

SEPTEMBER 2022

# The Messenger

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SARATOGA 14103 SARATOGA AVE.,  
SARATOGA CA 95070 PH: 408-867-0822 WWW.ILCSARATOGA.ORG

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

## Coming Events

**Sept 3: Men's Breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell. (1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the Month: Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3)**

**September 17: Women's breakfast at Holder's on Saratoga Ave.**

**Worship \*Traditional – 9.00 AM \*Contemporary Service - 10.45 AM  
Online Service - <https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php> (Live stream)**

### Inside this Issue

Pastor Derek Writes.....	2
People Helping People.....	4
Children's Story.....	6
Women's Breakfast.....	7
Men's Breakfast.....	7
Crossword Puzzle.....	8
Mark Your Calendar.....	9
Memories at ILC.....	10
Upcoming Events.....	11
ILC Wedding.....	15
Editors' Desk.....	16
Vaccination information.....	20
Come Worship With Us!.....	21
About the Messenger.....	21

**Remembering Joan Spitsen (1/3/31 – 8/8/22) Page 19**

**Crossword Puzzle – Page 8**

**Bible Coloring for Therapy – Page 18**

**Vaccination and Booster shots Information, including children on Pg. 20**

**"Volunteer to Serve on Sundays!"**

**\*Pl sign up for Altar Guild\*\*\***

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

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





I worked the problems until the concept was firmly ingrained in my head. Then, having learned it well, I was able to move on to the next lesson. And if I missed one along the way, I had to go back and learn it. There was no skipping. Since each new concept built upon another, no step could be excluded without the whole structure being in danger of collapse.

I've found spiritual life to be much the same. There are MANY things to learn – and they are all interconnected. But unless you are a Jeopardy! champion, you need time to process, to digest, to learn each lesson well before moving on to the next.

One of the most important foundations of my Christian life has been Scripture memory. In my teen years was given a list by someone I trusted, and I began to write out each verse on 3" x 5" cards – one verse per card. And then: I started memorizing – word-for-word, one card at a time. I would not begin a new verse without making sure I could continue to recite all of what I had already learned. These became the building blocks of my faith; they reinforced important spiritual concepts. They helped me think – and to hold it all together.

Over the years I left off the practice of Scripture review. And, as you might expect, many of the verses have fallen out of my memory. Now, as I am renewing the practice, I'm forcing myself to slow down, to focus, to meditate. And I'm kicking myself that I ever let this practice slip by the wayside.

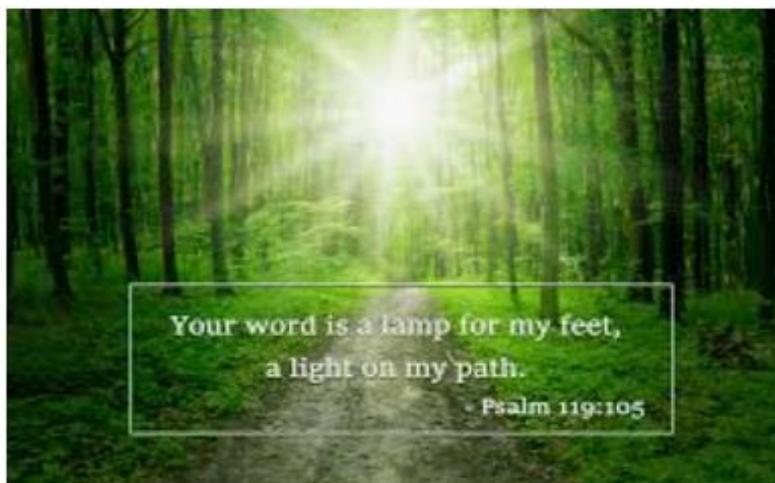
It is my grounding. It centers me on the Word – and on Jesus.

I can think of nothing better to do – to still the stress of your soul – than to meditate on God's Word. Doing so will not only help you to practice the faith. It will help you be. Just be.

We are about to experience what we hope will be one last blast of summer heat. But before long, we will enjoy the relief of fall, cooler weather, and... the promise of rain. How all nature cries out for this heavenly nourishment.

