



Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

Inside this Issue

Pastor Derek Writes.....2
 People Helping People.....4
 Sunday School.....4
 Children's Story.....5
 Women's Breakfast.....7
 Men's Breakfast.....7
 Sunday school pics.....8
 Mark Your Calendar.....9
 ILC Annual Events10
 Upcoming Events.....12
 Youth Handbell Choir.....15
 ILC Wedding.....16
 Editors' Desk.....17
 Vaccination information.....19
 Come Worship With Us!.....20
 About the Messenger.....20

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

Coming Events

Sep 4: Men's Breakfast @ Effies in Campbell. For those who cannot attend in person, you may join us via Zoom by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516406200?pwd=VFIBYIM1MFZHVUxNN0xzZW03Umx4UT09> (map) (1st Sat of the Month: Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4)

Sept 18: Women's Breakfast

Worship Status – Pg. 12

Traditional – 9.00 AM * Contemporary Service - 10.45 AM

Online Service - <https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php> (Live stream)

New Bible Study: Integrity: Living the Truth in-person & via zoon @10 AM

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

Living Room Conversations, September 7, 7:00 PM

Vaccination Information on Pg. 19

"Volunteer to Serve on Sundays!"

*PI sign up for Altar Guild***

*PI sign up for Livestreaming/camera setup and support during Sunday service***

* Shelter Meals Schedule: Sign up to cook or serve***



over the worst of it. All things were forward-march! We could even begin to look back and find the good in what we had experienced – and consider reasons to be grateful for having gone through it.

But a few short weeks later the Delta Variant spread and spiked – and the masks were back on again. And it seems we've been all but catapulted back to square one. Of course, we *do* have the vaccine, and we *have* learned how to manage in the midst of this crisis. We know better how to protect ourselves, and we're ever mindful of the welfare of others. But few of us are happy about starting over. And none of us want to see this prolonged. We want to be done with it. And to get on with life as we had come to know and appreciate it – even as we vow to appreciate it even more in the future.

God will be faithful to bring us through our current crisis. We can take heart and be encouraged with that assurance, for it is based upon the sure goodness and great sovereignty of our faithful God.

And as we wait, we do more than just sit here and bide our time. We continue to serve God and neighbor as we are able, taking wise precautions and making innovations in the way we go about ministry. We've learned that geography need not hinder our fellowship; our vision and value of the communion of saints has increased. We have, in fact, expanded our ministry. We have made the best of hard times – and we continue to move forward.

There may not be much we can do to speed up process of this pandemic. But there are things we can do in the interim. There are ways to be faithful in the meantime.

May we be intentional during these days to grow in our faith and trust in God. May we recognize our daily dependence on God and boast not in ourselves, but only in the greatness of our God and in our confidence that God will, in His good time, grant us victory.

God assured Joshua, as he was faced the most daunting challenge of his life: *Do not fear or be dismayed. Be strong and let your heart take courage. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go* (See Joshua 1:6-9).

Keep the faith, dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. God is ever-gracious. And He will faithfully see us through the course of this pandemic, and lead us through to the other side.

Confidently trusting that Christ is hanging onto us all with firm and faithful hand,

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.

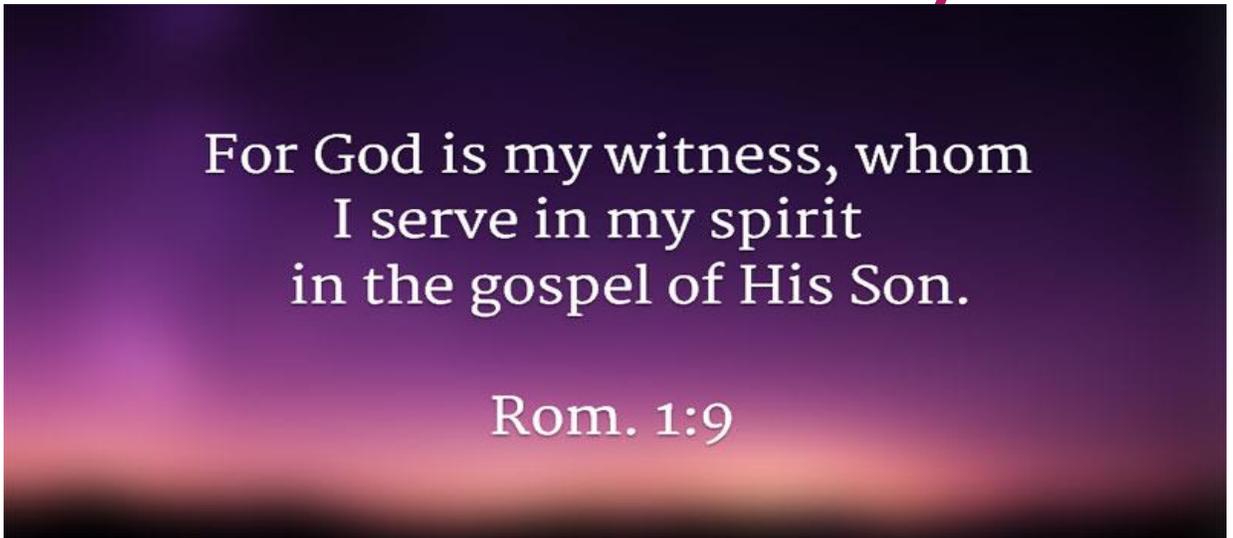
Helping anyone even if it is just a little means so much to people who literally have nothing. God's grace.

