our lord. No longer will our eyes stray towards idols, but we shall hold our gaze steadfast to the victorious love of our savior. In the resurrection, we are made as God has always intended us to be. On our own, we are powerless to stop death. We stray from God towards temptation. The law would find us guilty, but Christ has liberated us from the prison of sin. Death is swallowed up in victory, and we are made alive and righteous in the sight of God. On Easter morning, Christ did not just open the mouth of the tomb, he flung wide the gates of heaven. He has gone before us to prepare a seat at the table, and as when we are invited to the table to stand in the presence of our risen God, we partake in just a foretaste of the feast to come, rejoicing that in the waters of baptism and the blood and body of our lord, that we have been transformed.

We begin Easter morning in the dark. Waiting for the sun to rise over head, just as we began our lives in the darkness of sin, but as the sun in the sky and the son of God have risen, we have been brought into the light. Many churches this month will begin their Easter services in a graveyard, a place that the world tells us is for mourning the dead, but on Easter morning, the church knows that wherever we gather, we are there to celebrate the living: the living saints who's earthly legacies are marked by each of the stones in the Washington Colony Cemetery down the street, the living saints who's smiling, sleepy faces stand before us Easter morning, and the living word that fills our soul with hope and thanksgiving, and our living God who has triumphed over death so that we will know life from here to evermore.

Blessings,
Pastor Taylor

February Benevolences

Missionaries: Pastor Tom Thorstad and Pastor Heidi Punt

Pastor Tom Thorstad and his wife Deuane are official global partners with the NALC. They serve primarily in Laos, but their ministry also provides ministry and outreach to the children of God in Thailand and the Philippines. Partnering alongside Heart For Mission, Pastor Tom's family is engaged in mission and outreach work throughout the larger region that includes consulting and supporting with Bible translation, community building, and helping local pastors develop other means of financial support through their "Pigs for Pastors" project. This project allows pastors to develop sustainable incomes through livestock farming, so they can serve congregations and support their families financially.



As part of his missionary work, Pastor Tom serves as an English faculty member at the seminary in Laos, and will be relocating there in June of 2024 to serve in a more fulltime capacity. English proficiency is a valuable asset to pastors throughout the world as it opens up the possibility for networking, support, and theological resources. The support of Pastor Tom's mission work helps support not only his family's living and travel expenses to Laos from the United States, but also the support of Laotian pastors and seminarians.

If you would personally like to support the ministry of Pastor Tom and Deuane or would like to join him or would like to join him on a mission trip, you can visit www.alwm.org/laos-thailand

Read about their recent long term trip this past summer:

Immanuel Women's Ministry!

Hey, Ladies. It's been a while since we have had an event. We decided to take a break for the holidays and during lent. We are back and this year we are planning to have Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter events. For now, we have 2 things for you to look forward to.

For our Spring event, we plan to have a paint event. Those of us that participated in the Fall paint event last year had a great time. All the projects turned out great, too. We will have several options to choose from including something springy, something patriotic and whatever else our teacher, Vashie Miller, suggests. The date and more details to follow. Watch your bulletin and email.

This summer we are working on a one-day event to be held at Immanuel. We are working on making this a great event that you will want to attend and bring your friends.

If you have ideas and suggestions on other events or things to include these events, let me or the rest of the board know. We welcome your ideas.

Blessings,
Marcia Hollenbeck

Fun Facts About Immanuel

The Sanctuary building has 259 windows and 196 of them are stained glass. The office-atrium area has 27 windows that we see through and 66 of the 196 stained glass windows. Immanuel has a lot of very small windows and very tall windows. In February all the Sanctuary windows were professionally cleaned. Wow! What a difference removing the dirt made. The stained glass windows shine from top to bottom.

Grace Hall has 28 windows that look outside. There are also a total of 17 small windows in all the doors throughout the building. In March they will be cleaned both inside and out and upstairs and downstairs. This may be the first cleaning for the outsides of the upstairs windows! The designated Campus Improvement Fund has funded this project. Thank you all for donating to this fund.

