



Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

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

Coming Events

Dec 4: Men's Breakfast @ Effie's 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=VFIBYIM1MFZHVUxNN0xzaW03Um4UT09> (1st Sat of the Month: Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 5)

Dec. 5: Service of Lessons & Carols (10:00 AM – ONE SUNDAY SERVICE)

Dec. 5: Serve by Shopping

Dec 11: Celebration of Light @ 5:30 PM Blaney Plaza, Saratoga Village

Dec 12: Christmas Organ Concert @ 7 PM (Pg. 18)

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candle light services:

5.00 pm (Family: Hymns, Organ & Children's Story Time)

10:00 pm (Traditional: Hymns with Organ, Choir & Bells)

Dec 26: One Sunday Service @ 10.00 AM (Contemporary)

Jan 2, 2022: One Sunday Service 10:00 AM (Traditional)

Jan 9, 2022: An Introduction to Christianity @12:30pm, Fireside Room

Worship Status – Pg. 11

***Traditional – 9.00 AM *Contemporary Service - 10.45 AM**

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

Vaccination and Booster shots Information, including children 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*****

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It is perfect preparation for the Advent season, as we consider what it means to extend hospitality to the Son of God, the Child of Bethlehem. We sing in the great hymn *Joy to the World*, “Let every heart prepare Him room.” Even as we have extended hospitality to the houseless, we have, in the same act, extended hospitality to Jesus, who once confessed to His followers that He had nowhere to lay His head (see Luke 9:58 and the verse above from Matthew 25.)

The delight and surprise of Christmas is this: The One we welcome to earth welcomes us with a divine reception. The One for whom we prepare our hearts is the One who prepares a place for us. The One we serve when we serve others takes up the basin and the towel to kneel before us in service. In words of great comfort and amazing grace, Jesus tells us not to be anxious, worried or troubled, for after He ascends to heaven, He goes to prepare a place for us in heaven, in an expression of eternal hospitality.

May God continue to draw you close to Himself this Christmas and assure you of your place in God’s family. In grace God welcomes you as His own and receives you into His kingdom. As your soul rests in that good news, you will have a merry Christmas indeed.

With great joy and appreciation for our ILC Community,

Pastor Derek J. 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 rolled down 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.

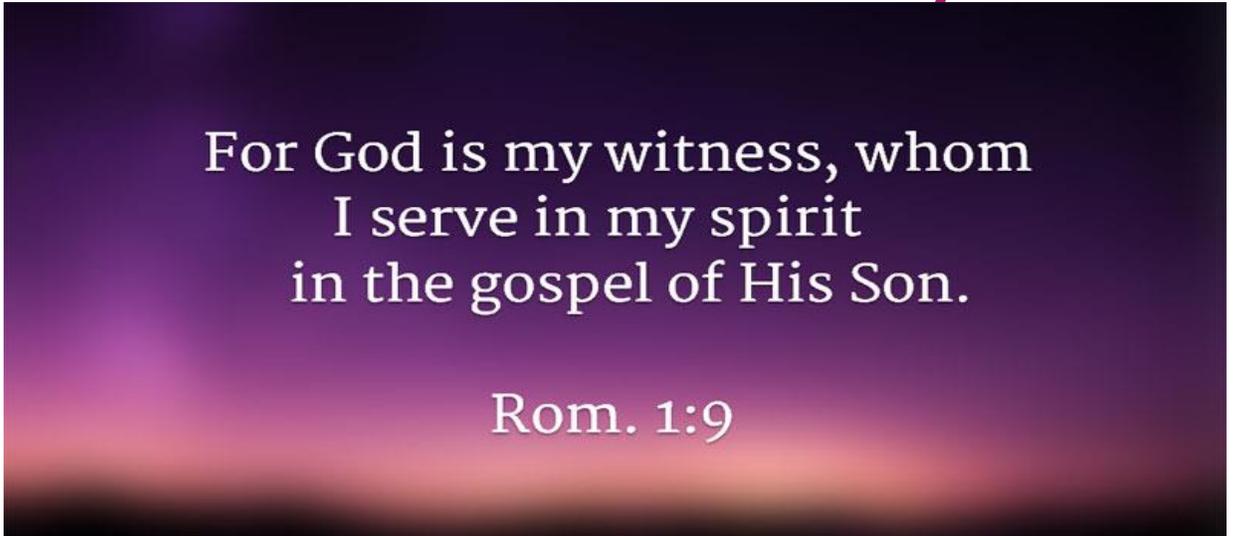
Helping anyone even if it is just a little means so much to people who literally have nothing. God's grace.

