

July 2019

The Messenger

gettyimages

Daniel Day

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SARATOGA 14108 SARATOGA AVE.,
SARATOGA, CA 95070 PH: 408-867-0822



Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

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

Coming Events

Men's breakfast- July 6 Effie's restaurant, Campbell. 1st Sat of the Month–Aug 3, Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7

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Vacation Bible School: Monday–Friday, July 29th to August 2nd, 9 am to 12pm.

PL sign up for Altar Guild

Shelter Meals Schedule: Sign up to cook or serve



Pastor Derek Writes...

By Pastor Derek Engfelt



Pastor Derek Writes...

“Every good and perfect gift is given from above, coming down from the Father of lights...”

James 1:17

Early on a silent Saturday morning, as I was seated at our dining room table looking out into our front yard, I noticed an older Asian woman sauntering by the house. I had just returned from having been away in the Midwest for three weeks, and in the interim the yard had sprouted weeds. Halfway in front of our property, the woman stopped and bent down to pull some unwanted greenery growing adjacent to the sidewalk. Gathering them in her hand, she moved onto others close by. And then: still others. Her act of kindness was spreading like the unwelcome growth on the front of our property. She was providing a service – seeing a need, performing action. Why? I'm not sure what prompted her. Perhaps she simply found herself there and came upon a task to be done.

I'll admit that as she continued to go about her work – pulling and gathering – I half wondered if she was doing so for personal gain. Did this woman know something I did not? Was she aware of a way to redeem that for which I had found no use? Did she find something valuable and positive in what, for me, was merely an annoyance, work to be done that took me away from more pleasurable things? Might my trash be her treasure?

I will choose to receive it as a *serendipitous* occurrence, an act of kindness, on the morning of my 56th birthday, by an unknown neighbor. For whom I now give thanks.

Serendipity. It's a word my grandmother first taught me. And I'm glad she did. Often in our conversations when she would use a word that wasn't in my working vocabulary, I'd give her a bewildered look, and she'd return my look with a measure of exasperation and exclaim, "Now tell me you don't know what that means!" I'd then admit to her that I didn't. And her regular reply: "Well, look it up!" And in those pre-Google days (remember those?), this necessitated that I search out a dictionary and look it up phonetically. Which, I admit, most of the time I failed to do. But *serendipity* was one of the words my Grandma defined for me, without taxing me with the arduous errand of seek-and-find-for-yourself.

Serendipity: an unexpected goodness. Or, as Google now tells me, "happy chance."

As one who looks for God's hand behind everyday occurrences, I welcome my neighbor's weed-pulling as a gift of grace, and I see God at work in the act. My response: gratitude – toward her and toward God.

The happiest people are those who are most grateful. I read that somewhere recently; and I believe it wholeheartedly.

How do you see God's hand at work in your life today? How is God gifting you, gracing you? If you look at life through that lens, you will find more evidence than you expect.

For God is good. And God delights in surprising His beloved children.

May God bless you with the assurance of His presence and grace, as long and enduring as these summer days.

Pastor Derek J Engfelt



People Helping People !

An experience by congregation member – 1. Man on the Median – Our member was driving and was about to make a left hand turn at Saratoga and Prospect/West Campbell Ave when he saw a man with a sign asking for food or money. Our member unwind his window and showed him the People Helping People clear bag so he could see what was inside. He then told the man "Our church, ILC, made the bags to help people. The man said that he could really use this and then that he and others lived under the bridge on Prospect Ave. near Lawrence and that he was also collecting food and money for them. Our member gave him two bags and he thanked him profusely and said God Bless.

2. Young man sagging by the Store: Our member was shopping at Trader Joes and on his way out saw a young man looking very dejected with a sign asking for food. He sat next to the young man and asked him what was wrong. He answered that he had been living at the shelter and that the other day all his belongs were stolen from the shelter, including his cheap cell phone. He said he needed this in order to get around and look for a job. Our member mentioned about the food packages and that our church ILC was always trying to help people. The young man said that was very special. Before saying goodbye, our member told the young man to try to keep his spirits up and to go back to the shelter. He said he was but was trying to get some food and money to get another phone. They talked about positivity and using all the gov't services available. The young took the two bags and he thanked our member profusely.

Helping anyone even if it is just a little means so much to people who literally have nothing. God's grace.

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 for more information about Midtown.)

