

February 2019

# The Messenger

*A Newsletter for Members and Friends of  
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Saratoga*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SARATOGA 14103 SARATOGA AVE.,  
SARATOGA, CA 95070 PH: 408-867-0822



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

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\*\*\*\*\* BUILDING PEOPLE, SERVING GOD \*\*\*\*\*

## Coming Events

**Men's breakfast- Feb 2nd Effie's restaurant, Campbell. 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the Month-Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1**

**See through the Scriptures- Wednesdays @ 10 am**

**\*Introduction to Christianity- Sun, Jan 13, 2019 12.30 pm Fireside Rm**

**ICL Hikes dates- Feb 9 and 23**

**\*\*\*PI sign up for Altar Guild\*\*\***

**Shelter Meals Schedule: Sign up to cook or serve**





It was an expression I had not heard before; it was unscripted and spoken with delight. This was a mother who would not scold her child for getting his “Wellies” wet on a rainy day. This was a mother who would not quench the spirit of her beloved child, formed by God to frolic in mud puddles, as much as Leviathan was formed to frolic in the deep waters of the sea. This was a mother who would have joined her son in his stomping, and would have re-experienced a joy she first came to know when she was his age.

The interaction moved me, and I didn’t want to lose it. I wanted it to stick with me as much as the mud was sticking to my soles of my shoes. So for the remainder of my walk, I repeated again and again this motherly declaration in my best English accent: “Absolutely! I wish I had *my* Wellies on!” (having no knowledge whatsoever of the etymology of the word, but fully understanding its expression).

I’m convinced that God rejoices over us in much the same way that this mother rejoiced over her son – and shared in his joy. In fact, could it be that that is part of what rejoicing (re-JOY-cing) is all about? Experiencing vicariously the joy of another, so much that it becomes your own? The prophet Zephaniah encourages God’s people: “The LORD your God is with you... He will exult over you with joy; He will be quiet in His love; He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy!” (3:17).

Surely God rejoices over little boys in their Wellies, stomping in mud puddles on rainy days. Even as God rejoices over you when you open your eyes to *really* see the beauty of His creation; when you open your ears to hear the birds chirping and singing and wonder if and what they are communicating when they do so; when you rejoice over the taste of a good peach, a tart tangelo, or a fine wine. God delights... when you delight in His creation.

To be sure, this life is a serious thing, and God has given us great responsibility – to love and care for those He’s placed in our circle of influence. But God does not want us to go about with heavy hearts and gloomy faces. Jesus said that He came to give us the fullness of His joy. Even as there is great purpose in God’s creation, there’s also great beauty. And, it seems, God has created some things for us to enjoy – *just because*. These things enrich our lives, add value, and increase the quality of our earthly adventure.

Spring is coming and with it the earth will come alive again. (The hills are already glowing verdant green!) May you see the freshness in each day. May you take it all in. May you find great delight in new discoveries, as well as in those discovered anew – as if for the first time.

And know that when you do, God is smiling, too.

I’m keeping my eyes peeled for the next storm, and I think I’ll have to get myself my own pair of Wellies to do some mud puddle stomping! I daresay it is God’s will that I do so. ☺

Serving in Your Midst with Joy,

Pastor Derek J Engfelt



## THE MESSENGER

### People Helping People !

**An experience by congregation member** – Recently, one of our congregation members was on her way to an important appointment. She reached her destination and was about to turn into the parking garage when she stopped to let a pedestrian cross. He was an elderly gentleman. She watched him slowly cross and noted that he was tall with hat and clothes that once would have looked very elegant. The member was wondering if she can find a parking spot and waited patiently for the pedestrian to cross when noticed that he looked worn out and looked as though he has not eaten for a while. She quickly looked inside her car and found one of the food packages prepared by our congregation members after Sunday Sermons. She grabbed the food package, unwind her car window, and called out to him if he would like some food. The elderly gentleman stopped and turned to look at her with very kind eyes. He paused and reached out to take the food package from her gently and said, "Thank you and God bless you". He then walked away slowly. Our member drove off with an overwhelmed feeling of warmth in her heart.