Come join us as we serve those in need in practical ways. As we do so, we're living into our ILC vision of "passionately responding to the 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 place in the Nativity



Simon was a small plastic figurine placed in any corner whatsoever of the Christmas Nativity scene. He was born in a huge factory in China and not painted well, which is why he invariably ended up a long way from the stable, filling just any old space or being nibbled by the children of the house. Nonetheless, he loved the Baby Jesus, who looked and smiled at him every day from his crib. His only dream was that one year they would put him near the crib.

One night before Christmas, Mary gathered everyone together.

"We need your help. A big war is about to begin, and Baby Jesus has had to go away to try and avert it. Somebody has to stand in for him until he returns."

"I'll do it," said a lovely little angel. "I don't think it will be too hard to play the role of a baby." That little Angel took its place in the manger, and another one had to take its place in the empty spot left. A little shepherd replaced this other Angel. In short, many of the figurines had to switch places. Due to the changes, Simon ended up as a shepherd, much closer to the manger than ever before.



Things did not work out. The Angel was lovely and did cry like a baby, but obviously, it wasn't Baby Jesus. Joseph had to ask it to leave, and they looked for someone else. Once again the figurines switched places, and Simon ended up closer still to the manger.

The new baby did not play the role of Baby Jesus properly, and neither did the many others tried throughout the night. Thanks to all the changes, Simon had been moved very close to the manger.

He was very excited and helped out with everything he could: brushing the animals, cleaning the stable, fetching water, chatting with the elders, singing with the angels. He did such a good job that when they finally found a good replacement, Mary and Joseph let him stay there, close by.

He was the happiest figurine in the whole world, but there was one thing on his mind: when they had chosen the latest replacement, he had been out fetching water and had not seen who it was. Every time he looked, the baby was covered by sheets. And, given that nobody seemed to miss the real Baby, Simon secretly hoped it was Jesus who had returned. One day he could wait no longer and, since it was early and everybody was asleep, he took a peek under the sheets.

As he lifted his head out from underneath, a giant tear rolled down his cheek. "He's not here!" Mary looked at him affectionately. "I know," said Mary. "There's no one here. Jesus's replacement isn't here in the manger, Simon. It's you." "But I'm just a badly-made figurine."

"You're not that badly made if you managed to make no one notice that Jesus wasn't here. Look, Simon, you have done what Jesus does best: love everyone so much that they feel truly special. Didn't you feel the same way when he looked at you every day? Now everyone else gets that same feeling thanks to you." Simon smiled.

"Jesus has asked me to tell you to keep the secret. He is still looking for replacements like you in all corners of the world to make it a better place. Would you still like to be the invisible boy in this Nativity?"

Of course, he did! And that is how Simon joined the long list of people who, just as Jesus wished, celebrate Christmas by making their little world that tiny bit better.

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





ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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>. Please check website for each week's Livestream start time.

If you cannot join us in person, you're 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

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM as we consider the subject of *God's Love*: A 10-week study that examines various psalms to explore aspects of God's love: God understands, helps, restores, strengthens, satisfies, and more. 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>

If you would like to participate or for more information regarding the material we are using, please contact Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com

Thursday Morning Study

Thursday morning Bible study (Yokefellows) continues to meet each Thursday morning at 6:30 AM in the church Fireside Room. Coffee is served. In November being our study on the Book of Philippians. We are doing a hybrid meeting so if you wish to join us via Zoom, you can participate from anywhere in the world by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87581100281?pwd=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNlQTo9>

Note: In the month of December we will meet Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23.

