



March 2020

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 WWW.ILCSARATOGA.ORG

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

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Coming Events

Men's breakfast- Mar 7 @ Effie's restaurant, Campbell. 1st Sat of the Month- Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, July 4

Lenten Midweek Gatherings:

Meal and Meditation –5 Wednesdays –Mar 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, & Apr 1st

Lenten Gathering: 6:30 – 7:30 (Fellowship Hall) on the above dates

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

ONE CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE SUNDAY on Sunday, March 29, 10:00 AM.

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...

“But now, thus says the Lord your Creator...
‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!’”
Isaiah 43:1

In the last few weeks I have been inundated with my doctoral thesis. Thinking, writing, editing, praying. Overwhelmed with it all. Doubting it will ever end. Wondering if I will ever get my life back. Let me tell you: This has been... quite the sabbatical!

I decided I needed to take a break from it all, so I tuned in to the 10th Democratic Debate, held in Charleston, South Carolina. It was the last debate before Super Tuesday, after which, it is expected, several of the candidates will bow out of the race for the Oval Office.

It might have been a mistake for to do so – tune it, that is. It certainly did not lower my blood pressure – quite the opposite! The candidates, well aware that this might be their last chance to make a favorable impression, cognizant that the future of their campaign depended in no small way on their performance, were all more than eager to speak. Horshack hands were raised; accusations made; fingers pointed. Disregarding the rules of the debate, most kept speaking after their allotted time was up, and most everyone spoke over everyone else, trampling one another with their words. (Whatever happened to being respectful of others, to listening to the one who is speaking, to taking turns?) The moderators struggled to maintain control of the contentious, impassioned politicians.

But then came the final questions. Questions that seemed to return some sense of sanity to the stage, and infuse calm and civility into the war torn and weary debaters: “What is the greatest misconception about you? And what is your motto – the words you live by?”

As soon as the questions were asked, I thought aloud, “I hope at least one of them refers to Scripture.” Almost all of the candidates gave thoughtful responses – and this was, for me, the most encouraging part of the evening. They stopped beating each other up and talking each other down. They were asked to correct any misunderstanding they thought others had of their policies or their person. And they were given the opportunity to share what was at the core of their being. They were invited to bare their heart and soul.

Two candidates did indeed speak from Scripture. One cited Matthew 25, the words of Jesus, “When you did it to one of the least of these, you did it unto Me” (Matthew 25:40). Another mentioned the teaching, “The one who leads is the one who serves” (a paraphrase of the words of Jesus. See Mark 9:35 and 10:43-45). The same candidate also mentioned treating others the way we want to be treated (the “Golden Rule” – again, the words of Jesus in, Matt. 7:12). Would that these “mottos” were acted out on the debate platform.

Words to live by. Things that define how we see ourselves and how we understand what it means to live a human life, a godly life, a life that has meaning and purpose.

My wife recently shared with me a quote she has come to love: “You are not defined by what you do but by the One who created you.”

I wonder how anyone can endure the scathing comments made about them when they live their lives in full view of the all-seeing public eye. We who live relatively “normal” lives already have enough negative voices echoing in our heads. Whether those hurtful words were shared with cruel intent, or whether they were spoken thoughtlessly, either way they have “stuck,” and many find it difficult to move forward with their dignity intact.

In this season of Lent, we will continue to pursue our 2020 vision, to see Jesus more clearly (with 20/20 vision), so that we can more properly understand His character and more aptly share Him with others. We will be viewing and discussing a work by teaching pastor Max Lucado called Jesus, the God who Knows Your Name. Pastor Lucado is a good communicator; he has a gift of helping people see the Good News that Jesus brings to them in their daily lives. I trust his teaching will do the same for you, too.

When my faith first came alive (in high school), one of the life-changers for me was the revelation that Jesus really knew me – and that I was not alone.

I hope that our gatherings during the season of Lent will serve to give you greater confidence in your heavenly Father who knows your name, in the Savior who walks with you, and in God’s Spirit who will inspire you to love with God’s own love, and to lead by serving in His name.

Serving with Gratitude and Joy,

Pastor Derek 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."**

***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.

Thank you for
Serving!

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



A Glass of Milk



One day a poor boy, who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, when a lovely young woman opened the door, he lost his nerve and instead of asking for a meal, he asked for a drink of water.

The young lady thought that he looked hungry, so she brought him a large glass of milk instead. He drank it very slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You do not owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us to never accept pay for a kindness done."

"Then I thank you, from the bottom of my heart," he said.

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was also strengthened. He had been ready to give up and quit, and was given the courage to go on.

Years later that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled, and they finally sent her to the big city where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for consultation.

When he heard the name of the town from she came, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown, he bent over to look at her, and he recognized her at once. He returned to his office determined to do his best to save her life.

From that day on he gave special attention to the case, and after a long struggle, the battle was won. On the day that his patient was to be discharged from the hospital, Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked it over, then wrote something on the edge of the bill and sent it to her room. She was afraid to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for such a long and expensive hospital stay as hers had been. Finally she could endure the suspense no longer, and she opened the bill. Something scribbled in the margin caught her eye, and she read these words: "Paid in full with one glass of milk." And it was signed by Dr. Howard Kelly.

Confirmation



Confirmation Classes

Confirmation is for youth in grades 6-8. We study the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism. We are taking a break from class time, and we encourage parents and student to participate in our midweek Lenten gatherings that will take place in the church Fellowship Hall.