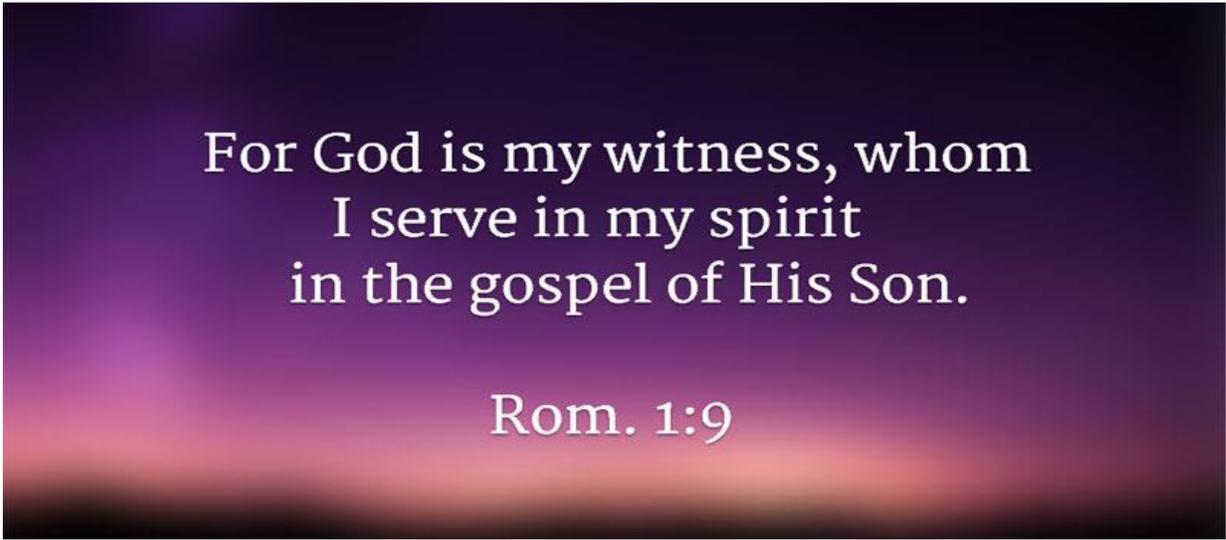
\*Most of us have seen people with signs, standing on the medians at many intersections. After worship, many of you have taken a bag or two to take with you to assist those in need. Included in each bag is nutritious food, as well as a prayer for blessing.

Come join us as we serve those in need in practical ways. As we do so, we're living into our ILC vision of **"passionate responding to grace we've received by joyfully serving others in the name of Jesus."**

Special Note: Midtown Family Services, an organization started by our own Ted & Doreen Geiszler, to assist disadvantaged families in the Silicon Valley, liked our PHP concept – and they'll be using our bags in the work that they do. (Go to [www.midtownfs.org](http://www.midtownfs.org) for more information about Midtown.)



***OUR Sunday School Kids. They are a close bonded, young Spiritual Souls! They are Our Future!***



Thank you for Serving!

## Volunteer to Serve on Sundays

It takes many people to make Sunday mornings “happen.” You’re welcome to participate and be one of them! **Please note that we have a new link to sign up in 2018.** Please go to <http://signup.com/go/JQhxAPm> or call Ann at the church office (408-867-0822).

Service Opportunities include:

Altar Guild: Prepare communion elements, prepare sanctuary for worship; clean up after worship.

Audio: Make sure our sound system is in good working order and monitor sound during the service.

Coffee: Provide treats for fellowship time after service

Communion: Help distribute communion during service

Greeter: Warmly welcome people at the door and hand them a bulletin

Lector: Read lessons in church

Liturgists – Prayers: Offer Prayers of the People during the service

Liturgists – Cantor: Assistant leader in worship, chant the opening liturgy

Usher: Hand out announcement pages, take offering, light and extinguish candles

Nursery: Watch over the little ones during service

Sunday School: Teach or assist in our 10:45 Sunday school (preschool – high school)

If you have questions about any of these Sunday Morning Activities, please call the church office.