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."

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!



Volunteer to Serve on Sundays



Thank you for Serving!

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.

Livestream: Control the livestream setup and camera during the service to support our "Church without Walls"

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 froggy tale lesson



A group of frogs were hopping contentedly through the woods, going about their froggy business, when two of them fell into a deep pit. All of the other frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their companions. When they saw how deep the pit was, the rest of the dismayed group agreed that it was hopeless and told the two frogs in the pit that they should prepare themselves for their fate, because they were as good as dead.

Unwilling to accept this terrible fate, the two frogs began to jump with all of their might. Some of the frogs shouted into the pit that it was hopeless and that the two frogs wouldn't be in that situation if they had been more careful, more obedient to the froggy rules and more responsible.

The other frogs continued sorrowfully shouting that they should save their energy and give up, since they were already as good as dead. The two frogs continued jumping as hard as they could and after several hours of desperate effort were quite weary.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to the calls of his fellows. Spent and disheartened, he quietly resolved himself to his fate, lay down at the bottom of the pit and died as the others looked on in helpless grief.

The other frog continued to jump with every ounce of energy he had, although his body was wracked with pain and he was completely exhausted.

His companions began a new, yelling for him to accept his fate, stop the pain and just die. The weary-frog jumped harder and harder and - wonder of wonders! Finally leapt so high that he sprang from the pit. Amazed, the other frogs celebrated his miraculous freedom and then gathering around him asked, "Why did you continue jumping when we told you it was impossible?"

Reading their lips, the astonished frog explained to them that he was deaf and that when he saw their gestures and shouting, he thought they were cheering him on. What he had perceived as encouragement inspired him to try harder and to succeed against all odds.

This simple story contains a powerful Lesson. Encouraging words can lift someone up and help him or her make it through the day. Destructive words can cause deep wounds. They may be the weapons that destroy someone's desire to continue trying or even their life.

Destructive careless word can diminish someone in the eyes of others, destroy their influence and have a lasting impact on the way others respond to them!



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

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://us02web.zoom.us/j/81019722507?pwd=bC85VXMxZ0ViSWZpaFlxWmsvRoU4UT09>
Meeting ID: 810 1972 2507; Passcode: 760944

New Bible Study Offering: Integrity: Living the Truth

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM as we consider the subject of *Integrity: Living the Truth*. This 10-week study will cover keeping commitments, cultivating endurance, trusting God, imitating Jesus, and several other topics. All are welcome.

This study is a JOINT venture – in person and via Zoom.

For those who like to meet in person, we meet in the Fireside Room Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Refreshments are served at the end of class.

Those who would prefer, due to distance or convenience, to join us via Zoom, can do so by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83250020639>

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 September being our study on the Book of Ephesians. 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=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWINIQT09>

Rally Day Plans: September 12

Rally Day – the kick off of our fall programmatic year, including confirmation instruction for youth – will be a day of regathering and service. It's the day the ELCA has designated as *God's Work. Our Hands*. Sunday, and we're encouraged to join with all other ELCA congregations and take part in some kind of service. As ILC, we plan to assemble 100 *People Helping People* bags between our morning services.

In addition, you're invited to join in on the fun and **serve by shopping!** We're looking for a few friends of our faith community to give one hour of their time on Sep. 12 to purchase food for those in need (and to be reimbursed for your expenses). For more information, contact Lee Wheeler at misterlee50@aol.com.

THE MESSENGER

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

September 11: Quicksilver: Deep Gulch (4 miles, somewhat hilly)

Getting There:

Heading south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 4 miles. At the light, merge right on Almaden Road. Continue another 3 miles and pull into parking lot (or park on the side of the road).

Time: 8:00 AM

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.

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.

Living Room Conversations, September 7, 7:00 PM

Living Room Conversations is an opportunity for people in our community to come together to respectfully discuss current topics. We listen and learn from others, even as we are invited to share our own thoughts, feelings and convictions. September's topic is *Hope*.

Topic: Living Room conversations

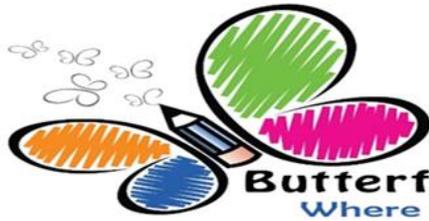
Time: Sep 7, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88931678164?pwd=V21NU2hwR2toS3BtRWdxMoZxekErZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 3167 8164

Passcode: 992865



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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!

Tickets Please

Three engineers and three accountants are traveling by train to a conference. At the station, the three accountants each buy a ticket and watch as the three engineers only buy one ticket.

"How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?" asks an accountant. "Watch and you'll see," answered an engineer.

They all board the train. The accountants take their respective seats but all three engineers cram into a rest room and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the restroom door and says, "Tickets, please!" The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The accountants see this and agree it is a clever idea. So after the conference, the accountants decide to copy the engineers on the return trip and save some money.

When they get to the station, they buy one ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the engineers don't buy a ticket at all. "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed accountant. "Watch and you'll see," answered an engineer.

When they board the train all three accountants cram into a restroom and the three engineers cram into another one nearby. The train departs.

Shortly afterward, one of the engineers leaves his restroom and walks over to the restroom where the accountants are hiding. He knocks on the door and says, "Tickets, please!"

"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](https://www.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!



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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

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

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