

# Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

*A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church*

*Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888*

April 7, 2024



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Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

# *Welcome to Immanuel!*

**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!

**Founded in 1888**, Immanuel is a family friendly congregation with worshipers coming from throughout Fresno County. We offer a variety of ministry opportunities for you to be involved in from Bible studies to service projects and social events. At the visitor's kiosk in the church entry are many books and pamphlets about our Lutheran faith and opportunities at Immanuel to share and learn more about Christianity.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday as well as other special occasions of the church year. You are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn more about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor and 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. Older 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 plate 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** for a snack and a cup of coffee or juice 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

*Please stand as you are able for the opening hymn.*

**Opening Hymn**

**“How Great Thou Art”**

*Lutheran Book of Worship page 532*

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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**

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through 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.*

**The First Lesson:**

**Acts 4:32-35**

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

32Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Responsive Readings**

**Psalm 133**

*Congregation, please read responsively the bold print verses.*

<sup>1</sup>How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

**The Second Lesson**

**1 John 1:1-2:2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

1We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—2this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the

Father and was revealed to us—3we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.5This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 Lesson**

**Mark 16:1-8**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

## **Gospel:**

## **John 20:19-31**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

**The Children's Message**

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

*Children are invited up to the altar with Pastor Taylor.*

**The Homily**

Pastor Taylor

**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.

*Please stand as you are able for the hymn of the day.*

### **Hymn of The Day “Open Our Eyes Lord, I want To See Jesus”**

Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him  
Open our ears Lord  
And help us to listen  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus

*Repeat song.*

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### **Confession of Faith**

Pastor: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed

#### **Confession of Faith – 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*)

**P:** The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

**All:** And also with you.

*Let us Share God's Peace with one another.*

*Please Be Seated.*

## Collection of the Offering

Offerings may be placed in the plate as it is passed along with the worship registration slips found at the back of the bulletin. There is a QR code printed on the back page for those wishing to donate online.

*Please stand and sing as the offerings are brought forward.*

## Offering 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.*

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer**

# Holy Communion

*Today we will celebrate communion at the altar rail. 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.*

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**

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **Communion**

*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 Canticle**

## **“Thank the Lord”**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;  
Tell everyone what he has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord  
Rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He recalls his promises  
And leads his people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

### **Benediction**

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**

#### **“He Lives”**

I serve a risen Savior He's in the world today  
I know that He is living whatever men may say  
I see His hand of mercy I hear His voice of cheer  
And just the time I need Him He's always near

*Chorus*

**He lives He lives  
Christ Jesus lives today  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way  
He lives He lives  
Salvation to impart  
You ask me how I know He lives  
He lives within my heart**

In all the world around me  
I see His loving care  
And though my heart grows weary  
I never will despair  
I know that He is leading  
Through all the stormy blast  
The day of His appearing  
Will come at last *Chorus*

Rejoice rejoice O Christian  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs  
To Jesus Christ the King  
The Hope of all who seek Him  
The Help of all who find  
None other is so loving  
So good and kind *Chorus*

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## **Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God! Sing: Amen, Amen, Amen**

## **Postlude**

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## **Announcements**

**This week's prayer focus on seeking the fruits of the Spirit.** Galatians 5: 22-23 NIV. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Immanuel Library is filled with wonderful books highlighting Easter! Check them out and enjoy!**

**Community Bible Study on Wednesdays:** Folks of all ages are welcome to join us **in Grace Hall** for a community Bible study on Wednesdays. We'll be offering this study at two separate times-- **10:30-11:30 am** and **7:00-8:00 pm**. Each week, we'll take a look at the readings for the following Sunday and how they interact with each other, the big questions they raise, and what insights might be there. If you'd like to read the texts before joining us, you can find a schedule below, but you're welcome to come even if you don't have a chance to read the texts beforehand.

April 10: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24: 36b-48

April 17: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

April 24: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

May 1: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17



**Immanuel is serving FCA lunches for the month of April.** Donated Chocolate Chip Cookies without nuts are appreciated. Please bring them to the social hall by Tuesday of each week and mark the total of cookies on your package. Volunteers meet on Wednesdays at 10:45AM and notify Ericka Gardner if you are able to help.

**Men's Bible Study meet every Thursday, at 6:00AM in the Social Hall!** All first time attendees get a brand new Bible. The morning starts out with a hearty breakfast and great discussion led by Phil Tews. For more information, see Phil Tews or call the church office.