**Worship + Love + Serve**



Children's Story



## Fire Princess

There was once an incredibly rich, beautiful, and wise Princess. **Tired of false suitors who were only interested in her money**, she announced that she would only marry whoever managed to present her with the most valuable, tender, and sincere gift of all.

The palace filled up with flowers and gifts of every kind, letters describing undying love, and love-struck poems.

**Among all these wonderful gifts**, she found a pebble, a simple dirty pebble. Intrigued, she demanded to see whoever it was who had offered this gift. Despite her curiosity, **she pretended to**

**be highly offended by the gift when the young man was brought before her.** He

explained it to her like this, "Dear Princess, this pebble represents the most

valuable thing one can give - it is my heart. It is also sincere, because it is not yet

yours, and it is as hard as a stone. **Only when it fills with love will it soften and be more tender than any other."**



The young man quietly left, leaving the Princess surprised and captivated. She fell so in love that she took the little pebble with her wherever she went, and for months she regaled the young man with gifts and attention.

But his heart remained as hard as the stone in her hands. Losing hope, **she ended up throwing the pebble into a**

**fire.** In the heat of the fire, the sand crumbled from around it, and from out of that rough stone a beautiful

golden figure emerged. With this, **the Princess understood that she herself would have to be like the fire**, and

go about separating what is useless from what is truly important.



## THE MESSENGER

### Men's Breakfast



Men's Breakfast is held the first Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:00am in the bar, share breakfast, fellowship, and engage in a free-wheeling, bible topic discussion. We conclude by 9:30 am.

All men of the congregation – members and visitors – are welcome.

Our ILC Men enjoying a relaxing Saturday morning breakfast (photo credit: Jack Moorman)



### Women's Breakfast

The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Holder's Country Inn Restaurant at 998 South De Anza Boulevard, San Jose. We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



ILC ladies enjoying a relaxed morning visiting with each other. (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)

Our



**Sunday School Activities**



# THE MESSENGER



Here's  
What's  
Happening!

## ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS



### PRAYER MINISTRY -

Meets every Sunday in Fireside Room between services, 10:20-10:40AM. All welcome.  
Info/questions, contact Shelly Sarkisian, 408-921-1313.



### WEDDINGS AT ILC

Judy Onton is our ILC wedding coordinator.

To find out more, take a brochure from the pew rack, check out our website: [www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings) and follow us on Instagram: ILCsaratogaweddings. Tell your friends!



**THE FOOD CART - Please consider adding a package or two of food** for the cart whenever you shop. The hunger problem seems always to be with us and all donations help. Thank you for keeping this in mind when you shop! The Community Service Committee

**Givelify**  
Tap. Give. Done.

If you would like to make an E-Donation to ILC, then either download the Givelify App on your smartphone, or go online to [www.ilcsaratoga.org/](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org/) and select the Givelify icon. Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone, tablet or PC. There are no frustrating web forms or text-to-give codes to memorize. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure, and for tax time you have one-tap access to your complete donation records.

## **SHOP AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM**

**Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Saratoga. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1744019> and support ILC every time you shop.**



***Flower Chart on Kiosk – Sign Up for Altar Flowers***

If you would like to make an E-Donation to ILC, then either download the Givelify App on your smartphone, or go online to [www.ilcsaratoga.org/](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org/) and select the Givelify icon. Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone, tablet or PC. There are no frustrating web forms or text-to-give codes to memorize. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure, and for tax time you have one-tap access to your complete donation records.

# Altar Guild

## ILC Members

If you'll recall, last fall in a communication to church members from Charley Eddy, a solicitation was made to pledge not only financially but also with your talents. We've all been blessed with unique gifts, and I'd like to encourage each of you to consider how you can help at ILC. There are many ways you can be of service each week, but I'd like to focus on Altar Guild.



