

December 2019

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

The Messenger

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SARATOGA 14103 SARATOGA AVE., SARATOGA, CA
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Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

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

Coming Events

Men's breakfast- Dec 7@ Effie's restaurant, Campbell. 1st Sat of the
Month-Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar, Apr

Bingo- Dec 1 – Fellowship Hall, 7 to 8.30 pm



Dec 5 9.30 am to 1.30 pm Christmas wreath Garlands- Fellowship hall

Dec 13*-4 to 8 pm:Holiday Boutique Bake sale



Dec 14- 9-12 pm Breakfast in Bethlehem-Decorating sanctuary and Christmas

Dec 15 10 am Service of Lesson & Carols (**ONE SERVICE)

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. @5 pm family/children; @10 pm



Dec 29 *****One Sunday Service @10.00 am.

Pl sign up for Altar Guild

Inside this Issue

Pastor Derek Writes.....	2
People Helping People.....	4
Sunday School.....	4
Volunteers This Month.....	5
Children's Story.....	6
Confirmation Students.....	7
Women's Breakfast.....	8
Men's Breakfast.....	8
Sunday school pics.....	9
Upcoming Events.....	10
ILC 2018 Events.....	13
Youth Handbell Choir.....	17
ILC Wedding.....	18
ICL Events.....	19
Come Worship With Us!.....	21
About the Messenger.....	21



And God has blessed us with beloved Christian community, brothers and sisters in Christ. We're certainly not a perfect body; we continue to be saints and sinners, both. Yet Christ makes Himself known in our midst, and He assures us that as we gather, He is present in our midst.

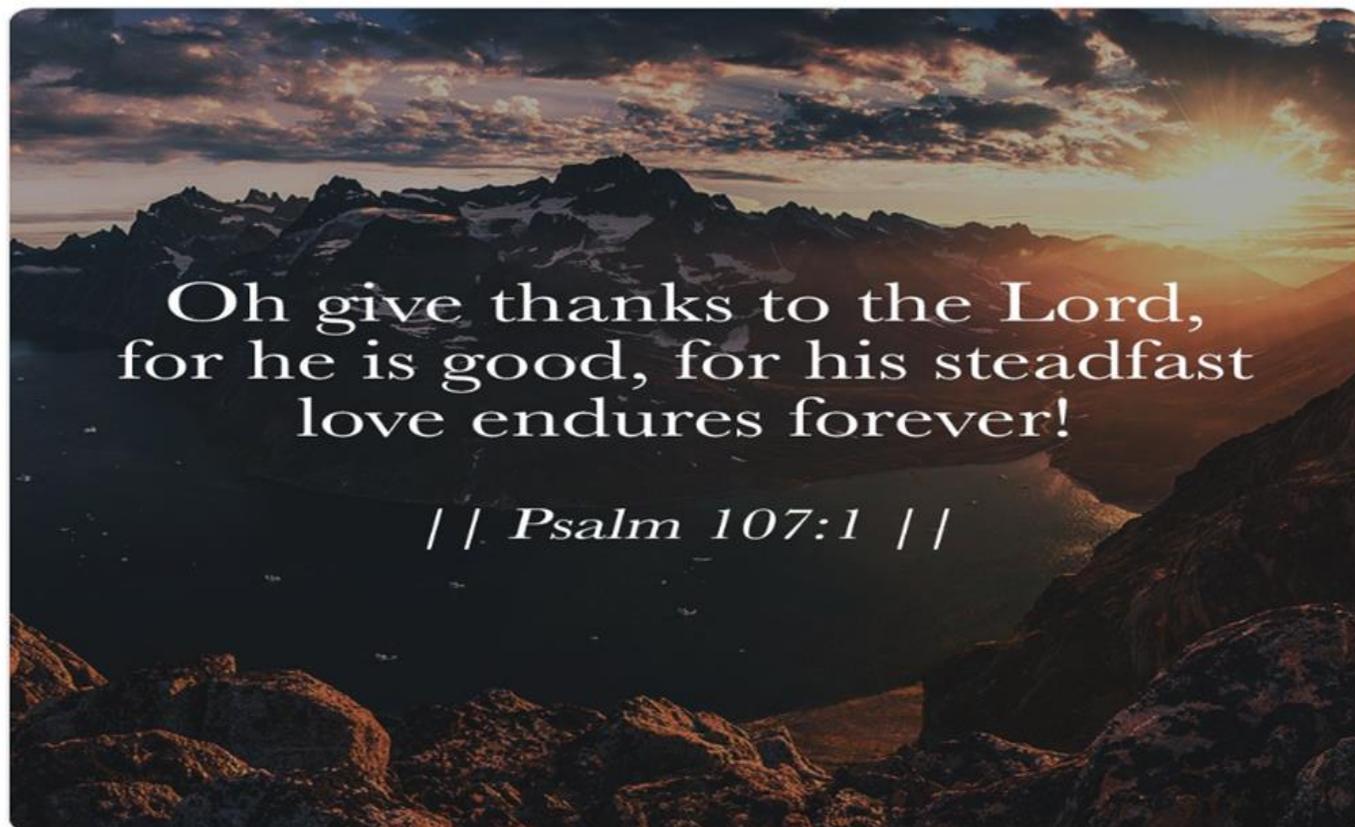
I give thanks for you, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ! I delight in shepherding this community and to see you caring for one another in His name. My spirit rejoices in you, when I see your hospitality and open arms, welcoming the people God brings to our door. And I'm grateful to know you're sharing the love of God in your words and in your actions.