**Women's Bible study meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am in the church library right next to the nursery.** Kids are welcome too! Pastor Taylor leads the study on the book of Exodus. We will be discussing **Chapters 25-31**. Please join us if you would like to be a part of this small group of women who pray together each week.

**Daily Devotionals are available** for you to pick up in the church entryway under the blue bulletin board. Pick yours up today. There are two types to choose from "Our Daily Bread" and "Portals of Prayer".

**Immanuel Fellowship Luncheons are the 4th Thursday of every month at Noon in the Social Hall.** Bring your friends to lunch at Immanuel. It's fun and a great way to get out of the house and enjoy a meal with friends. Invite your friends and neighbors, it's a great way to bring folks to church. Free will offerings are taken to cover the cost of the meal. Would you like to help with this ministry? Call Gina Cogan or the church office for more information. **The next lunch is April 27th! Sign up today on the Gold Bulletin Board.**

**Family Camp at Logger Flat Group Campground in the Sequoia National Forrest is June 7-14th!** The campground is near Hume Lake and Immanuel has it rented for the week. Come when you can and leave when you must. Pack up and come for the weekend or pack up for a few days' mid-week or come and stay all week. The choice is yours the venue is beautiful. Bring your food and shelter.

### **Women's Ministry At Immanuel**

**Women's Event Planned for May 18 at 10:00AM in Grace Hall!** It's a Paint Event! Vashie Miller will help us to paint a sign, you might want to choose one for the upcoming holidays or spring/summer season. You get to choose the picture you will learn how to paint! She will supply everything we need, and we will use stencils so the finished projects will look great. Being an artist is NOT required. We just paint inside the lines. The cost for the day of learning and the priceless piece of art you create and take home is \$25.00. We will have pictures of the options available soon, so you can make your selections. Many of us participated in the fall/winter paint event and we all had a great time. **Sign-up today on the Gold Bulletin Board in the church entry way. Please invite your friends, the more the merrier!** If you have other ideas for events, or if you have suggestions for this one, please let one of the members from the women's board know. (Women's Board = Marcia, Jackie, Kristi and Betty) Lunch will be provided!

**The Flowers** on the altar this morning are presented by the Salwasser Family for glory and honor to God.

**Prayers of the church:**

**For Christ's Church:** Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age.

**Members and their families serving in the military:** Erica Botello, Canaan Campbell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Leah Linger, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

**Those unable to travel about:** Gail Hansen, Paul Pedersen, & Bonnie Terkelsen.

**Those in need of pain relief & healing:** Bobbie Beshears, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Janice Cox, Steve Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ken Goff, Liz Harrison, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Carol Martin, Randy McFarland, Marcus Miranda, Velia Miranda, Joann Ortega, Gloria Payne, John Pestorich, Larry Pickens, Patti Price, David Stidham, 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 me _____	
<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 in Grace Hall

10:30AM Worship & Communion

11:45AM Fellowship Time

## **Monday:**

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

## **Tuesday:**

9:00AM Women's Bible Study

## **Wednesday**

**10:30AM Bible Study in Grace Hall**

12:00PM FCA Lunch for WUHS Students

**7:00PM Bible Study in Grace Hall**

## **Thursday**

6:00AM Men's Bible Study

## **Friday**

## **Next Sunday:**

9:30AM Sunday School in Grace Hall

10:30AM Worship & Communion

## **Worship Assistants This Week:**

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** John, Debbie & Lee

**Scripture Reader:** Gina Cogan

**Fellowship Servers:** Salwasser Family in celebration of Audra's Birthday!

**Altar Ware:** Sharon & John Reynolds

## **Worship Assistants Next Week:**

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** Gina,

**Scripture Reader:** Gina Cogan

**Fellowship Servers: Needed, please sign up on the gold bulletin board in the church entryway.**

**Council Lock Up in April:** Sharon Reynolds

*Sign up to volunteer for scripture reading, altar flowers and fellowship service on the gold bulletin board.*



Scan our QR code for links to our website, calendar texts 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 learn more about baptism

I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes")  I want to become a member of Immanuel

I am receiving communion today  I want a visit from the visitation pastor

I want to speak with the parish nurse  I want to speak with the pastor

I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor

I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_

I have hymn suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_