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





For God is my witness, whom
I serve in my spirit
in the gospel of His Son.

Rom. 1:9

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 2019.** Please go to www.ilcsaratoga.org/volunteer 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

**Tony's Silver Dollar**

Tony lived in the middle of a big city. His family was poor, but they were a happy family. They were happy because each one in the family, including Tony, had accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. Even though Tony was only eight years old, he knew he was a sinner and had asked the Lord Jesus to wash away his sins. Because he believed what the Bible says, he knew for sure that he would be in heaven with the Lord Jesus someday. Anyone who knows this is happy.

One day Tony's grandfather was visiting them and he gave Tony a silver dollar. Tony had never had a silver dollar before. He was so pleased with it that he kept looking at it, turning it over and over. He would put it in his pocket and then take it out to look at it again. How shiny and bright it was. He thought of many things he could buy with it.

Later that afternoon Tony reached into his pocket to take out his silver dollar again. It wasn't there! Where did it go? He turned all four of his pockets inside out, but it wasn't in any of them. He looked everywhere he remembered being that day, starting in the house. He even checked down in the basement. Then he ran outside where he had been playing games on the sidewalk, but he couldn't find it. Tony felt so badly he began to cry.

When he still had not found it by evening, he was so "down in the dumps" he just went to bed. He was so unhappy that he didn't even take the time to pray.

As he tried to go to sleep, a small, still voice seemed to say, "Tony, you didn't pray." He would turn over and try to forget about it, but pretty soon the same small, still voice would remind him again.

Tony tossed and turned for quite a while. Each time he was about to fall asleep, he would hear the voice in his mind saying, "But, Tony, you haven't prayed."

Finally, he sat up in bed and said to himself, "Maybe I had better pray after all."

Tony climbed out of bed and knelt down on the floor beside his bed. "Ouch! What's that?" His knee was pressing down on something cold and hard.

It was his silver dollar!

Do you think that the Lord Jesus in heaven really listens to children's prayers? Yes, He certainly does, and don't let anyone try to tell you that He doesn't. Don't be afraid or get discouraged when things seem to be going all wrong. Talk to the Lord Jesus about it, and ask Him for help. Tony would have found his silver dollar much sooner if he had knelt down to pray when he first went to bed. We will get help and guidance from the Lord much sooner if we take our trouble to Him right away.

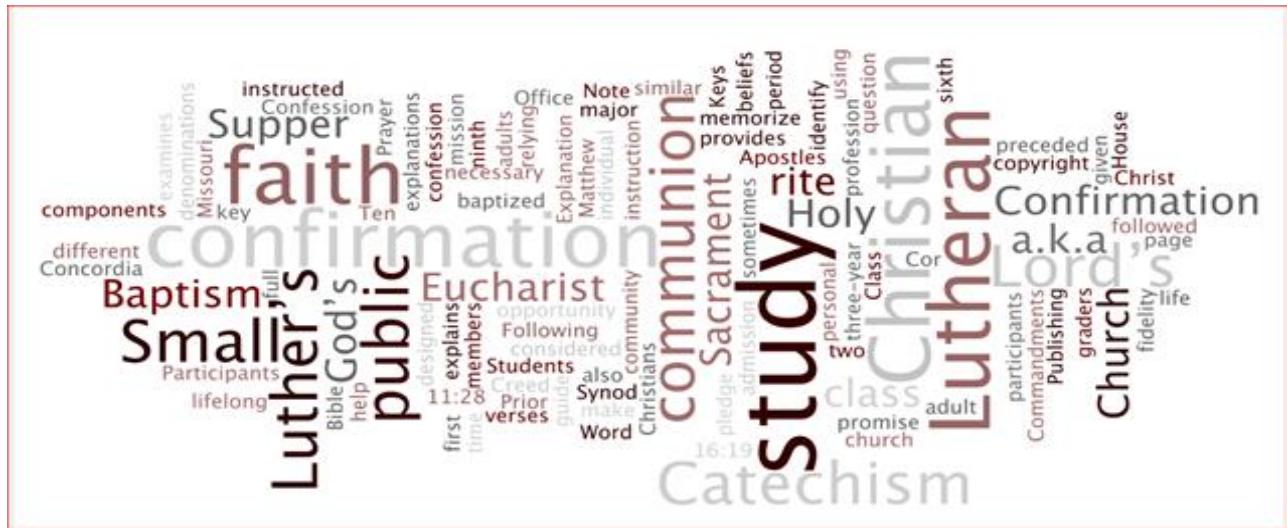
"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3.

