



August 2021

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](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org)

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

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Pastor Derek Writes...

By Pastor Derek Engfelt



Pastor Derek Writes...

“I know your deeds.

See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

I know that you have little strength,
yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name.”

Revelation 3:8

We rejoice to be back indoors, worshiping together and lifting our voices as one in song. We continue to take care to do all that we can to ensure the safety of all. Although it is not always easy, and it does not always come as welcome, we will continue to take the necessary precautions to protect those who are most vulnerable in our midst. In the long run, the sacrifices we have to make now are few – and we rejoice to be able to come together again and to move forward in the ministry and mission of our Lord.

If you've not yet returned to worship in person, we hope you will choose to do so soon. Otherwise, please do join us by tuning in to our Livestream on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday we will livestream EITHER the 9:00 OR the 10:45 AM. Check the church website for the latest updates.

With the changes in the weather, the front door of the church shrinks and swells. Sometimes it closes easily. Other times we have to be careful to close it securely, else it fails to latch. When I was thus

engaged this past week, it got me thinking: Jesus would always have us have an open-door policy toward outsiders/visitors.

To the above-mentioned church in Revelation, Jesus acknowledges they have little strength. But He commends them for being faithful in their ministry.

I'm cognizant that our worshiping community (now averaging about 65 total on a Sunday morning) is about 60% of what it was pre-pandemic. We have some work to do – to gather those who've not yet returned to in-person worship. We also need to continue to reach out to people outside our faith community and welcome those who visit on Sunday mornings.

We're doing good things in the community, and we're headed in the right direction. We're encouraging each other and supporting one other holistically (body, mind and spirit).

We're also reaching out into the community to serve as God's hands and feet. We continue to collect and deliver food, clothes and books for kids. We prepare and distribute hygiene kits and *People Helping People* bags. We prepare and serve meals to the homeless. We assemble layettes to give as gifts to mothers in need. And we serve in a variety of other ways.

We will rejoice to have others join our efforts. Together, we will bear much fruit as followers of Jesus. And we will thereby glorify God by our deeds.

Every time I check church's front door I think of these things.

I am so very grateful for your presence in our faith community. And I rejoice to have new faces join us in our efforts.

How will you serve this coming month? In what ways will you participate? Who will you invite?

Your presence matters, and your prayers are powerful.

Thank you for the part you play in the ministry of our Lord.

Pastor Derek Engfelt

I know your works.
Because you have
limited strength,
have kept My
word, and have not
denied My name,
look, I have placed
before you an open
door that no one is
able to close.
Revelation 3:8
(HCSB)



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."

Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's Word. Preaching isn't enough. A systematic teaching of the Scriptures – not just preaching (Acts 5:42) needs to occur through all age levels. Children, youth, and adults need opportunities for discovery, review, and interaction as they study God's principles. Sunday school meets needs!



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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!

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 young crab and his mother

One day, a young crab and his mother were on the beach, spending some time together. The young crab gets up to move, but it can only walk sideways. His mother scolds him for walking sideways and asks him to walk forward by pointing his toes out front. The young crab responds, "I would like to walk forward mom, but I do not know how to".

Hearing this, his mom gets up to show him how, but even she is unable to bend her knees forward. She realizes that she was being unfair, apologizes sheepishly, and sits back in the sand.

Moral

Don't condemn someone for not doing something that you yourself are unable to do.



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Men's Breakfast



Men's Breakfast is held the first Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:00am in the bar, share breakfast, fellowship, and engage in a free-wheeling, bible topic discussion. We conclude by 9:30 am.

All men of the congregation – members and visitors – are welcome

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



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.

Givelify
Tap. Give. Done.

every time you shop.

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



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 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)

Worship Offerings

We will continue to have three offerings – traditional, contemporary and livestream. <https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php>. We are alternating Livestream each week from 9:00 to 10:45. Please check website for each week's start time.

You are also invited to join us for a time of live online fellowship in a pre- or post-service Zoom gathering, which begins at 10:00. Click here to join: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81019722507?pwd=bC85VXMxZoViSWZpaFlxWmsvRoU4UT09>
Meeting ID: 810 1972 2507; Passcode: 760944

New Bible Study Offering: Fruit of the Spirit

We will continue to have three offerings – traditional, contemporary and livestream. <https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php>. We are alternating Livestream each week from 9:00 to 10:45. Please check website for each week's start time.

You are also invited to join us for a time of live online fellowship in a pre- or post-service Zoom gathering, which begins at 10:00. Click here to join: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81019722507?pwd=bC85VXMxZoViSWZpaFlxWmsvRoU4UT09>
Meeting ID: 810 1972 2507; Passcode: 760944

Thursday Morning Study

Thursday morning Bible study (Yokefellows) continues to meet each Thursday morning at 6:30 AM in the church Fireside Room. Refreshments are served. In August we finish our study on the Book of Acts. If you are unable to join us in person, you can participate from the comfort of your own home by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87581100281?pwd=dEgrbIEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWINIQT09>

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 August, we'll again revisit some of our favorites. See details below.