Tree pruning in February, you may have notice the trees were pruned in front of the main entrance in the center of the benches as well as our tall Canary Island Palm Tree in front of our church. We also had to remove two palm trees at the park and trim two of the oak trees. Plugging along, keeping our church clean and safe. Thank you all for your support to our church home.

In Celebration of our Members in March 2024

Birthdays

3-Alexandra Gardner
7-Jared Allred
11-Karl Nielsen
12-Cody Caglia
15-Kristi Hollenbeck
20-John Jensen
-Pat Griffin
24-Scott Hollenbeck
- Colby Hartwig
27-Margaret Fletcher
30-Gaye Cissel
- Logan Harding
31-Bill Pucheu



Wedding Anniversaries

8-Daniel & Jennifer Hartwig (16)
13-Bobby & Andrea Bell (20)
26-Scott & Marcia Hollenbeck (36)

Baptismal Birthdays

2 Susie Tews
3 Dale Ewing
5 Jacob Caglia
8 Brooke Hartwig
10 Eve Allred
16 Brittney Gardner
19 Ed Vike
19 Michelle Hollenbeck
21 Stephanie Hollenbeck
25 Liberty Auer
Kaylee Bennetts
Mckenzie Bennetts
Micah Bennetts
26 Ellen Vike
28 David Terrones

If you don't see your birthday, baptismal birthday or wedding anniversary in The Chimes, please let us know! See Victoria in the church office about a Household Data Form so we're sure to have all of your information!



Dear Immanuel,

Our time in the region of Southeast Asia was great and went by fast. Deuane and the boys left for Laos at the beginning of June, and she spent time meeting with translators working on the new Lao Bible translation. She also spent time with local church leaders at the Lao Church national office. I arrived July 12th in Laos, and time just flew by for the first week. Deuane and I had formal meetings with the church body's Lao Bishop and Vice Presidents. We spent a day and a half or so with family and visited Vang Vieng. We also stopped by our farm ministry site to check out the status of the land after we had to close it during COVID-19. While there, we had many ask if we had already moved back and when we would start being active in the local ministry. They were sadly disappointed when we said not yet, but I am look forward to joining them this summer.

After we left Laos, we went to Thailand for four days to meet with the President, Faculty, Staff, and students of the Bangkok Institute of Theology. I was able to preach at their chapel and present some gifts for the current faculty. While there, the President of the Seminary announced my appointment as faculty and asked them all to pray for us while we raised support so we would be able to come and teach at the seminary. They plan to launch a full English program, and having me as faculty will make that possible.

When we left Thailand, we flew to the Philippines for a week's worth of meetings related to regional Bible translations. It was a great time to have in-person meetings with so many we often only meet via Zoom. While we discussed some items related to current projects, we talked about future projects they hope to do, and what that will look like. They hope Deuane will be able to be part of it and also help work through training as part of their ministry team in Laos. After the week ended, we headed back to Laos to do some final meetings and then head home to the USA with a final sending and prayer from the Lao Church national leadership to pray we will return to Laos soon to serve the church for the sake of the Gospel.

Thank you for the support that makes this ministry possible!

Pastor Tom, Deuane, and the boys



Beautiful Feet in Haiti

By Pastor Heidi Punt

Come, walk with me. Take a step into a world so different from ours, so far removed from all the luxuries and customs of our culture that you may wonder how life can even exist in such harsh circumstances. Travel with me to a place where the words spoken by the apostle Paul to his congregation in Rome, centuries before, could not be more relevant now, than when they first written: “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” You believe this don't you? Calling on the name of Jesus, offers salvation. God graciously offers this to us. But imagine never having heard the name of Jesus spoken in love and grace. Instead you are shrouded with a spirituality invoking legions and demons belonging to Satan himself, punctuated by chaotic and intimidating practices of worship.