Confirmation



Confirmation Classes

Confirmation is for youth in grades 6-8. We study the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Classes are taught by Pastor Derek & Youth Ministry Leader Alyssa McCoy, held on Sundays at 12:30 PM and take place in the Trust Fund Room. We are currently on summer break and will start up again in September.



Classes are taught by Pastor Derek & Youth Ministry Leader Alyssa McCoy, held on Sundays at 12:30 PM and take place in the Youth Room.

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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

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.



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



Sunday School Activities





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 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



If you would like to make an E-Donation to ILC, then either download the Givelify App on your smartphone, or go online to <http://ilcsaratoga.org/give>. 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

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 2019 www.ilcsaratoga.org/volunteer 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





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 2nd 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).

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 1st to 5th grade, two volunteers to instruct the kids with Bible stories, crafts and games.

Volunteers are also needed to teach the 6th through 8th 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)

God's River of Life...

Pastor Derek teaches a Bible Study **on Wednesday mornings** 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...

We're presenting nearing the end of the Book of Genesis, when Joseph (having been sold into slavery) is reunited with his brothers in Egypt. 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 or 408-499-4866.



MONDAY - FRIDAY, JULY 29TH - AUGUST 2ND

9AM TO 12PM

Memorial Service for Lillian Jacobsen

Please plan to be part of our gathered faith community, as we come together at 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 13, to celebrate the life of Lillian Dolores Jacobsen. Before moving to Sparks, Nevada, several years ago, Lillian was an ILC member and shared her joy with our faith community. Lillian is the mother of ILC member, Sharon Lamond. A reception will follow.

THE MESSENGER

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

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

In July, we'll revisit some of our favorites. See details below.

These events are planned to be fun for the whole family. They are "no one left behind" hikes. Invite your friends!



July 13: Calero County Park: Casa Loma Entrance (4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037) Hike is 4.5 miles, with some hills.

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.

July 27: Quicksilver County Park: McAbee Rd. Entrance (17501 McAbee Rd., San Jose, CA 95120) Hike is 5.5 miles, with some hills.

Getting There: Heading south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 1.2 miles. Turn RIGHT on McAbee Rd. Continue for 1.7 miles (just past Castillero School). Street parking only.

Time:

For each of these hikes, plan to arrive by 7:45 AM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 8:00 and plan to return to our cars by 10:00.

Please RSVP so I know you'll be coming. Bring a water bottle, and wear comfortable and sturdy shoes/boots. You can RSVP by emailing me at pastorderek@ilcsaratoga.org or calling 408-499-4866.

THE MESSENGER



Preschool from 2 years old to entry to 1st grade

License# 434414738

**NOW
ENROLLING**

Immanuel Lutheran Church
14103 Saratoga Ave, Lower Fellowship Hall, Saratoga, CA 95070
Tel: 408.781.7874, info@ButterfliesAcademy.com

Please Call us at above number to schedule a tour

www.ButterfliesAcademy.com



THE MESSENGER

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Youth Handbell Choir

Hopefully you had a chance to see and hear the Youth Handbell Choir perform in church. For our 1st 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 2nd 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

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
 408-781-3168

Elisabeth Pintar
elisabethpintar@yahoo.com
 408-857-8519

Weddings at Immanuel Lutheran 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. 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





Vacation Bible School

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
14103 Saratoga Ave. Saratoga

JULY 29 - AUG 2
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



FEATURES

- ▶ MONDAY Tie-Dye T-Shirt Day
- ▶ TUESDAY Scavenger Hunt
- ▶ WEDNESDAY Obstacle Course
- ▶ THURSDAY Fort Building
- ▶ FRIDAY WATER DAY:
Bring swim suits, toys, towels, etc.

games

art

music

To volunteer or register:

Please visit www.ilcsaratoga.org or contact Miss Alyssa at
alyssamccoy@comcast.net or 408.768.0224

THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!



14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

Tel: 408-867-0822
Fax: 408-867-0824
Office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

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.

Kids' Place- Infant and Preschool Care during Worship Services

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

Editor: Vaskie Turner
Webmaster: Aart Bik

Publisher: Ann Wallace

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

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