



**APR MAY JUNE 2025** 

**VOLUME 57, ISSUE 2** 

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER** 

## WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY MORNINGS AND
LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
ENGLISH AND ARMENIAN SERVICE

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of IACC is to unite together believers in Jesus Christ for worship, prayer, instruction, fellowship, service and evangelism for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. The Church shall make the will of God, as revealed through the Holy Scriptures, preeminent in the lives of men individually and collectively.

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A volunteer at Stanford Hospital reports about an eight-year- old girl, named Liz, who was on the verge of death due to a rare blood disease. Her only chance for survival was getting a blood transfusion from her five-year-old brother, who was a willing donor because he loved his sister and wanted to do whatever was necessary to prolong her life. After a physician explained the whole procedure to the donor, the little boy calmly lay on a hospital bed, extending his right arm, while anxiously waiting for the start of what he thought would be a painful experience.

He felt some pain when his vein was poked with a needle, but taken as a whole, the anticipated ordeal was bearable. When the attending physician checked to see if enough blood had been drawn, he was stunned when the little boy asked, "Will I start to die right away?" Apparently, the little boy had thought that he was required to give away all his blood! That innocent question revealed the magnitude of his love for his sick sister. It became clear to the medical staff that the unselfish boy was willing and ready to die for the sake of saving his sister.

This episode reminds me of the statement recorded in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that a person lay down his life for his friends." This declaration, made by Jesus, shows that the ultimate demonstration of true love is to sacrifice one's life for the benefit of others. This is exactly what Jesus did

when he consented to die for us. He was the sinless Lamb of God. who did not deserve to die, but He willingly sacrificed His life for us by absorbing the full penalty of our sins. On the rugged Cross of Calvary, Jesus went through a horrible and agonizing death to make a perfect and full atonement for the sins of the human race. He died that we might have the assurance that our sins are forgiven, that their record has been blotted out, or erased, and that through His vicarious death, we have been reconciled to God and have become the heirs of His eternal Kingdom.



In Romans 5:6, the Apostle Paul says, "Christ died for the ungodly." At the heart of the Gospel stands the truth of Replacement or Substitution. Christ did not die the death of a martyr for the sake of a religious cause, nor did He die as punishment for His own sins. He had none, for He was the sinless Son of God. Rather, the Bible presents His death as the fulfillment of God's purpose. Over 700 years before Christ died, the prophet Isaiah wrote, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we

healed" (Isaiah 53:5). He endured the punishment of God for our sins.

Jesus' mission to our world did not end on the cross. Following the brutal crucifixion came the glorious resurrection. Had Christ's life ended on the cross, Christianity would have become the religion of defeat and despair, but because of His triumphant resurrection, Christianity has become the religion of hope, joy and victory. The two main symbols of the Christian faith are the Cross and the Empty Tomb. While the first symbol assures us that our sins have been washed away by Jesus' shed blood, the second symbol underscores the truth that eternal life has been secured for those who believe and follow Him.

Following His betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was repeatedly challenged by his adversaries to prove His identity by rescuing Himself from suffering and torture, but our Savor wanted to reveal to his enemies that beyond all miracles, the greatest demonstration of power would be overcoming death. The resurrection of Jesus vindicates the truthfulness of all His claims and proves, beyond any doubt, that He is truly the Son of God and the Redeemer of sinners.

Let this Easter be more than a remembrance; let it become a resurrection of your faith, your joy and your hope.

Rev. George Terian, Senior Pastor Immanuel Congregational Church Downey, CA

## 95TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church's 95th Anniversary Banquet celebration was observed on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at 1:00pm at the Quiet Cannon Banquet Hall in Montebello, California. Our theme for the event, "Joy in God's House."

The afternoon began with a social hour at 1:00 pm while guests enjoyed mezze. Patti Parrish, Banquet Chair, began welcoming everyone and then turned the afternoon over to Mistress of Ceremonies. Souzi Baghdikian. After the American and Armenian national anthems were sung, led by Baghdo Khojikian, Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian. Minister of the AEUNA, gave the invocation.

