

GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church
2201 Benita Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

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Rancho Cordova, CA
Permit #7



Immanuel

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

If there is one dominant theme that runs throughout scripture, it is that of God’s “with-ness”. Starting with the first book of the bible, Genesis, we read that God dwelt intimately among and within His creation.

“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day...” Gen.3:8

Then, after sin entered the world and there was separation between God and His creation, He moved to redeem the world through the people of Israel.

“Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.” Exodus 29:45-46

This arrangement by which God dwelt among the Israelites was through a physical structure called a tabernacle. By means of this tabernacle God dwelt among the Israelites throughout their forty years of wondering in the desert. For the next 400

years God continued to dwell with Israel during which Israel was governed by specific judges or rulers. Once Israel entered the era of kings, the tabernacle was replaced with a permanent temple. This sacred building was to be God’s permanent dwelling place. Probably the most well-known Psalm (Psalm 23) bears witness to this glorious truth;

“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

However, when Israel rebelled against God and rejected their sacred calling, they were removed from their promised land. Nonetheless, even in exile God was still

SUNDAY ADVENT SERVICES

9:00am Traditional Lutheran Service

11:00am Grace Awakenings

Modern Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

followed by FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

7:00pm DEC 24

A CHRISTMAS CAROL EXTRAVAGANZA

9:00am Sunday DEC 29



Immanuel

with them and reminded them through the prophets that He would restore their relationship through a promised king or messiah. It was during the time of exile that Jesus entered the scene proclaiming the age of God's kingdom whereby God would dwell with His creation in the most profound way.

"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

The word used for "dwelling" in this passage literally means "to tabernacle".

The first disciples did not recognize this new age of God's "with-ness". In fact, one of Jesus' disciples, Philip, asked Jesus to show him the Father. Jesus' response to Philip's request was that when anyone looked at Jesus, they were literally seeing His Father. Before Jesus ascended to the heavenly realm, He promised His disciples that although they would no longer be with Him physically, He would always be with them, even to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:20) He also promised that He would send them the Spirit of Truth to be **with them** forever. (John 14:16)

This promise was fulfilled during the Jewish observance of Pentecost, in which the Spirit of God descended like tongues of fire upon the gathering of disciples in Jerusalem. Which brings us to today. We currently live in the era where God's presence is realized through the indwelling of His spirit among His disciples. We are the ones God is working in to move forward with His final act of redemption.

We are the ones living in the certain hope of God's presence which one day,

"will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 2:14)

We are the ones who through faith are experiencing the power, life and redemption that is found in His name. Ultimately, we, with those saints who have gone before, are the ones who will inherit a world where there will be no more night. Nor in that day will we need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because God will give us His own light and we will reign with Him forever and ever. We are the ones in whom God is dwelling not only now in this present age, but throughout all eternity.

This Christmas, let us not forget the witness of God's presence. Let us once again celebrate God's loving and triumphant act of becoming flesh and dwelling among us! Immanuel, God is with us!



Pastor Steve



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All submissions to Grace Notes
 are subject to editing for space and content.

Join us at the 20th Annual

CORDOVA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING!



DECEMBER 1st — 4 TO 7:30
 Free Admission
 Fireworks at 7
 Village Green Park
 3141 Bridgeway Drive
www.cordovacouncil.org

CHOIR! WORSHIP! BIBLE STUDY!

See calendar for all fellowship gatherings.

Christmas Eve WORSHIP SERVICE

7 PM

FOLLOWED BY
 FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



FLOWERS

- 1st **Bree & Ted Hornstra**
Happy 1st Birthday Tanner!
- 8th **Ann Richardson**
In Remembrance of Dad, Leon Richardson
- 15th **Katelin Rowland**
In Honor of Austin's Birthday
- 22nd **Helen Hammer**
In Memory of Larry's Birthday
- 29th **Kathleen Keehner**
Happy Birthday!

BIRTHDAYS

- Jerry Rinkle 3rd
- Kody Jensen 7th
- William Shiflet 12th
- Barbara Franklin 17th
- Jesus of Nazareth 25th
- Pamela Cooper 27th
- Bob Schall 28th
- Judy Wilson 29th
- Kathleen Keehner 30th

DEC. 29th Services will be
 A CHRISTMAS
 CAROL EXTRAVEGANZA