May God comfort you with His presence in this season of Holy Days. And may God sustain you with His promises of love, forgiveness and everlasting life.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His lovingkindness is everlasting!”

With Deep Gratitude for you, sons and daughters of God at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Saratoga,

Pastor Derek J Engfelt



THE MESSENGER

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 close bonded, young

Spiritual Souls!

They are Our

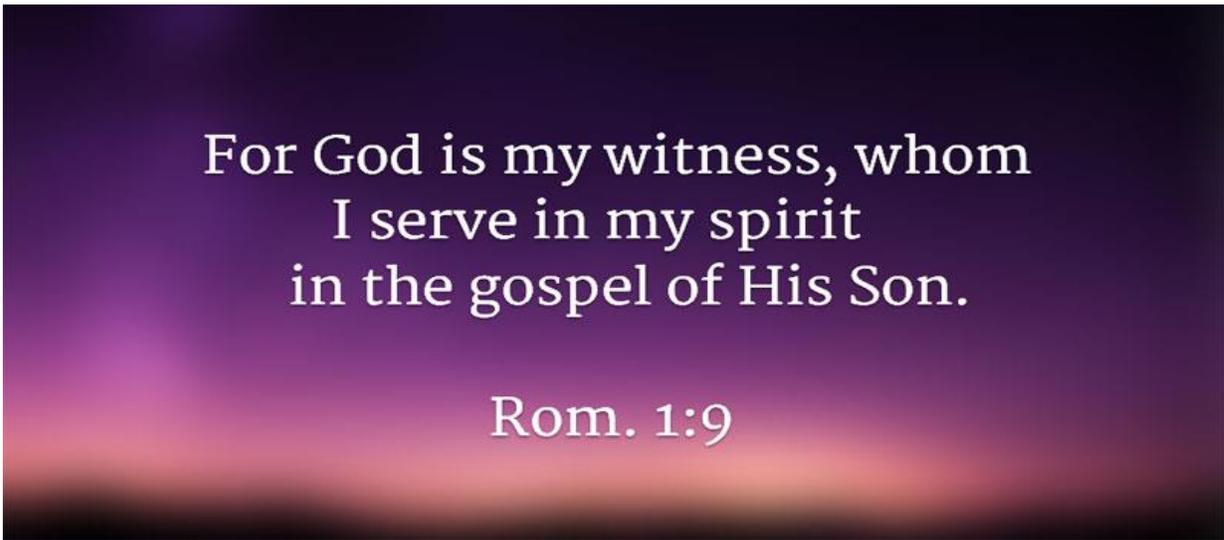
Future!

**Volunteer to
Serve on
Sundays**





Thank you for
Serving!



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

Rom. 1:9

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



How the Fir Tree Became the Christmas Tree

This is the story of how the fir tree became the Christmas tree.

At the time when the Christ Child was born, all the people, the animals, and the trees, and plants were very happy. The Child was born to bring peace and happiness to the whole world. People came daily to see the little One, and they always brought gifts with them.

There were three trees standing near the crypt which saw the people, and they wished that they, too, might give presents to the Christ Child.

The Palm said: "I will choose my most beautiful leaf, and place it as a fan over the Child."

"And I," said the Olive, "will sprinkle sweet-smelling oil upon His head."

"What can I give to the Child?" asked the Fir, who stood nearby.

"You!" cried the others. "You have nothing to offer Him. Your needles would prick Him, and your tears are sticky."

So the poor little Fir tree was very unhappy, and it said: "Yes, you are right. I have nothing to offer the Christ Child."

Now, quite near the trees stood the Christmas Angel, who had heard all that the trees had said. The Angel was sorry for the Fir tree who was so modest and without envy of the other trees. So, when it was dark, and the stars came out, he begged a few of the little stars to come down and rest upon the branches of the Fir tree. They did as the Christmas Angel asked, and the Fir tree shone suddenly with a beautiful light.

And, at that very moment, the Christ Child opened His eyes—for He had been asleep—and as the lovely light fell upon Him. He smiled.

Every year people keep the dear Christmas Child's birthday by giving gifts to each other, and every year, in remembrance of His first birthday, the Christmas Angel places in every house a fir tree, also. Covered with starry candles it shines for the children as the stars shone for the Christ Child. The Fir tree was rewarded for its humbleness, for to no other tree is given the blessing to shine upon so many happy faces.