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

August 14: Sierra Azul Preserve: Woods Trail. Jacques Ridge Parking Lot. (This will be an "out and back" hike, mostly level with some "rolling hills.") A little over 4 miles, with just over 500 feet of elevation gain.

Getting There:

Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From Southbound 85 turn left on Camden Avenue. From northbound 85 turn left on Branham Avenue, then left on Camden Avenue.) Travel on Camden Avenue about 1.6 miles. Travel on Hicks Road about 6.3 miles. At the stop sign (at the top of the road and the junction of Mt. Umunhum Rd., turn left. Go about 50 yards and park in the parking lot.

August 28: Mt. Umunhum Ascent. Bald Mountain Parking Lot. One of our most challenging hikes: 8.5 miles, 1245 feet of elevation gain.

Getting There:

Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From Southbound 85 turn left on Camden Avenue. From northbound 85 turn left on Branham Avenue, then left on Camden Avenue.) Travel on Camden Avenue about 1.6 miles. Travel on Hicks Road about 6.3 miles. At the stop sign (at the top of the road and the junction of Mt. Umunhum Rd., turn right. Continue uphill 1.7 miles. Parking lot is on the left.

Time: For each of these hikes, plan to arrive by 7:45 AM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 8:00 and plan to return to our cars by 10:00 (on the 14th) and 12:00 (on the 18st).

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.



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



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Youth Handbell Choir

Hopefully you had a chance to see and hear the Youth Handbell Choir perform in church. For our 1st year we had 6-7 ringers and performed in church on 4 Sundays. Based on feedback from you youth and the congregation, our inaugural year was a success!

We are continuing with the Youth Handbell Choir this year and are hoping to grow in numbers. With more ringers, we will have more options in the music that we can play. The Youth

Handbell Choir rehearses on Sundays in between 2nd service and Confirmation classes – from 11:45 to 12:30. All youth 10 years and older are welcome to join us.

Don't know much about music? Well, Handbells are a great vehicle for teaching music. Individuals can very quickly learn the technique for ringing bells compared to other instruments that require a lot of practice to master the technique. With Handbells, we can quickly demonstrate so many elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, meter, ...)



Another very important reason to join the Youth Handbell Choir is for the teamwork and comradery. In a Handbell Choir, ALL are needed. The music struggles if even one part is missing. This is a place where all individuals can feel needed and be a part of a team to make music and praise God. The Handbell Choir mirrors the body of Christ. Roman 12:5 says: "*so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*" In the Handbell Choir, we are all separate ringers doing our own thing

and yet we're interconnected and need each other to come together to make a joyful noise to God. It reinforces the idea that you need to work together to achieve something great. In a Handbell team, success comes by including everyone and building up the individuals that struggle.

Please contact Carol Flint or Elisabeth Pintar if you are interested in joining us

Also, Handbells are not just for kids. We could use a few more ringers in the adult Handbell Choir too. Those rehearsals are on Thursday evenings 6:00 – 7:00.

Carol Flint
cflint8891@gmail.com
 408-781-3168

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

Weddings at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga



Judy Onton is our ILC wedding coordinator.

To find out more, take a brochure from the pew rack, or check out our website: www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings. Follow us on Instagram:ILCSaratogaweddings. Share with family and friends of this beautiful and charming sanctuary to hold their matrimony.



Many couples have joined hands to their lives at quaint church and its tranquil surroundings



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!

Deduction

 herlock Holmes and Matthew Watson were on a camping and hiking trip. They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky.

Holmes said, "Watson, look up. What do you see?

"Well, I see thousands of stars."

"And what does that mean to you?"

"Well, I guess it means we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does it mean to you, Holmes?"

"To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."

"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



Vaccinations...

GOT YOUR SHOT? If you're over 12, you are now eligible to receive your vaccination shots for COVID-19. The latest updates on vaccine eligibility and how to schedule an appointment are available on the County's website at sccfreevax.org. In addition, residents without internet access or who need additional assistance can make appointments for the County Health System vaccine sites through the Valley Connection Call Center at 408-970-2000. The Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 7 am to 9 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Assistance is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and other languages. If you have trouble making your appointment and need assistance, please let Pastor Derek know. We have people standing by ready to help.



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.

THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!



14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.

Come hear our wonderful choir, bell choir, and organist.

Communion is served each Sunday as part of the liturgy.

Visitors are always welcome!

Contemporary Service 10:45 a.m.

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.

About the Messenger

Please submit articles by the **15th** of the month, typed (preferably 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
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Publisher: Ann Wallace

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