

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

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Trustees: Daniel Hartwig, Michael Moser
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Diane Laub, & Allyson Nielsen
Women's Ministry President: Marcia Hollenbeck
Women's Council Representative: Jackie Caglia

Martin Luther quote: God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does. We need to hear the Gospel every day, because we forget it every day.

Return Service Requested



*Memorial Day
Decoration*

REMEMBER AND HONOR
OUR HOMETOWN HEROES

Volunteers needed!

Saturday, May 25th at 7:30 am
and Monday, May 27th at 3 pm
Washington Colony Cemetery
7318 S Elm Ave. Fresno, CA 93706
For more information: Charlene 559-554-4750



Memorial Day Service

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Washington Colony Cemetery
7318 S Elm Ave. Fresno, CA 93706
Monday, May 27th 10 am

Please bring your own chair



The Immanuel Chimes May 2024

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, (Easton) California 93706
Church (559) 237-7909

Email: office@immanueleaston.com
Email/Pastor: ptmarie96@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages in Grace Hall
10:30 AM Worship & Communion

Pastor's Page

One of the first things Don shared with me when I visited him for the first time was that he was an usher at our church. At least, that was his official title, but as Don continued to share fond memories of Immanuel with me, I realized he had a unique approach to ushering. Near as I can tell, Don's mission at the church was not to hand out bulletins, pass the plate, or ring the bell that called us to worship. Not that he was bad at those things. He just preferred to have someone else do them. He rejoiced to watch eight-year-old Garrett greet the congregation with bulletins. He beamed when his granddaughter collected the offering. He smiled when ten-year-old Liliana yanked on the rope to ring the church bell. He taught each child old enough to show even an ounce of interest how to go about the tasks with care, faithfulness, and joy. Don wasn't keeping the children busy. He was being a steward of their small hearts. Here they were not outside observers in God's house, waiting for the day that they would belong. They belonged now. Don was catechizing and ushering in the next generation of those willing to faithfully serve.



In Deuteronomy 11, we're given the same call. God calls his people into a covenant of sacrificial love and obedience. He has revealed to Israel who he is. He has delivered his people from the land of slavery. He has shown that he is a God who honors his promises and does not forget his people. In return, we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our might. Our very lives begin to tell what God has done. Central in this passage is the message to teach our children to do likewise. In every moment of every day, as we are going in and going out, waking up and laying down, we take the opportunity to rejoice and love the God that we serve, and we invite the smallest amongst us in age and ability to come learn, rejoice, and serve as well.

Memorial Day Weekend Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery

On Memorial Day, the Veterans at Washington Colony Cemetery are recognized and volunteers are needed to help adorn their graves for Memorial Day. Charlene Jaehne will coordinate the volunteers to place over 200 crosses, flags and flowers on the graves of Veterans who are buried in our local cemetery. If you would like to help, the work begins at **7:30 am on Saturday, May 25th**. We need all the volunteers we can get. Donuts, coffee, and water served for early volunteers. We have over 70 new flags donated this past year, we need more volunteers to help hang them up around the cemetery. The same holds true on **Memorial Day at 3:00pm** when we will take down all the flags, fold them and pack the trunks for storage until next year. Please join us at Washington Colony Cemetery located at 7318 S. Elm for service and fellowship! It's too much fun to be called work.

This year during the Memorial Day Service at 10:00 am there will be a special flag folding presentation with the meaning of each fold of the flag explained. The keynote speaker, Captain Michael G. Stokes is from Lemoore Naval Air Station. **Please bring your own chair.** The cemetery will be adorned with our beautiful flags. Come for those who served and serve our country.

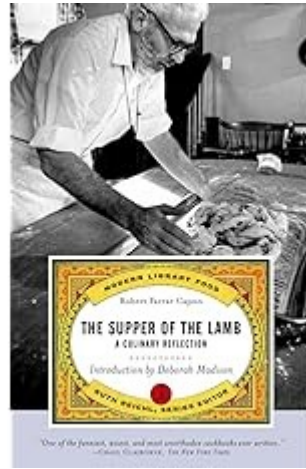
Serving at Immanuel

Our church, it's massive. There are so many fun and spiritual things to do. For example, changing the altar cloth. It's amazing how the Lord's presence is felt serving at the altar. There are also the things like reading scriptures, running the power point, streaming the worship service, learning about the sound board and microphones, ushering, bell ringing and so much more. Immanuel has two AED machines, one in the narthex and one in Grace Hall at the East Entrance. Please God, we never want to use those but if we need to use them, are there folks in our congregation that would be best fit to operate them? Would you like to learn more about how to help with them? Call the church office and inquire.