Ezekiel 27:5

"They have made all your planks of fir trees from Senir; They have taken a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for you.



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

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



THE MESSENGER



Here's
What's
Happening!

ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

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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



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 reedcan2@gmail.com; or Clark Canham, 408-605-3955, cfcam@pacbell.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 on an as needed basis. If you have a concern, comment or suggestion, please contact Pastor, Clark or Carol."

Contact, it should read, "Clark Canham 408-605-3955, Carol Flint 408-781-3168, or Pastor Derek.

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: Church council is bicameral, functioning as two teams: Council A and Council B. Council A, led by Congregational President Nathan Sarkisian, addresses administrative components, including church finances, facilities and staff. Council B, led by Pastor Derek, addresses the ministry and mission of the Church, including worship, membership, education, service (within the church and beyond its walls), evangelism and outreach, and website and social media. Each council component meets bimonthly, sometimes jointly.

Contact: Nathan Sarkisian 408-591-4976 or 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 **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. **We're presently in the Book of Joshua.** Your presence is welcome... For more information, call or email Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com or 408-499-4866. [Please note that we will not be meeting on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1]

Writing Your Obituary & Planning Your Funeral

In conjunction with Pastor Derek's D.Min thesis sermon series on legacy, he will be offering a seminar on Writing Your Obituary and Planning Your Funeral.

It's not something many of us think about – or even *want* to think about. But participating in the process of writing your own obituary can stimulate gratitude for the life God has given you. Moreover, writing your own obituary and planning your own funeral is a wonderful gift you can give to your survivors. If they know your intentions, they can plan a service in accordance with your wishes. This will relieve them of the pressure of planning, and can lessen the anxiety surrounding their loss. They can then concentrate on working through their grief, and focus on hearing God's words of comfort and promises of everlasting life and heavenly reunion.

There will be two opportunities to work through these matters:

Saturday, December 7, 12:00 PM (Trust Fund Room)

Sunday, December 15, 11:30 AM (Trust Fund Room)

Please RSVP to Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com or by calling/texting 408-499-4866.

ON THE HORIZON...

An Introduction to Christianity

Jan. 12, 12:00 PM, Fireside Room

Want to get the Big Picture of the Bible? Put the pieces together? Understand the major tenets of our faith? Mark your calendars and come join me on Sunday, January 12, at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room to learn the basics of Christianity in this one-hour class... Pastor Derek

An Introduction to ILC

New to the church? Just visiting and want to learn more about how we do things at Immanuel? Want to find out more about our values, organization and structure? Come join me on Sunday, December 8, at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room to learn more about this particular Lutheran congregation in Saratoga – and what makes us distinct. Pastor Derek

Questions? Email me at pastord63@gmail.com.

ILC December events

- **Dec. 8, 7:00 PM: "Love Came Down at Christmas" – a concert by Organist Elisabeth Pintar**
- **Dec. 14: Breakfast in Bethlehem (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)**
 - Plan to join us in decorating the Christmas tree, sanctuary and church campus; enjoy festive music and breakfast treats.
 - 5:30 PM Saratoga Village: Celebration of Light
- **Dec. 15: Service of Lessons & Carols (10:00 AM – ONE SUNDAY SERVICE)**
- **Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**
 - 5:00 (Family: Hymns with Organ & Children's Story Time)
 - 10:00 PM (Traditional: Hymns with Organ, Choir & Bells)
- **Dec. 29: One Sunday Service 10:00 AM.**



Below: We donated a little over 200 books to the 24 kids in a 3rd Grade class at Cumberland School in Sunnyvale. Each child made a list of the books that they would like in their personal library and as we sorted the thousand-plus books we received in our last delivery, we sorted out books for each child.



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 the busy month of December, we'll venture out just one time – on our 19th hike of the year. See details below.

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



December 21: Santa Teresa Park (moderate hike)

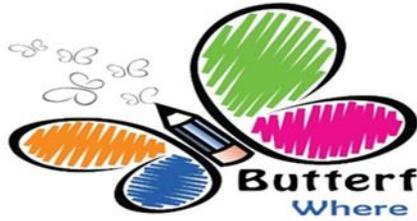
Getting There:

- From the church, make your way to Hwy 85 SOUTH
- Exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 5 miles (until it T's at Harry Road). Turn LEFT.
- Proceed about a 1/3 mile and park on your right. Camden Ave. will be on your left.
- Trail head is on the south side of the road.

Time: 9:00 AM

Plan to arrive by 8:45 AM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 9:00 and plan to return to our cars by 11:00. This hike will give us some nice views of south Almaden Valley.

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.



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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





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



Please join us for our annual



HOLIDAY



BOU TIQUE

Bake Sale

Friday

DEC 13

4pm - 8pm

Raffle

**Fundraiser for the
American Cancer Society**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Inquire for vendor info by Dec 1
here: alysamccoy@comcast.net



Traditional Service 9:00a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30a.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*

Come Worship With Us!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

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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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of Saratoga

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