Serving on the Altar Guild team is very important, and I would like to ask you to please give prayerful consideration to help as you are able. The number of us that are active in Altar Guild has dwindled and we could really use more participation to lighten the load. Training is available if you're new to the Altar Guild team or need a refresher course, and detailed instructions and photos are posted to help you.

Each week, 2-3 Altar Guild members help serve. We need 2 Altar Guild volunteers on Saturday mornings to prepare the sanctuary for worship and set up for communion, and then on Sunday do light duties for whichever service you normally attend.

I understand there's some confusion surrounding the online sign-ups for Altar Guild (see the link below). Please note that, by signing up under 9:00, it indicates you'll help with Saturday prep in addition to some light duties on Sunday (at *either* the 9:00 service or the 10:45 service). Those attending Second service are welcome (and encouraged) to assist on Saturdays.

The greatest need on an on-going basis is Saturday morning when two volunteers meet to prep for communion and set up for Sunday's service, which takes about one hour or less. You'd be partnered with an experienced Altar Guild member to help train you. To indicate you can help with this, please sign up under 9:00 Service for Altar Guild.



Again, you do NOT both need to attend First Service if you normally attend Second Service to help on Saturday...just sign up under 9:00 Altar Guild AND 10:45 Altar Guild to indicate you'll help Saturday and clean-up after second service.

Attached here is the 2018 [VOLUNTEER LINK To SIGN UP](https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2105067/false#/invitation) (<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2105067/false#/invitation>). It's easy! There are many opportunities each Sunday for you to share your talents. If you need assistance signing up, please contact Ann Wallace, our church administrator (408-867-0822).

For questions, or to arrange to be trained for Altar Guild, please contact Cheryl Sheehan at 408-768-3022. Please give consideration to being on the Altar Guild team. We can really use your help...plus, it's a fun opportunity to make new friends and visit with your partner on Saturday mornings while you're serving ILC!

Blessings to all of you!

Cheryl Sheehan  
408-768-3022



# THE MESSENGER



**Building & Grounds:** Feel like swinging a hammer, turning a wrench, repairing a sprinkler line, or laying down a coat of fresh paint? Help maintain the appearance of our campus and sanctuary.

Contact: Ken Campbell 408-691-5694; Reed Canerday canerclan@sbcglobal.net

**Magnification Team:** Meets monthly to discuss the worship service plans; reviewing and discussing pastor's thoughts and plans for liturgy, special services, prayer services, frequency of communion, Advent services, choir music plans, etc. and addressing any of his concerns. We also discuss volunteer signups for liturgists, lectors, communion assistants, ushers, etc. This is a way to be engaged in a very important aspect of our church. The team meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday for about an hour at 6pm.

Contact: Clark Canham 408-605-3955 or Carol Flint 408-781-3168.

**Mission Team:** We communicate using infrequent formal meetings, supplemented by email/conversations. Our aim: spread the Jesus story to the unchurched (Evangelism). Efforts needed: urge & train our members to become disciples, follow up on names on the prayer list, and participate in Pastor's neighborhood walks, and support ILC website upgrades. Currently working with the Magnification Team to make ILC a truly welcoming congregation. Mission team also recognizes and celebrates the evangelism efforts of other Lutherans (e.g., overseas missionaries).

Contacts: Jim Reyner, Jodi Bjurman, Jack Moorman, Pastor Derek

**Maturity** – promotes the education of children and adults at ILC. Volunteers are needed to assist educating youth during the second service Sunday School hour. In preschool, fun activities with the 3-5 year-olds; in elementary, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, two volunteers to instruct the kids with Bible stories, crafts and games.

Volunteers are also needed to teach the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders in a rotating schedule with the Youth Ministry Leader, Alyssa McCoy. Meetings are minimal. Bible study materials for the elementary grades are distributed via email. Contact Mitzie Eddy 408-656-7025 or mitzeddy@gmail.com

**Church Council:** Council acts as the executive team of the congregation and approves budgets and expenditures, prioritizes facilities projects, makes and approves key personnel decisions, and sets strategic direction for ILC. Current focus areas are increasing attendance and membership, prudent financial planning, and redistributing and reducing the congregation's workload. Council meets at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Fireside Room. All congregants are welcome at any time.