Have you been feeling or hearing God speak to you about how you can help at our church? Young Life Ministry with Washing Union High School or Kids Club Ministry with Washington Colony once a week might be something you would like to embark on? Everyone has gifts and talents to share. Call the church office, let's talk about what ministries, old or new, that might fill your heart.

Weekly Bible & Book Studies At Immanuel

Starting Tuesday, May 14th at 9:00AM, The Women of Immanuel will discuss the book titled "Supper of the Lamb" by Robert Farrar Capon. The book is part Bible Study and part Cookbook. The first copyright to this book was in 1967, it's had numerous editions and is back in print after years. It seems those who love scripture and it's relationship to cooking can't get enough of this book. Ruth Reichl states in the latest introduction of the book that one of the joys of this book is how truly contemporary it is. The author was an Episcopal Priest, father of 8 kids, and lived on Shelter Island in New York. His personality is a joy to read and his passion for life resonates with our Lord. Join us together as we share the chapters of this book with joy for our Lord and for the food He has provided. The book is available on Amazon and where ever you buy books.



Community Bible Study on Wednesdays

Folks of all ages are welcome to join us in Grace Hall for a community Bible Study on Wednesdays. This same study is offered 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 in the Sunday Bulletin, but you're welcome to come even if you don't have a chance to read the texts beforehand.

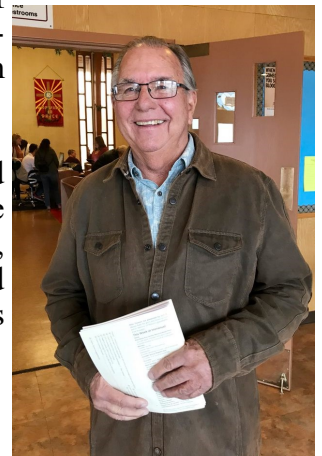
*Sunday School for everyone at 9:30 am every
Sunday morning in Grace Hall!*

It's tempting at times to think of stewardship as a conversation that is restricted to adults, but stewardship is a part of worship—part of remembering with sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell who God is and what God has done. When a child finds their time suddenly swallowed up on Sunday because they are helping set the altar for Holy Communion, they begin to understand that they too are gathered to God's table as one Jesus calls friend. When a child finds their voice in the choir throughout the year, they begin to understand that they too are part of the saints that will gather around the throne of Christ. When a child finds themselves welcoming the congregation and strangers into the doors of the church, they begin to understand the ways that their baptism also equipped them for the Great Commission. When a child is given an opportunity to give an offering at Sunday School, they begin to feel the weight and shape of God's own generosity and understand what it means to return that to him. Those moments of liturgy and catechesis are an invitation. They get into our bones to shape who we are and how we understand God's generosity.

By Don's own admission, it took him fifty years to realize the joy of giving to the church. Somewhere along the way, he began to recognize the statutes the Lord had written, the very lessons he would write upon the hearts of the next generation. Don eventually realized that the same God that freed Israel from slavery, the same God that freed each of us from the bondage of sin and death, was freeing him to imperfectly and enthusiastically give everything he had. His giving became not about a percentage of his income or the bare minimum he could do, but about the Lord our God, who brought us into the promised land of grace and forgiveness. Each of us is invited to receive and give the joy of participating in the justice, mercy, and faithfulness of our Lord. We do not grow into it. We do not retire from it. We are woven into it by God's own love.

We teach each other how to do so at home and away, in the morning and in the evening, in the rituals and in the life of the church. In doing so, our God writes his promises upon our hearts and the hearts of our children—a promise that his generosity endures from age to age.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Taylor



Women's Ministry

Please join us at 10:00 a.m. on May 18th for a Paint Event! Renowned artist and educator, Vashie Miller will help us paint a sign, you can choose one for the upcoming holidays or spring/summer season. You must select one from the photos below to do that day. If you can't decide you can buy 2 and do one at home later. She will supply everything needed, 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 is \$25.00 for the art project. Lunch will be served for a free will offering to cover the cost of the food. Many of us participated in the fall/winter paint event and we all had a great time. We hope you all can join us on Saturday, the 18th. **Please sign up on the bulletin board in the church entryway by May 12th** so we can contact you for your choice of picture. Payment can be made in advance or on the day of the event. Make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church, memo Women's ministry.