Paul continues in Romans 10:13 -15, “How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?” In 2019, the NALC “sent” me as Global Worker to Haiti. For about 8-10 weeks a year (while also fulfilling my full time calling as Pastor in North Carolina) I partnered with Sundouloi Ministries, Incorporated (SMI Haiti) and saw how God worked in the most powerful ways: Veils were torn from women's eyes as they first heard about a God who loves them beyond measure, homes were opened to the Holy Spirit as the devil was expelled, children received Christian education, mother's saw the lives in their wombs as a gift from God instead of an excretion of the body, hungry bellies were filled with food and souls nurtured with grace, Pastors trained churches, schools and clinics built young men and women developing vocations...

Then on July 7, 2023, at 1am, while I was safely sleeping in the mission house, the country was catapulted into chaos. The President was assassinated. Ever since then, it has become increasingly dangerous to enter the country. Let alone to be a civilian trying to survive in these times. But all was not lost.

With or without our physical presence there, SMI continued and still is powerfully involved in fulfilling their calling to be “sundouls”, which means “fellow servants” of our Lord and Savior, taking the calling to “preach” so “they can believe” literally. Prayerful and financial support from various NALC Congregations and individuals has allowed our Pastors and Teachers, Nurses and other co-workers to be the “beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Thank you.

Thank you, Immanuel

Dear Immanuel,

Thank you very much for your prayers and your retired missionary support. In February, I began Hospice Care. It was time for me to get more support since my diagnosis with ALS last summer. I am getting much weaker and short of breath. I have medications to take when I get anxious or short of breath. Thank you for your prayers.

Blessings to you,

Jan Kersgaard

Retired Missionary for World Mission Prayer League

News Notes for March

Shout Outs for special Birthdays in March: Pat Griffin hits 73 and John Jensen adds a one to his 70th decade both on March 20th. Margaret Fletcher will be 76 on the 27th and Gaye Cissel will be 77 on March 30th! Bill Pucheu closes the month off with his 78th birthday on March 31st!

Daylight Savings Time - SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR to “SPRING AHEAD!” Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 10th.**

Thrivent Members: Remember to renew your Choice Dollars to Immanuel Lutheran Church or other non-profit before March 26th.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper was a blast! We ate pancakes and sausage and heard a heartfelt story titled: “A Bad Case of the Stipes.” about loving who God made you and not wishing you were something else.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who participated in the beautiful birthday party for Pastor Taylor! She was thrilled with her gift to the San Diego Zoo and was overwhelmed with all the love she finds at Immanuel! Thank you all for your hard work! Good food and pretty tables takes love and muscles. WE HAVE THEM BOTH! Thanks Immanuel family.

Church Directory Corrections for 2024

The first printing of the 2024 directory was distributed on February 4th. So far, we have found two mistakes, please make these corrections in your new directories: Email address correction for Linda Avedisian add an “n”: kthnlin@aol.com. Add our member to your directory: Cecil Hardy 2021 S. Country Club Ln. Fresno, CA 93727 phone: 559-930-2536.

Central Pacific Mission District Discernment Retreat

Area Discernment Retreat On June 27-29 of this year, the Central Pacific Mission District will be hosting a free discernment retreat for college aged and second career men and women who may be hearing a call to ordained ministry. This three-day retreat will provide participants with practical next steps and answer questions about seminary, while focusing on equipping and nurturing the spiritual gift of discernment. We'll be offering worship, Bible studies, time for personal prayer and reflection, hands on workshops, and a chance to hear from pastors in the field and national representatives. If you have someone in your congregation who is curious about ministry or who you'd like to see use their gifts to serve the church as a pastor or deacon, please consider encouraging them to attend this retreat. The retreat will be hosted at Lone Sequoia Ranch, right outside of Sequoia National Park, and participants are only responsible for the cost of transportation. Please have participants register by April 15 at <https://bit.ly/471Tpvf> (caps sensitive!). For promotional materials for your congregation, including brochures and posters, questions, or alternate registration, email Pastor Taylor Stempniak at ptmarie96@gmail.com.

NALC Disaster Response Mission Trip

NALC Disaster Response: Sunday July 21 to Saturday July 27, the Central Pacific Mission District will host a mission trip for anyone interested helping rebuild the town of Paradise, CA. Work projects include repairing homes damaged and destroyed by wildfires. For more information, contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Coordinator at 740-509- 1132. The greatest need is Home Depot and Lowe's gift cards. Please ask your congregations to host a disaster response Sunday and collect gift cards for our youth to use in Paradise!