A long time tradition of the banquet was the cutting of the cake by those individuals who have history and serve our church. year, the cake was cut by Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian, who for over four decades have faithfully served Immanual Church. Baghdo has served as Council moderator. Board of Trustees chair and master shish kebab cook at our annual Memorial Day picnics. has served as Sundau School Superintendent and teacher, Women's Bible study leader and always lending a helpful hand where needed. We were pleased to honor them by cutting the 95th anniversary cake. Dinner was then served where guests were treated to the music of Greg Hosharian.

Our quest speaker for the afternoon was Rev. Vatche Ekmekiian. Senior Pastor Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church in Pasadena. Rev. Ekmekjian was the Senior Pastor of Immanuel Church from 2011 to 2019. It was good to have him with us for the celebration of our 95th year. He explained the joy of coming to America with his family and joining Immanuel Church where he witnessed and experienced the deep values of the Armenian-American commu-With our theme of "Jou in God's House" he mentioned how the letter "B" kept coming into his thoughts. First we need a Building (Immanuel Church), then we need a Badveli, also a Budget is support the needed to We also need a church. Banquet celebrating once a year with the joy of family and friends. The Bible is also what we follow, to be again and finally Blessings from above. Truly a Jou in God's House where

we come together for fellowship with other believers.

To complete the afternoon, guests were treated to the musical performance from Greg Hosharian and his accompanist, Gevorg Rostomyan on the Dhol, and sang several beautiful Armenian songs for our enjoyment.

All agreed the afternoon was a great success. Council Moderator Rosemary Saatjian and Rev. George Terian closed thanking all for attending. Rev. Terian gave the benediction and we concluded with singing, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" and "Park Yev Badeev".

I would especially like to thank the Banquet Committee - Rev. George Terian, Souzi Baghdikian, Levon Baroutjian, Marie Birebirian, Janeen Dinkel, Debbie Fermanian, Barbara Gasparian, Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian, Rosanna Morland, Rosemary Saatjian, and Alice Terian for helping to make the afternoon such a success!

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Parrish Banquet Chair

## 95TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET







































## 95TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET



























#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!**

We are thrilled and excited to share that our Sunday School is back and running! Our Sunday School Superintendent, Lisa Khojikian, has once again graciously volunteered to lead the Sunday School. They meet every Sunday from 11:00 am - 12:15 pm. All children are welcome!

Thank you Lisa for your dedication, leadership and love for the students is a true blessing to our church. Your commitment to nurturing faith and guiding the children in God's word does not go unnoticed. We are grateful for the time, effort and prayers you pour into this ministry. May God continue to bless you abundantly in all that you do.

A note from the Superintendent:

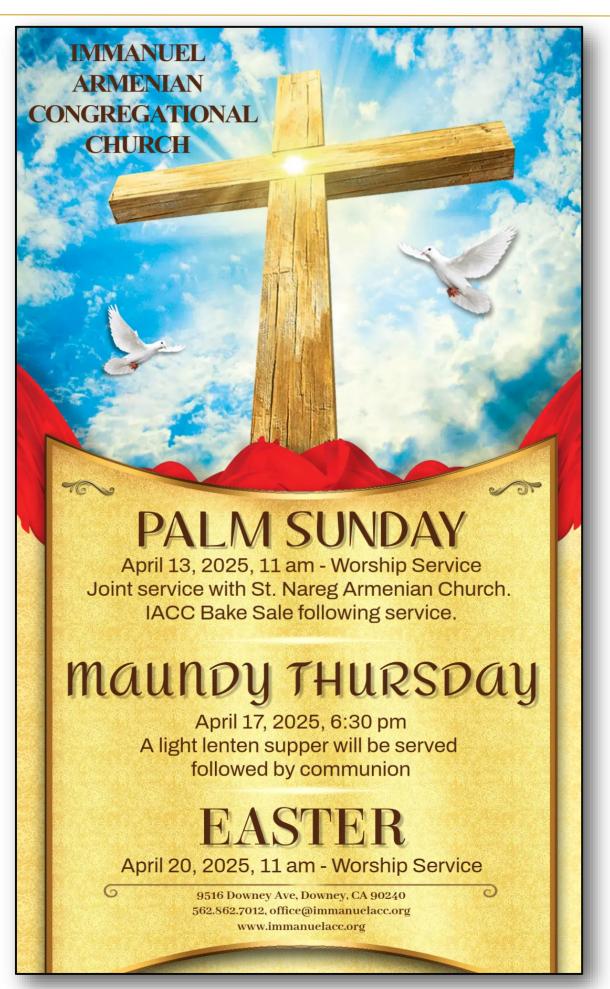
Showing and teaching God is love to children in Sunday School is fun and seems to be quite simple....singing Songs of Praise, Praying, sharing a Bible Story, explaining the Trinity (God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit), coloring, snack time and outdoor play. This is God at work in the lives of children. We have the enthusiastic Marganian Families who attend weekly and their mothers who assist with teaching and we pray more children will come and attend.