Contact: Nathan Sarkisian 408-591-4976; Pastor Derek

ILC Annual Events

EASTER



LADIES RETREAT



Habitat for Humanity



Summer Concerts In the Park



Thanksgiving Interfaith Service



Christmas Buffet Decorating



Christmas Concert Children's Christmas Play



## On The Horizon... (mark your calendars)

### An Introduction to Lutheranism

Want to learn more about the founder of our denomination? Want to know what was going down in his day? What was amiss in the Church? What Luther discovered? What caused such a divide that brought about the Reformation, a divide that still exists to this day? What's unique about Lutherans? What's most important to us? And what is our voice in the Christian choir?

Mark your calendars and come join me on Sunday, February 10, at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room to learn the basics of Lutheranism in this one hour class. Questions? Email me at [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com).

### God's River of Life...

Pastor Derek teaches a Bible Study **each Wednesday morning** at church, from 10:00 – 11:30. All are welcome to attend. We're presently aboard God's Ship *Grace* cruising down God's River of Life. Our journey takes us from the river in Genesis to the river in Revelation. We're stopping at several ports of call, where we set up camp, take a look around, and come to better know our God, ourselves and each other. Your presence is welcome...

In February we'll sidle up to Jacob & Esau and Joseph & his brothers. We'll talk about the good and the bad in families, about alienation and reconciliation. We'll solve the problems of the world! Or at least make progress toward getting there... 😊

For more information, call or email Pastor Derek at [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com) or 408-499-4866.

**Ash Wednesday** is, March 6, and with it comes the beginning of the season of Lent – forty days (not including Sundays), leading up to Easter. We gather in the sanctuary for a somber service, remembering that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return." We will also share in the Sacrament of our Lord, and hear that His body and His blood were poured out, for us. The service begins at 7:30 PM.

Then, on the following five Wednesdays, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Meal & Meditation, as we consider and contemplate The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer... is really OUR prayer, which Jesus teaches us to pray. We gather each Wednesday at 6:30 and conclude by 7:30 PM. Plan to join us, and bring someone with you.

March 13: Our Father  
 March 20: God's Kingdom & Will  
 March 27: Our Daily Bread  
 April 3: Trespasses & Temptations  
 April 10: All Praise be to God: The Kingdom,  
 Power & Glory



## The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

Have you heard about our hiking group that started in January? Come join us, as we explore part of the wonderful nature that surrounds our neighborhoods.

Recently opened **Calero County Park** has many hiking possibilities for all ages and fitness levels. We'll try two new spots in February. See details below.

This is fun for the whole family, and we're planning to venture out on the second and fourth Saturdays of February. These will be "no one left behind" hikes. Invite your friends!



### **Feb. 9: Calero County Park: Main Entrance 23205 McKean Rd., San Jose, CA 95120**

**Getting There:** Heading south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 5 miles (until it T's at Harry Road). Turn RIGHT. Then, in about 100 yards, turn LEFT on McKean Rd. Go 4.8 miles, and make a sharp right turn into the park. There's plenty of free parking available.

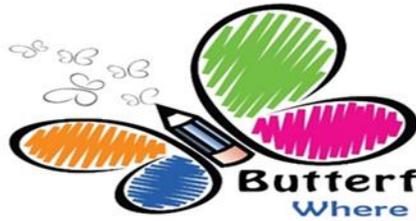
### **Feb. 23: Calero County Park: Casa Loma Entrance (4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037)**

**Getting There:** Heading south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 5 miles (until it T's at Harry Road). Turn RIGHT. Then, in about 100 yards, turn LEFT on McKean Rd. Go 6.6 miles, and turn right on Casa Loma Rd. Proceed 1.7 miles. The parking lot will be on your left. 4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 Free parking available – and an overflow lot, as well.