Mark your calendars and please invite your friends. If you have other ideas for women's events please share your ideas with Marcia or Kristi Hollenbeck, Jackie Caglia or Betty Moore.



Prayer Focus Each Week

Week of 5-6-2024. Focus on the women in our lives. 1 Peter 3:4 NIV. Rather, it should be that of your inner self the unfading beauty of a gentle spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

Week of 5-13-2024. Focus on our mothers, whether here or in heaven. Proverbs 31:28 NIV. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

Week of 5-20-2024. Focus on women who were the first to witness the resurrection, and then proclaim it to others. Matthew 28:8 NIV. So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples .

Week of 5-27-2024. Focus on the service of others. 1 Peter 4:10 NIV. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Immanuel Lifting Prayers UP:

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, Ca-naan 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, Steve Fletcher, Ken Goff, Liz Harrison, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Carol Martin, Bruce McElhoe, Randy McFarland, Marcus Miranda, Joann Ortega, Gloria Payne, John Pistorich, Larry Pickens, Patti Price, David Stidham, Pastor Amy Schifren, Rebecca Stempniak, **Bonnie Terkelsen, Allison Terrones & Keitt Wilson.**

For those morning the loss of loved ones: The family of Jan Kersgaard.

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

Immanuel News Notes

Happy Birthday to: Velia Miranda who turns 89 on May 14th and to Christie Pettitt on her 80th birthday! Happy Birthday to Kathi Mehrten who jumps into a new decade, on May 11th. And Happy birthday to Joan Lindsay who celebrates her 74th on May 28th.

Judy Hooper celebrated her birthday with a family gathering in Sonora. Here she is with two of her great-grandsons. Happy Birthday Judy, we miss you!



May Day Celebration in Easton continues on May 4th at the John Ventura Stadium on Lincoln just west of Immanuel. The event runs from 5:00-7:30PM. There will be food booths and game booths to enjoy after the May Poles are wrapped by the local elementary schools as the dance to folk music.

Immanuel continues to gather for inter-generational prayer on the second Sunday of each month after fellowship time. When you hear the bell ring during fellowship start moving your conversation into the sanctuary. When all that are gathering are seated the deacons will start the prayer. Each person who would like to pray takes a turn and as they finish their prayer they say “Lord in your mercy” everyone else follows with “Lord hear our prayer” then it is another person’s turn. Some come and pray silently, others share their prayers out loud in the style listed above so that we know when it’s another’s turn. Bring your kids, its time for our whole congregation to join in prayer. It’s good and holy and wonderful that we have a beautiful safe place to pray together with our church family. Thanks be to God.

Fellowship luncheons continue on the 4th Thursday of every month. Invite your friends for lunch! In April Gina Cogan and her crew of her mom, Sandee and her aunt, Martha set out a delicious spread: Sheperd’s Pie and Chicken Tot Casserole, fresh vegetables, green salad and a roll followed by cake and or ice cream for dessert. Everyone had a great time with good food and lots of conversation. As said by Dr. Seuss, “You only get old once”. Reschedule your doctor’s appointments and come enjoy time with friends for lunch on the 4th Thursday of every month. The next luncheon will be on May 23rd at 12:00PM in the Social Hall. Please sign up in the church entryway and invite your friends.

Recycling continues at Immanuel. If you would like to save your CA redemption cans and plastic please bring them to church. (separated aluminum and plastic is very nice) The Women’s Ministry account benefits from these funds.

Pregnancy Care Center Change For Babies Fundraiser!

Immanuel supports the Pregnancy Care Center in Fresno with the Change 4 Babies fundraiser starting on Mother’s Day and ending on Father’s Day. Pick up a baby Bottle in the church entryway and collect your change for a month between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. All donations will go to the Pregnancy Care Center and provide help for parents who are struggling with the arrival of a new baby. Christian counseling, education and prenatal care are provided at no cost to the recipients. The center offers support and Christian guidance for both mothers and fathers. Your donations make this loving, Christian ministry possible. If you would like to participate in ‘Change for Babies you may pick up a bottle and fill with coins, or simply write a check and return to Immanuel on Father’s Day.

**PINT SIZED GIFT.
GIANT IMPACT.**

**RUSS DUNBAR MEMORIAL
BLOOD DRIVE**

MAY 19 | 9:00A - 12:00P

**SOUTH WEST CORNER OF ELM &
LINCOLN AVENUES IN EASTON**

**Emily
Krieghoff**
Life Saved

 Central California Blood Center

Journey

So let's talk about grievors owning their feelings.

