

“Life is like a box of chocolates, Forrest; you never know what you’re gonna get.”

At Immanuel, we understand that visiting a new church can seem a little intimidating and even a little “scary.” Maybe you’ve just moved to El Dorado and don’t yet know many people. Maybe Immanuel appears to be a larger church than you’re accustomed to. Maybe, because we have several buildings and ministry areas, you’re unsure about where to go when you visit us. Or maybe, like Forrest Gump’s mother said, “You never know what you’re gonna get.”

Regardless of your situation, we’re excited about having you come and worship with us at Immanuel! And because we want you to be confident about what you’ll experience, we’ve developed and adopted “The Immanuel Promise.” Please take a moment and read the promises we have made and then come and worship with us. And you should know that, at Immanuel, when we make a promise, we’re committed to keeping it!

When you come to Immanuel . . .

- **WE PROMISE** that we’ll make you feel welcome, loved, and wanted. Because you are special to us, from the very moment you arrive on our campus, you’ll find us to be very friendly and helpful. We’ll personally help you find your way around and take you where you need to go for childcare, Sunday School, and/or worship. At Immanuel, we’ll do everything we can to make you “feel right at home.”
- **WE PROMISE** to take great care of your children. At Immanuel, we love children! And because we love children so much, we’ve developed a ministry for children that’s ***second to none!*** Our well-trained staff of folks will give your children the best of care in a loving and safe environment while you are involved in ministry and worship opportunities.
- **WE PROMISE** that you’ll be loved and accepted for who you are and as you are, regardless of where you’ve been in life, where you are now, or where you may find yourself in the future. At Immanuel, we’re ***family***, and we practice grace, forgiveness, love and acceptance – not judgment, rejection or condemnation. We want you to sense our love for you and, even more, Jesus’ love for you. And just so you’ll know, at Immanuel, you can feel free to dress “casually” – in fact, even our worship leaders dress “casually”!
- **WE PROMISE** we’ll be genuinely concerned about your needs. Regardless of who we are, all of us have needs. At Immanuel, we genuinely care about people, their needs and their concerns. Our passion is for God to use each of us to meet one another’s needs, regardless of what they may be.

- **WE PROMISE** that we'll help you establish a personal relationship with God and help your relationship with Him become more intimate. More than anything else, God wants people to have a personal relationship with Him and, at Immanuel, we'll show you how you can become a personal friend of God. And we'll also help your relationship with Him become more personal and intimate through prayer, Bible study, worship, and life-enriching relationships with other Christians.
- **WE PROMISE** that you'll be taught God's Word in a way that you can understand and apply in your daily life. God always has something to say to us through His Word. At Immanuel, our goal is to teach God's Word in the simplest and most practical way, without compromising its truth and message.
- **WE PROMISE** that you'll discover there are many opportunities for you to be involved. At Immanuel, we believe that God wants us to be a part of what He's doing in our community and world. That's why we'll help you discover how you can "plug in" and become involved in making a difference in people's lives.
- **WE PROMISE** that we'll give you information about us to take home with you. We'll give you printed materials that will tell you about our various ministries, pastoral staff, Immanuel family, and our exciting future plans. We're always eager to share the great things God is doing at Immanuel!
- **WE PROMISE** that we won't forget about you after you've visited. We promise not to "pester" you or "annoy" you, but we do want to keep in contact with you after your visit with us and help you in any way we can.

So ... the only thing left to do is for you to come and give us the opportunity to "make good" on our promises! We look forward to seeing you soon at Immanuel!

The Immanuel Promise: Part Two

Maybe you're considering making Immanuel your church family and you've been asking some questions like, "Would I fit in at Immanuel? ... Would people genuinely care about me at Immanuel? ... Am I needed at Immanuel? ... What would be expected of me if I became a member of Immanuel?" Those are really good questions and we want to give you really good answers!

At Immanuel, we believe that church membership is more than simply "a choice" – we believe it's a **commitment**. We believe that God intends for us to experience life together and that's what we're all about. We're people of different ages, preferences,

looks and ideas. But even with our differences, we're **family** and we're **committed** to loving each other, accepting each other, caring about each other, encouraging each other, supporting each other and working together to share the difference Jesus makes in people's lives.

Would **you** fit in at Immanuel? Yes! Will people genuinely care about **you** at Immanuel? Yes! Are **you** needed at Immanuel? Absolutely!

So that you will know what is expected of each member of our "Immanuel Family," we've developed and adopted this second part of the **Immanuel Promise**. These are the promises we've made to God and to each other, and we're **committed** to keeping these promises. Without being legalistic, these commitments keep us accountable to God and to each other.

Please take a moment to look over the commitments we've made. You can rest assured that we'll be praying for you and with you as you seek God's direction. And you can be confident that, at Immanuel, we're always **excited** to have the opportunity to **enthusiastically** welcome new people into our family!

The Immanuel Promise: Family Commitments

Having received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior, having been baptized, and having been led by the Holy Spirit to unite myself with the Immanuel Baptist family, I commit myself to God and to my fellow members to do the following:

1. I will personally promote and protect the unity and harmony of my church family.

I promise that I will promote and protect the unity and harmony that God has created among my church family by:

- Always acting in love toward my fellow members.
- Refusing to participate in gossip or unwholesome talk.
- Choosing to encourage others rather than criticizing them.
- Always speaking with grace and love.
- Practicing God's method for resolving personality conflicts.
- Following, praying for, and supporting the spiritual leaders that God has chosen to lead Immanuel.

"Let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up." – Romans 14:19

"Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace." – Ephesians 4:3

"Love each other deeply with all your heart." – 1 Peter 1:22

“Obey your spiritual leaders ... Their work is to watch over you and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy, not sorrow.” – Hebrews 13:17

2. I will personally share in the responsibilities of my church family.

I promise that I will share the responsibility of my church family by:

- Praying for its growth.
- Sharing Christ with those who do not have a personal relationship with Him.
- Inviting others to attend Immanuel.
- Enthusiastically welcoming those who are our guests.

“We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.” – 1 Thessalonians 1:2

“Christ changed us from his enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also.” – 2 Corinthians 5:18

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” – Romans 15:7

3. I will personally serve in the ministry of my church family.

I promise that I will serve the ministry of my church family by:

- Discovering and employing the spiritual gifts, talents and interests God has given me.
- Desiring to serve others rather than being served by them.
- Actively involving myself in ministering to my Immanuel family and community at every opportunity God presents to me.

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” – 1 Peter 4:10

“Share each others burdens and in this way, obey the law of Christ.” – Galatians 6:2

“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” – Philippians 2:4

4. I promise to personally support the good testimony of my church family.

I promise that I will support the good testimony of my church family by:

- Faithfully attending the worship and ministry opportunities offered by Immanuel.
- Living a godly life each day of each week.
- Obediently and faithfully giving of my financial resources as God’s Word teaches.

“Let us not give up meeting together . . . but let us encourage one another.” – Hebrews 10:25

“So, we are Christ’s ambassadors . . .” – 2 Corinthians 5:20

“Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.” – Philippians 1:27

“One tenth of your produce . . . belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy.” – Leviticus 27:30