### **Time:**

Plan to arrive by 9:45 AM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 10:00 and plan to return to the parking lot by noon. Coffee/brunch/lunch is then a distinct possibility, as we will have worked up an appetite. ☺

Please RSVP so I know you'll be coming. In case of bad weather, I'll send a cancellation note to all who RSVP by 9:00 PM the evening before. Dress in layers, bring a water bottle, and wear comfortable and sturdy shoes/boots. You can RSVP by emailing me at [pastorderek@ilcsaratoga.org](mailto:pastorderek@ilcsaratoga.org) or calling 408-499-4866.



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[www.ButterfliesAcademy.com](http://www.ButterfliesAcademy.com)





## Youth Handbell Choir

Hopefully you had a chance to see and hear the Youth Handbell Choir perform in church. For our 1<sup>st</sup> year we had 6-7 ringers and performed in church on 4 Sundays. Based on feedback from you youth and the congregation, our inaugural year was a success!

We are continuing with the Youth Handbell Choir this year and are hoping to grow in numbers. With more ringers, we will have more options in the music that we can play. The Youth Handbell Choir rehearses on Sundays in between 2<sup>nd</sup> service and Confirmation classes – from 11:45 to 12:30. All youth 10 years and older are welcome to join us.

Don't know much about music? Well, Handbells are a great vehicle for teaching music. Individuals can very quickly learn the technique for ringing bells compared to other instruments that require a lot of practice to master the technique. With Handbells, we can quickly demonstrate so many elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, meter, ...)



Another very important reason to join the Youth Handbell Choir is for the teamwork and comradery. In a Handbell Choir, ALL are needed. The music struggles if even one part is missing. This is a place where all individuals can feel needed and be a part of a team to make music and praise God. The Handbell Choir mirrors the body of Christ. Roman 12:5 says: *"so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* In the Handbell Choir, we are all

separate ringers doing our own thing and yet we're interconnected and need each other to come together to make a joyful noise to God. It reinforces the idea that you need to work together to achieve something great. In a Handbell team, success comes by including everyone and building up the individuals that struggle.

Please contact Carol Flint or Elisabeth Pintar if you are interested in joining us. Our first rehearsal will be on Sunday Sept 23 immediately after 2<sup>nd</sup> service ~11:45. Even if you are not sure, come try it out!

Also, Handbells are not just for kids. We could use a few more ringers in the adult Handbell Choir too. Those rehearsals are on Thursday evenings 6:00 – 7:00.

Carol Flint  
[cflint8891@gmail.com](mailto:cflint8891@gmail.com)  
 408-781-3168

Elisabeth Pintar  
[elisabethpintar@yahoo.com](mailto:elisabethpintar@yahoo.com)  
 408-857-8519

## Weddings at Immaunal Luthern Church, Saratoga



**Judy Onton is our ILC wedding coordinator.**

To find out more, take a brochure from the pew rack, or check out our website: [www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings). Follow us on Instagram: ILCsaratogaweddings. Share with family and friends of this beautiful and charming sanctuary to hold their matrimony.



Many couples have joined hands to their lives at quaint church and its tranquil surroundings





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[office14@ilcsaratoga.org](mailto:office14@ilcsaratoga.org)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.ilcsaratoga.org](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org)

## Come Worship With Us!

### Traditional Service 9:00a.m.

**Come hear our wonderful choir, bell choir, and organist.**

Communion is served each Sunday as part of the liturgy.

### Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Feed your soul!

Visitors are always welcome!

Features a more contemporary worship. Sing praises to the Lord with the Mikey Day Band. The music is uplifting and enjoyable for all ages. What a great way to start the week? Communion is served by intinction every Sunday.

## About the Messenger

Please submit articles by the **15th** of the month, typed (preferably a text or word processing file, but paper copy is ok too), and should be approximately **150 words**. If you are interested in submitting an article for publication in our newsletter, please contact, Vaskie Turner  
Email: [vskt@att.net](mailto:vskt@att.net)

Editor: Vaskie Turner

Webmaster: Paul Wesling

Publisher: Ann Wallace

**"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"**

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