New Lutheran Church In Santa Maria

Santa Maria welcomes Iglesia Luterana San Juan Baptista and their pastor, Rev. Esteban Salazar to the NALC and to the Southwest Pacific Mission District. They are a new ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church in Santa Maria, CA. Pastor Esteban will become the shepherd of this ministry. His wife, Angie, is also now a NALS candidate through the Ordination Under Special Circumstances program. This ministry serves a very important part in the Santa Maria community, specifically the local farm workers and their families. Immanuel has supported this new church through Christmas offerings, benevolences, and through the Ummata Food Drive

During these tumultuous times in Haiti, a weekly online Bible and Leadership Training with the Pastor's has become a cornerstone. We have had Bishop Dan, the Rev Amy Little and the Rev Bradley Hales partner with us in this too. These times still prove to be Spirit driven. While it seems that language might be a barrier, it soon becomes clear that in Christ we are all unapologetically children of the one and true God with the mission to be messengers of the Christ.

Are you still walking with me? Meet Pastor Alexandre from Nanwoch, who went into the small village of Maya located in the mountains near Pierre Payne with the sole purpose to share Jesus and encourage villagers with the Holy Word. He nourished their spirits while also providing them with some food for their bodies. He returned to report... "Maya people thank you very much for the food. They were in need of an action like that. While I was teaching the word of God, a Vodou priest arrived with little girls and said, Pastor, please give each child food because their mother is dead, they have nothing left to eat. Then many people from Maya showed their gratitude. We bless the Lord for all the glory is to our God". Thank you for giving, thank you for praying. Thank you for not forgetting the people and ministry in Haiti. Because of you, the young orphans found food as Jesus found them. They believe, because they heard, they heard because Pastor Alexandre told them "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Take just one more step and meet Pastor Romelus from the Village of Kamitan, another one of our pastors with a passion and a heart for sharing the Gospel truth. He shares, "On Sunday afternoon we went to a great service at Bodme Boulard where the people asked us to come and do a crusade. We were with them from 4pm and we finished at 7pm." For three solid hours Pastor and his lay leaders preached and people came to faith. "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

The love I have for this mission and the community of Christ that you have helped build, has been extraordinary. The sounds, smells, the little sticky hands and beautiful faces of Haiti may seem like a different world but once you walk with them, it's just a Spirit's breath away. My heart continuously aches for the ones who are there everyday fighting the spiritual and political warfare. My prayer and hope is that Haiti will soon be restored, and that we can physically return to walk alongside the "beautiful feet". In the meantime, there are a few things we as brothers and sisters of Christ can do:

First, continue to PRAY hard and intentionally, that the “beautiful feet” continue to preach faithfully.

Secondly, consider giving toward this mission. As God tells us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) we hope that you can help us in this mission by giving toward our mission at www.smihait.org: support a Pastor, sponsor a child, fund a church or feed a family...

They can't believe if they haven't heard and they can't hear if no one is preaching and no one will preach unless they are sent - walk with me.

Joyful Blessings, your Global Worker in Haiti,
Pastor Heidi Punt



Lenten Services

Soup & Salad Suppers continue through March 20th, and we hope everyone will be a part of these beautiful services. The Holden Evening prayer service begins at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary, every Wednesday in Lent. Gather for a dinner at 6:30, the dinner is potluck style and you can sign up on the Gold bulletin board in the narthex (church entryway) or you can just come. There is always plenty of food. We have divided the people who attend church into 5 different circles to help with set up and clean up. The circles are listed in the back of the church directory. Circle C helps on March 6, D helps on the 13th and E helps on the 20th. If you have any questions regarding the circles please call the church office.