Do any of you remember singing, "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock"? When we were children it seemed straight forward: a song about construction, rock, sand, rain and flood. In Matthew 7:24-29, Jesus wants us to hear His words and be doers of His words by putting them into practice in our lives. Building a foundation of faith is an ongoing project throughout our lives and following Jesus give us strength to endure and weather the storms of life which come our way.

Lisa Khojikian Sunday School Superintendent









# Mother's Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 11:30 am

Fellowship, Food, Fun, Raffle & Games

Adult: \$40, Child under 12: \$25

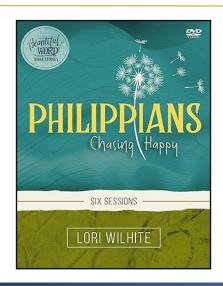
Sponsor: \$150 (incl 2 tickets + 10 raffle tickets)

RSVP by May 3, 2025 to the church office at 562.862.7012 or email: office@immanuelacc.org





#### **CHURCH NEWS**



## Women's Spiritual Fellowship

We invite all women to join us for fellowship and study.

10 am breakfast followed by the study.

Next Study: April 26, 2025

This will be the final Bible Study until September.

## **BIRTHDAYS**





#### **JANUARY**

- 7 Baghdo Khojikian
- 18 Vahe Ashkarian
- 19 Astrid Ashkarian
- 19 Katherine Marcarian
  - 31 Pierre Deyan







#### **FEBRUARY**

2 - Parounak Minassian 28 - Lucy Deyan

#### **MARCH**

6 - Lisa Khojikian

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### Dear Church Members:

Those of you who have been attending IACC for many years probably remember when the congregation moved from its Los Angeles location to its current address in Downey. It was, I am sure, bittersweet to leave your church home but there is joy in looking to the future, change and anticipation. The majesty of the structure and the memories made may have paled in comparison to the adventure of creating a new church home. This current structure is the result of changes to the front facade of the original building and an addition of the social hall; trees planted in the medium of the parking lot and then removed due to the damage caused by the tree roots to the cement. Improvements made to better suit our use and to beautify our surroundings.

As with all things, wear and tear give way to much needed repairs and even renovation. It takes careful stewardship to protect Christ's church and the many Councils that have served over the years are all too familiar with the need to repair. We can never lose heart about our church's needs and gratefully, when the time arose for expensive work, the funds in our Building Fund and the support of our congregation have stood tall.

Continuing to maintain our church is our joy and brings the vision of God not to us but through us. We must not waiver from our obligation to be good stewards but always remember that God expects us to take care of the building He has given us within which to worship and your continued support in that regard is vital. We appreciate all you do to support IACC and her existence and pray for your continued attention and support. Come see our progress!

Sincerely, Rosemary Saatjian, Moderator

We will continue with our efforts to keep IACC's buildings and grounds looking their best. Our Lord and our congregation deserve it as do our visitors who come and praise Him with joy. Please keep an eye on your surroundings and contact the church office to let them know if you see any needed repairs.

To maintain the grounds and to beautify our Lord's house, the following items have been taken care of to date:

- 1. Pipes/valve replaced and fixed in men's restroom and kitchen.
- 2. Outdoor main water pipes were replaced in the front and side of the building due to heavy water pipe leaks.
- 3. "Saxophone" pipe in the kitchen was replaced.
- 4. Outdoor pipe replaced outside of kitchen.
- 5 Bushes removed and new cement area near office was done to fix rainwater leak into the Sunday School building.
- 6. A new glass was installed on kitchen window.

