



January 2020

The Messenger

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

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

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

Coming Events

Men's breakfast- Jan 4 @ Effie's restaurant, Campbell. 1st Sat of the Month-Feb 1, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2

God's River of light – everyday Wednesday 10.00 – 11:30 a.m.

Introduction to Christianity – Sunday Jan 12 at 12.30 pm

Annual Meeting – January 19 – Lunch will be served at fellowship Hall.

*****Pl sign up for Altar Guild*****

Shelter Meals Schedule: Sign up to cook or serve

****Serving at Family Supportive Housing – January 19, 2020**

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Our 2020 vision comes from the above verses, when people come to one the disciples of our Lord, a man by the name of Philip, and ask, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.”

The vision is two-fold:

It is *personal*: It is *your* vision. It is the quest on *your* lips: “I would like to see Jesus.” Regarding this personal aspect of the vision, let me ask you: What will you do in the coming year to see Jesus more clearly, to strive to gain that 20/20 vision, to see Him in a healthier, truer way, to see Him as He is? Your vision of Christ will become clear through reading God’s Word – the witness of His disciples, the testimony of His apostles. Your vision of Christ will become clear through meditation and prayer. And your vision of Christ will become clear in Christian community, through the guidance and direction of God’s Holy Spirit.

But this vision is not just *personal*. I reached *beyond* you. It’s a vision that comes not only *to* you but *through* you. For it is a certainty that there are many in your life who also need to see Jesus more clearly, and they will come to you and ask, “Sir, Ma’am: We would like to see Jesus.” How will you help them to do so?

It’s interesting to see how Philip responds to the request put to him. In the next verse it says, “Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.”

Philip did not do it alone. He involved someone else. Philip’s example teaches us to invite others to see Jesus in and through the Christian community. There’s perhaps no better way to learn to see Jesus more clearly than in connection with others in the Christian fellowship. For it is in and through the Church, Body of Christ, that Christ is made known.

There will be many opportunities in 2020 to grow in your 20/20 vision of Christ. You may decide to pursue several or many of them; but I challenge you to choose at least one.

Not only for your own sake, but for the sake of those who will come to you asking, “Sir... ma’am: we would like to see Jesus.”

Won’t you join me in this 2020 vision, to see Jesus more clearly and to help others see Him in and through you?

With eyes fixed on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith,

Pastor Derek 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.”**

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



Volunteer to Serve on Sundays

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

The Fairy's New Year Gift



Two little boys were at play one day when a Fairy suddenly appeared before them and said, "I have been sent to give you New Year presents." She handed to each child a package, and in an instant was gone.

Carl and Philip opened the packages and found in them two beautiful books, with pages as pure and white as the snow when it first falls.

Many months passed and the Fairy came again to the boys. "I have brought you each another book?" said she, "and will take the first ones back to Father Time who sent them to you."

"May I not keep mine a little longer?" asked Philip. "I have hardly thought about it lately. I'd like to paint something on the last leaf that lies open." "No," said the Fairy; "I must take it just as it is."

"I wish that I could look through mine just once," said Carl; "I have only seen one page at a time, for when the leaf turns over it sticks fast, and I can never open the book at more than one place each day."

"You shall look at your book," said the Fairy, "and Philip, at his." And she lit for them two little silver lamps, by the light of which they saw the pages as she turned them.

The boys looked in wonder. Could it be that these were the same fair books she had given them a year ago? Where were the clean, white pages, as pure and beautiful as the snow when it first falls? Here was a page with ugly, black spots and scratches upon it; while the very next page showed a lovely little picture. Some pages were decorated with gold and silver and gorgeous colors, others with beautiful flowers, and still others with a rainbow of softest, most delicate brightness. Yet even on the most beautiful of the pages there were ugly blots and scratches.

Carl and Philip looked up at the Fairy at last. "Who did this?" they asked. "Every page was white and fair as we opened to it; yet now there is not a single blank place in the whole book!"

"Shall I explain some of the pictures to you?" said the Fairy, smiling at the two little boys. "See, Philip, the spray of roses blossomed on this page when you let the baby have your playthings; and this pretty bird, that looks as if it were singing with all its might, would never have been on this page if you had not tried to be kind and pleasant the other day, instead of quarreling."

"But what makes this blot?" asked Philip. "That," said the Fairy sadly; "that came when you told an untruth one day, and this when you did not mind mamma. All these blots and scratches that look so ugly, both in your book and in Carl's, were made when you were naughty. Each pretty thing in your books came on its page when you were good."

"Oh, if we could only have the books again!" said Carl and Philip. "That cannot be," said the Fairy. "See! they are dated for this year, and they must now go back into Father Time's bookcase, but I have brought you each a new one. Perhaps you can make these more beautiful than the others."

So saying, she vanished, and the boys were left alone, but each held in his hand a new book open at the first page. And on the back of this book was written in letters of gold, "For the New Year."

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

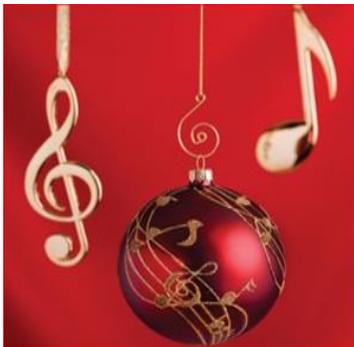


Christmas Buffet Decorating



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. Your presence is welcome... For more information, call or email Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com or 408-499-4866.

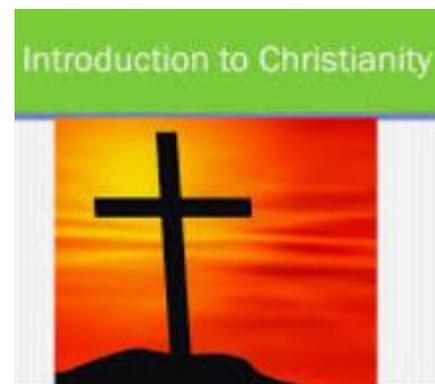
Serving at Family Supportive Housing

- January 19
- Would you like to prepare food? Serve it with a smile? Please contact JoAn Lambert, chairperson of the Community Service Committee. You can reach her at 408-867-6237 or at jgdblamm@earthlink.net

An Introduction to Christianity

Jan. 12, 12:30 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



Annual Meeting, January 19, 2020

Members of Immanuel, please plan to join us as we re-cap last year's happenings and share with you more about our ILC vision for 2020. Lunch will be served at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting will begin shortly thereafter. We will have updates from our Council President, Treasurer and Pastor. Come with your questions, and come to learn how you can participate in the work of our congregation, as we move forward in the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ here in Saratoga.

THE MESSENGER

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

This will be our second year of our ILC Hiking Group. In 2019 we ventured out 19 times. This year will repeat some of the best hikes and have new opportunities to explore. This month, we will have one of each...

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



Jan. 11: 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 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 the parking lot by 11:00.

Jan. 25: Los Gatos Creek Trail (to Lexington Reservoir)

Getting There: From the church, head south on Saratoga Ave., then turn left on Los Gatos Saratoga Rd. Process 4.3 miles, crossing Hwy 17. At the top of the hill (Los Gatos Blvd.), turn right. In .2 miles, turn right on Simons Way. The turn left on New York Ave. Park where you can and we will gather as a group. 20 High School Ct, Los Gatos, CA 95030

Time:

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 the parking lot by 11:00.

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 or calling 408-499-4866.



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Please Call us at above number to schedule a tour

www.ButterfliesAcademy.com



THE MESSENGER



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



The Last Sunday Service of 2019 - on December 29th





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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!

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*

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

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Publisher: Ann Wallace

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

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