Shortly after Cindy passed I awakened to a whole new world. Suddenly things had changed. I had always gotten along well with her family. She has two female cousins and one has a husband. We did birthday dinners and holidays together. Suddenly, that whole family was gone save for one cousin who was a bit of a recluse. The cousin and I stayed in touch and often bantered via text messages. It was kind of devastating, to be honest. Only one spoke out and said, you remind us of Cindy and that makes us sad and we don't want to be sad. And with that, it was over. I've never heard from any of them again. I've forgiven them, for my sake, but the scar is still there to be seen. That was about seven and a half years ago.

I tell you this story not to illicit your pity or to prod you to feel sorry for me. I tell you because I want you to know that sometimes people will struggle with what to do about you once a loved one has passed. And this applies in the other direction as well. Maybe you were friends with someone and now that dynamic has changed and you don't feel that relationship the same. I think it's important to face those feelings and deal with them. Not dealing with them just kicks the can down the road. I'm not saying your feelings are wrong. What I'm saying is to ignore them may cause you to lose your focus on more important things. Like your relationship with God. That's the one relationship you want to be the most honest with.

In the bigger picture, not dealing with your feelings may be interfering with your quality of life. If you have to invest time into feeling different around people you no longer feel the same about then that's kind of a waste of time.

I've literally never seen her family anywhere since that revelation. I wondered for a long time what I would say if a came upon them somewhere. I soon realized that I would have to live out that forgiveness. Not by saying, I forgive you to them, but by just greeting them and moving on. I will let you know how that turns out if it happens.

The relationship that is most important is of course, your relationship with God.

God's desire is for us to live in harmony. Our responsibility is to do our best not to get in the way of that. If we have unresolved feelings, those distract us, and that wouldn't help the situation.

I'm in no way suggesting that any of this is easy, because it is not. When you get to the point of wanting to "fix" those feelings be ready for a roller coaster of emotions. But, I believe in the end you'll be in a better place. I know there will be those who don't want to resolve feelings that have become very comfortable over a long time. You can't let that stop you from acknowledging your side of the issue. Again, this is really about how you and God relate.

Thank You Immanuel

March 20, 2024

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Words cannot express how much your donations received in January and February mean to us. We are so grateful for your gifts supporting Iglesia Luterana San Juan Bautista.

We have a growing congregation whose members are rich in faith, but poor financially. Our congregation has many needs and support from our brothers and sisters in Christ have helped to provide food and other essential supplies along with resources to provide spiritual food to those hungry for the Good News of Jesus.

Your contributions has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve—thank you for your kindness and generosity.

May God continue to bless you and your congregation.

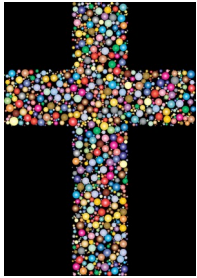
*Pastor Esteban & Angie Salazar
Iglesia Luterana
San Juan Bautista*

The above letter was received as thanks for the Christmas Offerings

Thank you for FCA Help!

Immanuel served lunch to Fellowship of Christian Athletes this Spring in March and April. They served a total of 816 students with an average of 164 each week. The crew had a great time and the tried a new item this spring, 'Uncrusted' peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. It was a hit. Thank you to all the cookie bakers this spring. We had plenty! Thank you to those who plated and prepped the lunch each week. Thank you to Ericka Gardner who heads up this ministry and has a special gift to know just how much food to get each week. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry that has been served at Immanuel since 1988. Easton Presbyterian Church will finish the school year with the Wednesdays in May.

In Celebration of our members May 2024



Birthdays

5 Eva Orum
11 Kathi Mehrten
Elijah Cisneros
14 Velia Miranda
17 Christie Pettitt
23 Nick Bennets
26 Fran Hansen
28 Joan Lindsey
29 Bethany Gardner

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Wayne & Eva Orum (42)
4 Richard & Allyson Kahn (39)
4 Dennis & Joan Wynn (22)
21 Aaron & Meghan Anderson (13)
25 Jim & Fran Hansen (39)

Baptismal Birthdays

1 Leona Rosendahl
5 Jennifer Hartwig
6 Christian Jensen
9 Alexandra Gardner
15 Debbie Goff
Joseph Orozco
Vincent Orozco
16 Wayne Orum
20 Audra Salwasser
Victoria Salwasser
22 Marilyn Nielsen
24 Stacy Avedisian
Kay Jensen
31 Cody Caglia

Aprons For the Social Hall

Margaret Fletcher enjoys sewing and she thought it would be nice to use her gifts to support our social hall renovation project. The aprons hanging in the narthex are available for anyone who wants them. If you would like to support this fund raising project simply donate cash, check or online. Remember to designate Social Hall Aprons with your donation. Your donations will go directly into the Social Hall Restoration Fund.