This year's Lenten offerings go to the Marjaree Mason Center. Fresno County's only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services. The organization has volunteer opportunities for those who would like to help with organizing and sorting donations, monthly and weekly opportunities are available. If you would like to volunteer email: JenniferL@mmcenter.org for more details. Keep reading the Chimes for more information at Immanuel for an educational event partnering with Margaree Mason Center's speakers about domestic violence and how to recognize the behaviors both in others as well as yourself.

Maundy Thursday Community Service will be at Easton Presbyterian Church at 7:00PM and Good Friday Community Service will be at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 7:00PM.

example to us to always be in contact with our creator. I think God smiles every time we talk to him. I believe he is always open to receive our 911 prayers but I think he is all the more overjoyed to hear us just talk to him. Even when we are well versed at cleverly thinking out our thoughts but also when what we pray is somewhat non-intelligible. That's the God I need. One who knows what I'm saying even if I don't.

I think that people who are and have grieved also have capacity to listen to us even when our thoughts are not so clear to us. Those of us who grieve need to trust our fellow grievers to love us and care for us even when things we say are not so put together. I encourage you to step out of the boat and contact and communicate with fellow grievers. And then keep taking steps. reach out to those who aren't grieving but perhaps are just in need of hearing a human voice. It might be a bit scary and intimidating, I can relate to that, but let's give it a try. Seek out someone at the grocery store, a sporting event, next door or down the street or at church. Strike up a conversation. Take time to listen to what they say and how they say it. I think we could have a real impact on other's lives.

Because I believe that kind of verbal communication is a gift, I would encourage you to use that gift. Use it often. To best use that gift, start by using it on God. Talk to him often. The Bible says pray without ceasing.

Let's give it a shot and see what happens. Call someone today and have a conversation with them. My prediction is that it will change you both.

I love you guys, John.

Prayer Focus for March

Week of 3-4-2024. Focus on spring's renewal. Isaiah 44:4 NIV. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.

Week of 3-11-2024. Focus on new things. Isaiah 43:19 NIV. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Week of 3-18-2024. Focus on the King coming. Zechariah 9:9 NIV. Re-joice greatly, daughter Zion! Shout daughter Jerusalem! See your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey.

Week of 3-25-2024. Focus on Jesus rising. Matthew 28:6 NIV. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Journey

So I always wait for God to put something in my mind that I feel led to write about. Sometimes that's as soon as I've emailed Victoria the last Journey. (while I think that's possible, it's never really happened). However, more times than not that something doesn't find me until the last minute. This time was no exception to that. I'm actually sitting down to draft the Journey two days after it was due. Victoria is a saint, she is always understanding and patient, at least outwardly. At any rate, I was having a conversation with someone I highly respect. That person was bemoaning the fact that in the world of iPhones that no one seems to talk directly to anyone else. At best we get and give people a well worded text or an email to express whatever it is we want to convey to the other. Not quite as best, we send a text with all kinds of alphabet letters that we may or may not understand. And worst case, we don't communicate at all. I tend to be one of those who sends text messages or emails. I'm at that awkward place in my life where I like to communicate, just not verbally. I chose that because I feel wholly inadequate at expressing my thoughts on the fly in a conversation. I prefer to formulate my thoughts nonverbally because I want to say what I want to say in a clear and thought out manner. That's why this space in the Chimes works for me. I have time to put together what I want to say.

This someone and I were talking about this very thing and it occurred to me that unscripted verbal communication is a gift. Recall Aaron had the gift and Moses did not. This someone is the best at this. A random person can walk up to them and they will find a way to have a 15, 30 or longer minute conversation. I marvel at that. I've never felt competent at spontaneous conversation. I'm sure it's a skill that one has to practice. I need a lot of practice.

So what does that have to do with grieving, which, after all is the point of these articles. Well...It struck me that conversation is an important part of the adjustment process when we lose that one person with whom we were maybe best at verbal communication. We need to be able to talk about, communicate, vent and rage about the pain we feel during this adjustment. As I've thought about it now for a while, I have gotten better at it than I once was. I've had to get better at conversation because frankly I get real bored talking to myself.