May God rain on all of creation with nourishing drops of heaven. May God rain on your soul with His nurturing Word. And may God reign in your life – as your loving Lord and praiseworthy Savior, now and forever.

Serving in Your Midst with Joy,  
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 belongings 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!*

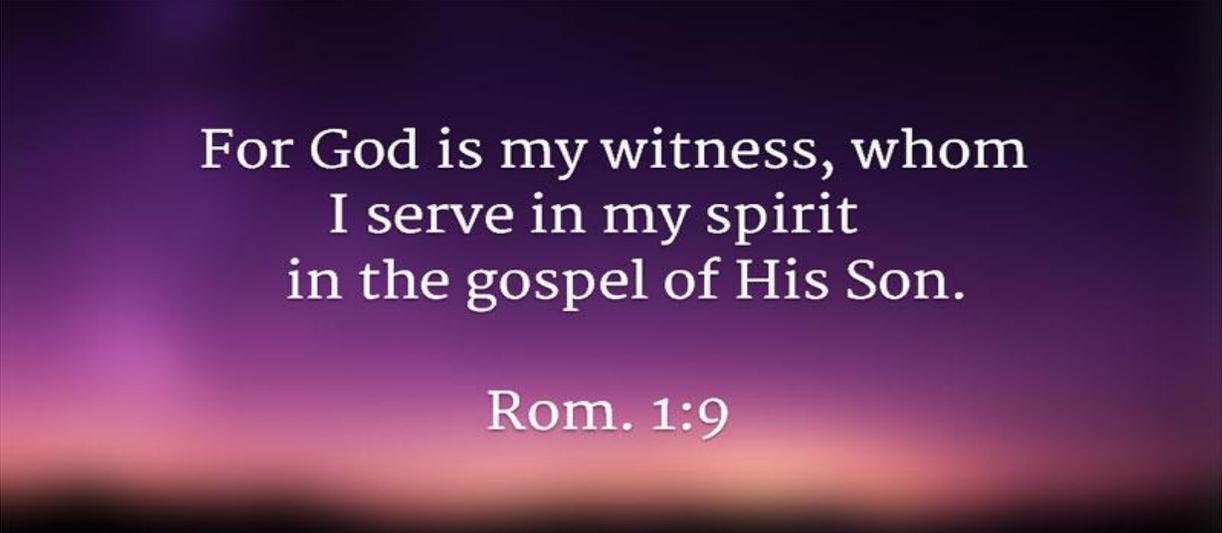


# THE MESSENGER

## 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

**Liturgist:** 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 email Alyssa McCoy [alyssamccoy@comcast.net](mailto:alyssamccoy@comcast.net)



**Worship + Love + Serve**



## Children's Story



## Old man and Horse Rider conversation



Long ago on a bitter cold evening, There was a group of riders sitting by river side. Beside them was an old man, who was waiting for a ride to get across river. Old man's wait seemed endless and his body became numb and still from cold winds.

Soon, one by one riders started to get up and go across river.

Anxiously, old man watched several horseman rounded the bend. He let first one pass without any effort to get his attention and then another passed. Finally last rider spotted old man.

As this one drew near, old man said, "Sir, would you mind giving this old man a ride to other side, there doesn't appear to be a passageway by foot."

Rider replied, "Sure thing. Hop aboard."

Rider saw that old man's body was too stiff because of cold to move and get on horse, so he dismounted and helped old man onto horse.

Rider didn't take old man just across river but to his destination, which was few miles away.

As they were near old man's cottage, Rider inquired, "Sir, I noticed that you let several other riders pass by without making an effort to secure a ride. In such bitter weather why would you wait and didn't ask any other rider? I was last one to leave, What if I had refused and left you there?"

In meantime, they reached destination. Old man lowered himself slowly down from horse and looked straight into rider eyes and replied, "I have been around for some time. I reckon I know people pretty good.

I looked into eyes of other riders and immediately saw that they were not concerned for my situation. It would have been useless to ask them for a ride.

But when I looked into your eyes, kindness and compassion were evident. I knew then and there that your gentle spirit would not refuse and would give me assistance in my time of need."