Dec. 5: Service of Lessons & Carols (10:00 AM – ONE SUNDAY SERVICE)

We come together as a congregation for **ONE MORNING SERVICE** on December 5, to experience the gospel in word and song. Our Chancel Choir, led by our own **Elisabeth Pintar**, will bless us in the Advent Season, as we anticipate the arrival of the Promised One to be born in Bethlehem on Christmas Day. Plan to join us and be part of this joyful and festive gathering!

Serve by Shopping: Sunday, December 5

Venture out with a friend to shop for food items for those in need. You will be reimbursed for your purchases. Contact Lee Wheeler for more information at misterlee50@aol.com. This ministry is made possible by a grant received from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Christmas Blessings

The **Jesse Tree** is now *planted* in the church narthex, with tags for gifts for 40, 5-7 year-old children served by The Lord's pantry. You can also find a board with gift ideas for our **adopted family** of five from Family Supportive Housing. Thank you for your kind donations.

Lion's Club Donations

Got Glasses? We continue to collect used prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses (prescription or non-prescription), hearing aids, printer/toner cartridges and cell phones in our partnership with the Lion's Club. By giving sight to someone who is visually impaired, you can help them gain employment, complete their schooling, care for themselves, and care for others. Please drop these items off in the box labeled Lion's Club, located in the Church Office (Fridays 12-4) or after Sunday services. Contact Laura Gloner with any questions: laura.gloner@gmail.com

Celebration of Light: Dec. 11, 5:30 PM, Blaney Plaza in Saratoga Village

This event is coordinated collaboratively by the Saratoga Ministerial Association and the City of Saratoga.

Dec. 12, 7:00 PM: *Tidings of Great Joy*, a Christmas Concert by Organist Elisabeth Pintar. Also playing that evening will be Erik Brown on Alto Saxophone and Carol Flint on handbells. (See attached)

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

- **5:00 (Family: Hymns, Organ & Children's Story Time)**
- **10:00 PM (Traditional: Hymns with Organ, Choir & Bells)**

Dec. 26: One Sunday Service 10:00 AM, contemporary

Jan. 2: One Sunday Service 10:00 AM, Traditional. Rev. David Bowman preaching and leading worship.

An Introduction to Christianity Jan. 9, 12:30 PM, Fireside Room

Want to get the Big Picture of the Bible? Put the pieces together? Understand the major tenets of our faith? Mark your calendars and come join me on Sunday, January 12, at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room to learn the basics of Christianity in this one hour class... Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com.



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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



Weddings at Immaunel 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/>

** 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!

Good Business Sense



Before going to Europe on business, a man drove his Rolls-Royce to a downtown NY City bank and went in to ask for an immediate loan of \$5,000. The loan officer was quite taken aback, and requested collateral. "Well, then, here are the keys to my Rolls-Royce", the man said. The loan officer promptly had the car driven into the bank's underground parking for safe keeping, and gave him \$5,000.

Two weeks later, the man walked through the bank's doors, and asked to settle up his loan and get his car back. The loan officer checked the records and told him, "That will be \$5,000 in principal, and \$15.40 in interest." The man wrote out a check, thanked the loan officer, and started to walk away.

"Wait sir," the loan officer said, "while you were gone, I found out you are a millionaire. Why in the world would you need to borrow

The man smiled. "Where else could I securely park my Rolls-Royce in Manhattan for two weeks and pay only \$15.40?"

"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



*Sunday, December 12th
Tidings of Great Joy!
Christmas Organ Concert*



*Elisabeth Pintar, Organ
Erik Brown, Alto-Saxophone
Carol Flint, Handbells*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070*

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.

CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots -October 21, 2021

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)

For the nearly 15 million people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago. [CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens

[COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens | CDC](#)

FDA authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children ages 5 through 11.

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 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 our office.

Editor: Vaskie Turner
Webmaster: Aart Bik

Publisher: Ann Wallace

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