Quilts & Crafts For the Social Hall

Laura Nielsen enjoys quilting and crafting. She has beautiful quilts & crafts to sell for our social hall restoration project. Usually she showcases them at Country Stores and Boutiques at the church. Sometimes we need a cute gift for someone special, why not check with Laura for some hand made quilts or other crafts that she might have on hand in between the Country Store & Boutique Fund Raising Events. Remember to designate your donations to Immanuel Social Hall restoration.

The key here, I believe, is to be in the best relationship with God that you can be. Of utmost importance is being in communication with God daily, hourly in prayer. There really is no substitute for a good prayer life. Closely behind that is regular scripture reading. Be as intentional as you can be about those two. After that comes studies, both on your own and in a group. Service to others also figures into this relationship with God. When we are serving others we are feeling the family of God.

Your feelings are your feelings; admit you have them. That will be the first step in putting things right. You have to own and embrace your feelings. I'm not telling you this as someone who has it all figured out and taken care of. I'm on the same road as you.

Press on, work on it when you can. We'll get there eventually. God is with us, Immanuel.

Love you guys, John.

The legend Of The Red Toilet Brush in the Kitchen

Once upon a time there was a church custodian named Ron who longed for a professional grade toilet brush. One that would keep it's bristles and do the work that was needed to be done. As the dutiful purchasing agent finally went to a janitorial store and sought the best professional grade toilet brush available, she grimaced when cost was \$9.99 for such a thing. (maybe this was to 10 years ago) This may have turned out to be the best ten spot the church has ever spent. The brush was (and still is) a beauty with a strong white handle and bright red bristles. It was purchased and delivered to the Social Hall on a Wednesday evening where Ron, the custodian, would find his new toilet brush, first thing the next morning. Coincidentally he was not the first to find the new beautiful brush. This is not where the story ends.

The beautiful strong bright red bristled toilet brush was first found by other men who longed for a better kitchen brush to use after Men's Bible Study Breakfast. This toilet brush was just what the jokesters though would be perfect for cleaning eggs and cheese off their breakfast plates. Tom and Don claimed the beautiful brush as the best kitchen brush of all time. And so it goes, this beautiful toilet brush has never seen a toilet bowl, but has performed perfectly on plates, cups, soup bowls, and infinitely many other dishes. To this day, the brush is as beautiful as the day it was purchased.

So the next time you are in the church kitchen and tasked with washing dishes, you can thank those saints who came before and took part in what was thought to be a joke, and ended up being a legacy. That brush works as good today as it did, so many years ago.



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 28 	29 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	30 No Women's Bible Study Today	1 10:00AM Bible Study 12:25PM FCA Lunch 7:00PM Bible Study	2 National Day of Prayer 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	3 12:00PM Easton Food Dist.	4 May Day Celebration at John Ventura Stadium
5 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	6 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	7 No Women's Bible Study Today	8 No Bible Studies Today 12:25PM FCA	9 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	10	11
12 Mothers' Day 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship 12:00PM Congregational Prayer	13 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	14 9:00AM Women's Book Study in library	15 10:00AM Bible Study 12:25PM FCA Lunch 7:00PM Bible Study	16 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	17	18 10:00AM Women's Paint Day in Grace Hall
19 Russ Dunbar Mem. Blood Drive 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	20 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall	21 9:00AM Women's Book Study in library 6:30PM Council Mtg. In Grace Hall	22 10:00AM Bible Study 12:25PM FCA Lunch 7:00PM Bible Study	23 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall 12: Fellowship Lunch in Hall	24	25 7:30AM Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery.
26 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	27 Memorial Day 10:00AM Service 3:00PM Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery.	28 June Chimes Deadline 9:00AM Women's Book Study in library	29 10:00AM Bible Study 12:25PM FCA Lunch 7:00PM Bible Study	30 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	31 Washington Colony School Reserved Social Hall	