Date	Unit	Topic	Who Attends?
Mar. 4		Lenten Gathering (6:30 - 7:30 PM)	Youth & Parents
Mar. 11		Lenten Gathering (6:30 - 7:30 PM)	Youth & Parents
Mar. 18		Lenten Gathering (6:30 - 7:30 PM)	Youth & Parents
Mar. 25		Lenten Gathering (6:30 - 7:30 PM)	Youth & Parents
Apr. 1		Lenten Gathering (6:30 - 7:30 PM)	Youth & Parents



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**



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, cfcanc@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: Clark Canham 408-605-3955, Carol Flint 408-781-3168, or Pastor Derek.

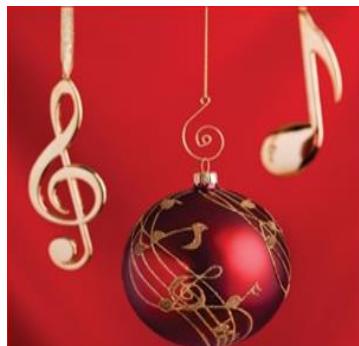
Mission Team: We communicate using infrequent formal meetings, supplemented by email/conversations. Our aim: spread the Jesus story to the unchurched (Evangelism). Efforts needed: urge & train our members to become disciples, follow up on names on the prayer list, and participate in Pastor's neighborhood 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 are now in the Book of Ruth and will be discussing the kings and the prophets, as we continue cruising down God's River of Life. Your presence is welcome... For more information, call or email Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com or 408-499-4866.

Lenten Midweek Gatherings - Ash Wednesday was February 26, and with it came the beginning of the season of Lent – forty days (not including Sundays), leading up to Easter. We gathered in the sanctuary for a somber service, remembering that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return."

Now, on the following five Wednesdays, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Meal & Meditation, and continue to pursue our 2020 vision of seeing Jesus more clearly and growing in our ability to direct others to Him so that they can see Him, too. In that pursuit, we will embark on a study written by teaching pastor Max Lucado called *Jesus – the God Who Knows Your Name*.

As Pastor Lucado reveals in this video Bible study, "Because Jesus became human, it is now possible for us to see God and hear his voice. If we want to know what matters to God, all we need to do is look in the Bible to see what matters to Jesus. If we want to know what God is doing in our world, we need only ponder the words of Jesus. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we come to understand more clearly the people we were created to be."

We'll explore several characteristics of Jesus. We'll contemplate His incarnation – that He is God with us. We'll see Him as the friend of sinners, the compassionate physician, the great teacher, a miracle worker and our victorious sacrifice.

We gather each Wednesday at 6:30 and conclude by 7:30 PM. Plan to join us, bring a dish to share (soup, salad or a dessert) and bring a friend, as well. *The subjects for the weeks of Lent are the following:*

- March 4: "God with Us"
- March 11: "Friend of Sinners"
- March 18: "Compassionate Physician"
- March 25: "Great Teacher"
- April 1: "Miracle Worker"

An Introduction to Immanuel Lutheran Church -

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, March 1, at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room to learn more about this particular Lutheran congregation in Saratoga – and what makes us distinct. For more info or to RSVP, please contact Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com.



"Thank you for sharing your gifts with us, Rodney!"

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

Come join us, as we explore and enjoy the wonderful nature that surrounds our neighborhoods. Invite your friends!

We'll venture out twice in March. See details below. This is meant to be fun for the whole family and they will be "no one left behind" hikes.

March 14: Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. 550 Palm Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Getting There:

- From Highway 101, take Bailey Avenue west. Go .7 miles.
- Turn left on Santa Teresa Boulevard. Continue 2 miles.
- Turn right on Palm Avenue. Continue .7 miles.
- The preserve is at the end of Palm Avenue.

Time: 9:00 AM

March 28: Kennedy Rd. Ascent. 15292 Kennedy Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032

Getting There:

- From Highway 85, exist Los Gatos Blvd.
- Head south for 2 miles; then turn left on Kennedy
- Continue 2.3 miles to the top of Kennedy Rd. Small parking lot on the right. If full, park across the street.

Time: 9:00 AM

For each of these hikes, 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. March 14 is a loop. March 28 is out-and-back. Both have hills, with potentially good views.

Please RSVP so I know you'll be coming. In case of inclement weather, I'll send a cancelation 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 pastord63@gmail.com or calling 408-499-4866.





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



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



ILC YOUTH EVENT

PAINT POURING PARTY

12p-2p
March 14

ALL AGES EVENT!

**Children under 12 must have
parent/guardian.**

All supplies included.

\$10 suggested donation

**For more info contact Alyssa McCoy:
alyssa@ilcsaratoga.org 4087680224**



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH PRESENTS

SPRING CLEANING CLOTHING SWAP

9AM TO NOON
MARCH 28

HOW IT WORKS:

Bring WASHED, GENTLY WORN clothing (women's, men's, kid's) in your own bag or box between 9 - 9:30.

Receive 1 credit per piece.

Pay \$2 participation fee to shop for new-to-you clothing 9:30-12pm and checkout with your credits.

Please DO NOT bring torn/stained clothing, underwear, or non-clothing items.

Contact info:

Alyssa McCoy

PH: 408.768.0224

Email: Alyssa@ilcsaratoga.org

FELLOWSHIP HALL
14103 SARATOGA AVE. SARATOGA



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

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

Traditional Service 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:45 a.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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