

January 2021

The Messenger

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

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

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

Coming Events

January 2: Men's Breakfast, normally held @ Effies in Campbell, will be meeting this month via Zoom. Please join us at 8:00 AM by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516406200?pwd=VFIBYIM1MFZHVUxNN0xzaW03Umx4UT09> (1st Sat of the Month: Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3)

Special Note – Page 2

NOTE: During this time of Shelter In-Place, all the dates for the scheduled newsletter events (except where specified) are only placeholders. Until further notice, we will NOT be meeting in person. If you're uncertain about whether or not something is going to happen, please email (pastord63@gmail.com) or call (408-499-4866) Pastor Derek to confirm.

****Annual Meeting, January 24, 2021** - Pg. 21**

God's River of Life is accessible by Zoom here-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83250020639>

"Covid Coach" – A useful App for self-care and mental health- Pg. 20

Pl sign up for Altar Guild

Shelter Meals Schedule: Sign up to cook or serve



Special Note!

During these unprecedented days of Shelter-in-Place and Social Distancing, we are (as a member of our faith community answers me whenever I ask how he's doing, even before COVID-19) "still alive!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church continues to meet virtually, as we move forward in the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE DAILY for fresh servings of Daily Bread and more... It's just one click away: <https://ilcsaratoga.org/special.php>

Sunday services have been condensed to about 30 minutes and posted online by 9:00 AM each Sunday morning. You can "tune in" at the time you're used to attending services and participate in the community gathering. You can also access weekly services directly on YouTube by clicking here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXPyEHJ9h9cmNxPpnL-m-vw> You are also invited to join us for a time of live online fellowship in our post-service Zoom gathering, which begins around 9:30. Click here to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81019722507?pwd=bC85VXMxZ0ViSWZpaFlxWmsvROU4UT09> Meeting ID: 810 1972 2507; Passcode: 760944

Sunday School for Children/Youth is held each Sunday beginning at 10:30 via Zoom. Please contact Mitzie, Alyssa or Nola for more information.

Wednesday morning Bible Study (10:00 – 11:30) is LIVE via Zoom. All are welcome. Click here to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83250020639>

Thursday morning Bible Study (Yokefellows) also continues to meet virtually LIVE via Zoom at 6:30 AM. You have to provide your own refreshments, but you can stay in your pajamas! Click here to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87581100281?pwd=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNlQTo9>

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study also continues to meet virtually LIVE via Zoom at 8:00 AM the first Saturday of each month. You cook your own breakfast, but enjoy the best company of your brothers in Christ. There's room for you at the table. Click here to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516406200?pwd=VFfBYlM1MFZHVUxNNoxzaWo3Umx4UT09>

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO DO SOME GROCERY SHOPPING OR PICK UP PRESCRIPTIONS FOR YOU. WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

God is with you in these days. Let's make the best of them, as we continue to love and care for each other and reach out with God's love to our neighbors in need.

down the stubborn king's heart until he could stand it no more and, in a rage, he sent Moses away. But not surprisingly, Pharaoh, like some never-say-die whack-a-mole, had another change of heart, and he sent his army to chase after his runaway slaves. Moses then finds himself in a precarious situation: The army of Egypt is nipping at his heels, a sea of water stands in front of him to prevent his progress, and masses of accusing and complaining people are surrounding him, blaming him for what appears to be their impending deaths. Moses turns to the One who is higher than he, and he cries out for rescue. Good thing, right? After all, he was never hip on answering God's call in the first place, and he certainly wasn't rejoicing in his current situation. But what does God tell him? Enough of the praying! Now's the time for action. Now's the time... to move forward.

I like that word! For it's a word that motivates the people to action and inspires confidence even in the face of what looks to be an impassable barrier. By this point Moses has come to know God well enough to have the confidence that God will not let him down. He's come to know God as the One who is more powerful than anything that would stand in His way, and he would come now to know God as the One who was faithful.

God's character has not changed. God is still just as powerful and just as faithful. As we move forward into the future, we can be sure that God will lead us and forge for us a good path. God will accompany us. He is our Lord Immanuel.

We're all eager to move forward in our ministry and mission. It will be exciting to come together again. I'll rejoice to look into your unmasked faces, and I'll relish your stored-up expressions. We mustn't pine for the past too much. Instead, we should pour our energies into moving forward into the future God is preparing. There will be many opportunities that await us: times of fellowship, learning, serving, inviting others into our community and taking the light of Christ out into the world.