#### UPCOMING PROJECTS

l. Change vinyl flooring in Sunday School building hallway.

Board of Trustees Chair, Sona Minakian



#### **DONATIONS**

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deep sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts, with thanks:

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF MAX & NELLIE SIMONIAN AND ALEX & HELLEN HAMBARIAN

**Dennis Simonian** 

## IN CELEBRATION OF LUCY DEYAN'S BIRTHDAY

Lucy Deyan Patti Parrish

# IN CELEBRATION OF LISA KHOJIKIAN'S BIRTHDAY

Vahe & Chris Ashkarian Patti Parrish Lorriane Sogomian

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF BETTY KOUYOUMJIAN

John & Alicia Bair Elizabeth Garo Patti Parrish

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF RON DINKEL

Janeen Dinkel

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF JACK BIREBIRIAN

Rosanna Moreland

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF LEVON & ANOUSH BIREBIRIAN

Armen & Debbie Fermanian

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF GARY DEYAN

Lucy Deyan

# 95th ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY BANQUET UNDERWRITER

Armen Aroyan Barbara Gasparian

# 95th ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PATRONS

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Dicky Dodd
Rev. Vartkes & Samira Kassouni
Hagop & Cynthia Ketenjian
Hrag Marganian
Patti Parrish
Rev. George & Alice Terian

# 95th ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY BANQUET SPONSORS

Rev. Daniel & Suzy Albarian Vahe & Chris Ashkarian Ara & Esther Assilian Souzi Baghdikian Levon Baroutjian Marie Birebirian Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian Melik & Marlen Kumjian Sona Minakian Rosanna Moreland Paul & Karen Sonefeldt

# 95th ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY BANQUET DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian
Berdj & Dawn Adrouni
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Alyce Mashikian
Sam & Ruth Proodian
Gayle Samarin
Araxi Sarchisian

Rev. & Mrs. Hendrik Shanazarian Brent & Lavonne Sherman Paul & Karen Sonefeldt George & Marsha Zakaroff

#### **GENERAL DONATIONS**

Arthur Kazarian

# Continued IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOANN OHANESIAN

Patricia Kasparoff Marianne Ohanesian Paul & Karen Sonefeldt

## Continued CHRISTMAS DONATION

Sam & Norma Makhanian Richard & Gayle Moore Raymond & Thelma Kay

# Continued IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHARON MADZOEFF

Sirarpi Stepanian



#### THIS 'N THAT

#### CAMP AREV WOMEN'S RETREAT



There is something sacred about stepping away from the busyness of everyday life to reconnect with God, nature, and each other. Camp Arev Women's Retreat held on April 4 -6, 2025 was a place to breathe, reflect, and be renewed. The theme for the weekend was "Go and Tell", inspired by Matthew 28:18-20 where the words of Jesus calls us not just to receive, but to go.

As we worshiped and walked together in fellowship, we were reminded of Christ's final promise: "Surely I am with you always."

That promise empowers us to step out, speak up, and go and tell.

IACC & St. Nareg Young Adults - Both groups continue with their weekly Bible Study in the IACC Sunday School building.

#### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

April 13 (Sun	-	Palm Sunday. Joint service with St. Nareg Ar- menian Church. Also, Ladies Aid Bake Sale following Worship Service.
April 17 Thur)	ı	Maundy Thursday Services. Lenten meal and communion. 6:30 pm.
April 20 (Sun)	ı	Easter
April 26 (Sat)	ı	Women's Spiritual Fellowship, 10 am breakfast
May 10 (Sat)	-	Mother's Day Luncheon, 11:30 am
May 11 (Sun)	-	Mother's Day
May 18 (Sun)	ı	Council Meeting, 1:30 pm.
May 26 (Mon)	ı	Annual Memorial Day Picnic & Car Show.
June 15 (Sun)	-	Father's Day

The quarterly publication of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church.

The 2025 editorial staff includes: Rev. George Terian Debbie Fermanian Rosemary Saatjian

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