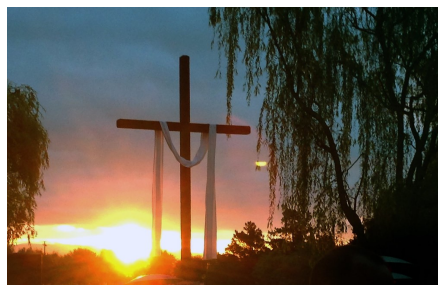
To take it to a spiritual level. God's admonition to us is that we talk to him. Not in text messages or emails, but in verbal conversations. Jesus himself never operated in a vacuum. He always prayed to God. He always had that communication line open. I'm thinking he did that for a reason and as an

Saint Jude Catholic Church Annual Fish Fry Friday Nights

The Knights of Columbus Men's group at St. Jude Catholic Church on 208 W. Jefferson will host their annual fish & chips dinners **every Friday night during Lent from 5:00PM-6:30PM**. If you don't feel like cooking, jump in the car and head down to St. Judes, the meals are \$15.00 for Fish and Chips or Fish Tacos. No dinners served on Good Friday.

American Union 4-H Club is hosting their Annual Pancake Breakfast On Sunday, March 17th at the Washington Union Cafeteria 8:00 - 11:00AM Tickets are \$12.00 Call Liz Capozzi at 559-246-8062 or contact any 4-H member Tickets can also be purchased at the door!

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Caruthers is hosting their Annual Danish Aebleskiver Breakfast on Sunday March 17th from 8:00-10:00AM at the church 13441 S. Quince on the corner of Quince & Erie in Caruthers Join them for Aebleskiver, Baked Ham, Orange Juice & Coffee The Free-will offering at the door will go for many worthy needs not only in their community, but far beyond.



Easton Community Sunrise Service at Immanuel Park 6:46AM.

Join us bright and early to watch the sun rise and worship with the churches in Easton. Rich Kahn and Mark Lanford will lead worship music. Everyone is invited over to Immanuel's Social Hall following the service for pancakes and sausage and fellowship with the community. **Volunteers are always appreciated to help with the cooking and cleaning up with this project.**

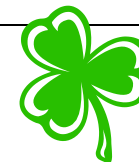
Fellowship Time Easter Sunday, March 31st!

Easter is always a busy Sunday before and after church. We ask the congregation to bring a small plate of cookies to share after worship. We also hope there ask for several volunteers to set up and clean up afterwards. If you can help set up and clean up please sign up on the gold bulletin board this Sunday. Thank you all for your help.

Everyone is invited to a Youth Ministry Prayer Lunch with Easton Presbyterian Church on the 17th after church.



March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lenten Offerings are going to the Marjaree Mason Center In Fresno this Year.					1 12:00PM Easton Food Distribution	2 DAHS in Social Hall
3 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship No Choir Practice today	4 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	5 9:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	6 6:30PM Soup Supper Circle C 7:00PM Lenten Service 7:45PM Community Choir Practice at EPC	7 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time Spring forward 1 hour 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship Congregational Prayer Time	11 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	12 9:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	13 6:30PM Soup Supper Circle D 7:00PM Lenten Service 7:45PM Community Choir Practice at EPC	14 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	15	16
17 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship Prayer Lunch at Easton at Presbyterian Church Fireside Room.	18 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	19 No Women's Bible Study today.	20 Chimes Deadline 6:30PM Soup Supper Circle E 7:00PM Lenten Service 7:45PM Community Choir Practice at EPC	21 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall 12:00PM Fellowship Lunch	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:00AM Blood Drive 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship time outside	25 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	26 9:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	27 6:30PM Soup Supper 7:00PM Lenten Service 7:45PM Community Choir Practice at EPC	28 6:00AM Men's Bible Study 12:00PM Fellowship Lunch 7:00 PM Community Maundy Thursday at Easton Presbyterian	29 7:00PM Community Good Friday Service at Immanuel	30
31 Easter! Christ is Risen! 6:48 AM Sunrise Service at Immanuel Park followed by a Pancake Breakfast! 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship time outside	April 1 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	2 9:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	3	4	5 12:00PM Easton Food Distribution	6