Before we know it, we'll be worshiping in person, together – and it will be GOOD! We will also rejoice at a new “member” of our congregation – the Church without walls. We've been growing our online community, and we rejoice at the new growth that's happening in ways we cannot yet fully imagine.

I look forward to the new developments that will take place, and I rejoice over the faith community we call Immanuel Lutheran Church of Saratoga. Let's fully invest ourselves in the future God has prepared for us and give all that we have, so that the name of Jesus will be praised among us and God alone will be glorified.

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!



THE MESSENGER

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

The New Year's Gift



Little Johnny was very happy today. It was because he was going to market with his father on New Year's Eve to purchase various things, all of his own liking. The market was quite lively and all the shops were decorated with light bulbs of different shades. Just then, Johnny noticed a shop where a good number of birds were kept in a cage. They were repeatedly hitting their beak on the cage trying to get out. Many of them were bleeding.

Johnny felt pity for those birds. When he could not control himself any longer, he went over to the shopkeeper. "Why have you trapped these innocent birds?" he asked him. "Why don't you let them free? It is not fair to restrict anyone's freedom." Johnny looked at his father who put his hand inside his pocket. "What about all those things which you had planned to purchase, Johnny?" he asked

Johnny felt puzzled for a moment, but he had decided that the freedom of those birds was more important than any celebration. He reached out and held his father's hand. "Dad," he said, "I can enjoy New Year's Eve with my friends, but these birds will enjoy it better in the free sky."

His father handed over the money to the shopkeeper, "You can set these birds free," he said to him, "and from tomorrow onwards, you can join me at the shop. I will convince the owner to give you a respectable job." The shopkeeper felt happy and handed over the cage to Johnny, who opened the bolted cage door. All the birds started flying out one after another. Johnny started clapping.

"Dad, now they will also enjoy the new year with their family and friends. I am thankful to you, there could not have been a better gift for New Year's," said Johnny relieved.

"You deserved that my dear son," said his father as he hugged him.



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

ICL 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





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.



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

THE MESSENGER



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

Contact: Ken Campbell 408-691-5694; Reed Canerday 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: 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

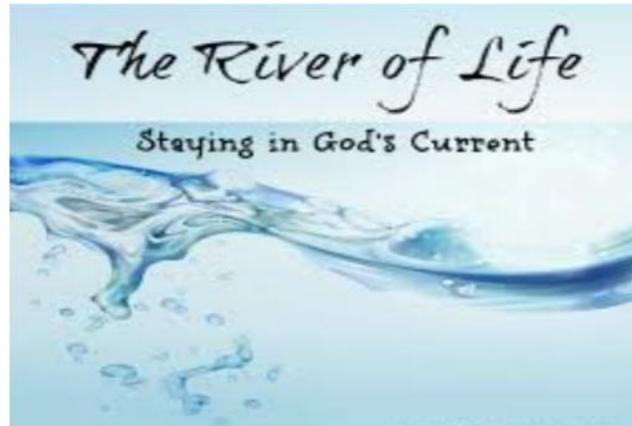


THE MESSENGER

On The Horizon... (mark your calendars)

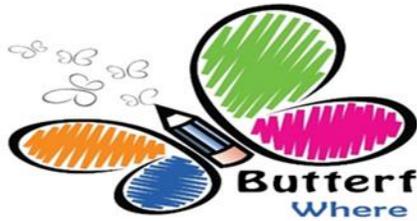
God's River of Life...

Pastor Derek teaches a Bible Study **each Wednesday morning** from 10:00 – 11:30. All are welcome to attend. We're currently meeting virtually, using Zoom. If you'd like to participate, click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83250020639> We're presently aboard God's Ship *Grace* cruising down God's River of Life. 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've made our way into the New Testament. For more information, call or email Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com or 408-499-4866.



Car problems? Don't want to leave your home?

Contact Jim & Vaskie Turner who have had a good experience with a company that provides pickup service from your home during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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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



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Coronavirus: I have put together hotline numbers and some websites that are useful and informative!

Coronavirus Hotline for Seniors - The hotline number is **1-833-544-2374**.

<https://www.kcra.com/article/gov-newsom-coronavirus-update-march-31/31983378>

Call **2-1-1** in 150 languages. 24/7

Text **211211** to receive texts on updates.

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/news/Pages/covid-19-call-211.aspx>

Emotional Listening Support Contact 24/7 Helpline: **1-800-932-4616** (Toll Free)

<http://www.contacthelpline.org/emotional-listening-support>

Santa Clara County (SSC) Update on Coronavirus – www.sccphd.org/coronavirus.

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/home.aspx>

Covid-19 on CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

State of California hotline to deliver services & help for older Californians - **1-833-544-2374**.

CDC's corona virus household check list.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html>

Pack your own groceries: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/spendingandborrowing/during-coronavirus-pandemic-youll-have-to-pack-your-own-groceries-if-you-have-a-reusable-bag/ar-BB11YLZ5?ocid=ientp>

Data on social distancing scorecard in states and counties -

<https://www.unacast.com/covid19/social-distancing-scoreboard>

County of Santa Clara COVID-19 Data Dashboard -

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/dashboard.aspx>

Anyone interested in reporting a possible violation - Can email pubhealthreferral@dao.sccgov.org or call 408-792-2300 to leave a voicemail.

For more info, please go to the following websites.

1. <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
2. <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx>
3. <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#county-status>
4. <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>

**There may be a surge in mail-order prescriptions due to the shelter-in-place. Receiving the orders may take a little longer than usual. It may be helpful to place your critical medicine mail-orders, preferably a week ahead to avoid last-minute requests. Again, not hoarding implies that all other patients will receive their vital prescriptions on time!

Just for laughs – This website helps 😊 <http://jokes.christiansunite.com/> Here is a preview!

Beating the odds



Aunt Bessie loved to visit her nieces and nephews. However, she had relatives all over the country. The problem was that no matter how much she enjoyed seeing them, she hated flying. No matter how safe people told her it was, she was always worried that someone would have a bomb on the plane.

She read books about how safe it was and listened to the stewardess demonstrate all the safety features. But she still worried herself silly every time a visit was coming up.

Finally, the family decided that maybe if she saw the statistics she'd be convinced. So they sent her to a friend of the family who was an actuary.

"Tell me," she said suspiciously, "what are the chances that someone will have a bomb on a plane?"

The actuary looked through his tables and said, "A very small chance. Maybe one in five hundred thousand."

She nodded, then thought for a moment. "So, what are the odds of two people having a bomb on the same plane?"

Again he went through his tables.

"Extremely remote," he said. "About one in a billion."

Aunt Bessie nodded and left his office.

And from that day on, every time she flew, she took a bomb with her.

"Covid Coach" for self-care and mental health: App found in Google Play in Android phone, and Apple Store in iPhone or iPad
<https://mobile.va.gov/app/covid-coach>

We are all in this together!

God Bless and Stay Safe!

Vaskie Turner



Worship Status

Our intention is to continue recording and posting online services. In addition, we hope to offer services outdoors, as soon as we are confident that we can do so in a safe manner. As the COVID-19 continues to rage, our Regathering task force has not, at this point, scheduled another service. But we continue to monitor the situation closely.

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf as we seek to do our best to respond faithfully to our present conditions and provide a safe worship space for all. More information will be forthcoming as our plans continue to develop.

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

Have you heard about our hiking group? We explore part of the wonderful nature that surrounds our neighborhoods. It's fun for the whole family, and we venture out twice each month, usually on Saturday mornings. These are "no one left behind" hikes and friends are welcome.

We are not planning any group hikes for the month of January, due to the high number of COVID cases in our area. But if you would like to be on the email distribution list for future hikes, please contact Pastor Derek.

Annual Meeting, January 24, 2021

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 2021. 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.

This year we will meet via Zoom. You should have received in the mail information about the meeting, including a ballot for election of Council A members. If you did NOT receive this information, please let us know as soon as possible. We hope to have a large turnout, on Sunday, January 24, at 1:00 PM. You can join the meeting by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89491570945>

Meeting ID: 894 9157 0945

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,89491570945# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,89491570945# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kyBoDsuot>

THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!



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Saratoga, CA 95070

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

We're on the Web!

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 our Contemporary Worship Team. 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!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.
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