Those words touched rider deeply and he replied, "Sir, I am most grateful for what you have said. **May I never get too busy in my own affairs that I fail to respond to needs of others with kindness and compassion.**"



# 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

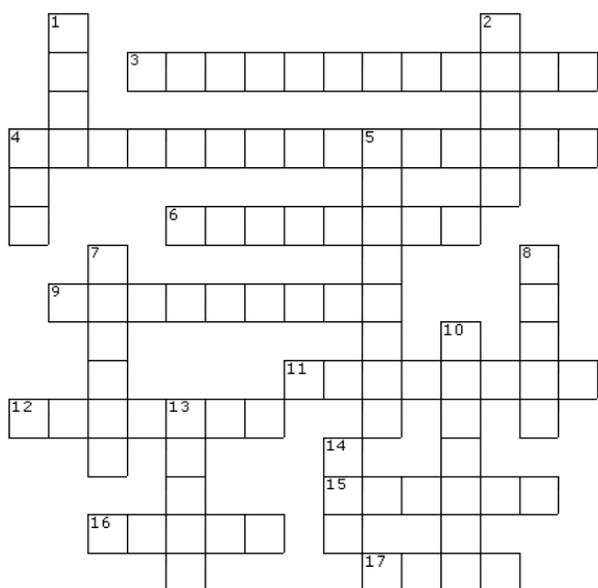
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Holder's Country Inn Restaurant at 1424 Saratoga Ave, San Jose. We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



Our ILC ladies enjoying a relaxed morning visiting with each other. (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



### Crossword Puzzle: Exodus



### Last month's Crossword Puzzle answers



#### ACROSS

- 3 Destination of Israelites (2 words)  
 4 Rules that God gave to Moses (2 words)  
 6 Wife of Moses  
 9 Death of all Egyptian \_\_\_\_ (final plague)  
 11 Jewish holiday with origin in Exodus  
 12 Egyptian ruler  
 15 Waters parted by God (2 words)  
 16 Second plague  
 17 God called Moses from a burning \_\_\_\_

#### DOWN

- 1 Pillar of \_\_\_\_ (nighttime guide)  
 2 Food supplied by God  
 4 Number of plagues on Egypt  
 5 Ninth plague  
 7 Sister of Mose  
 8 A land flowing with milk and \_\_\_\_  
 10 Eighth plague  
 13 Brother of Moses  
 14 \_\_\_\_ of the Covenant

## THE MESSENGER



Here's  
What's  
Happening!

### 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

**Community Support:** Thank you for your continued donations of clothes (placed in bags), food and children's books. The collection bins are located alongside the church office parking lot, and you can drop items (non-perishables) in the bins at any time. Your generosity is appreciated!

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.

### ***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***

Memories at ILC

EASTER

LADIES RETREAT

Habitat for Humanity



Summer Concerts



In the Park

Interfaith Service

Thanksgiving Tree Decorating

Christmas Buffet &



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.

### Bible Study Offering

Join us Wednesday mornings in at 10:00 AM as we consider the *Augsburg Confession*. All are welcome.

We meet in person in the Fireside Room. Treats are served at the conclusion of the class (11:30). If you are unable to meet with us in person, you can join via Zoom by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83250020639>

Note: There will be no class on Sep. 14 and Sep. 28.

If you would like to participate or for more information regarding the material we are using, please contact Pastor Derek at [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto: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. Refreshments are served. In September we are continuing our study on the *Gospel according to John*. If you're 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=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNIQT09>

### New Bible Study Offering: Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM.

All are welcome to attend a Wednesday evening one-hour gathering, at which we will read and study the Scriptures that will be read in church the following Sunday. Not only will this event prepare you for a more meaningful experience on Sunday, it will also give you a chance to provide sermon input. And, of course, it's always meaningful to share in fellowship with others around the Word.

\*Note: There will be no meeting on September 14 or 28.

### Enter the Bible

Luther Seminary has created a powerful, free resource to break down each book of Scripture to give you an in-depth overview of its background and context, its author and setting, the issues and themes you can find in it, and so much more.

Click here to get access now: <https://enterthebible.org/free-account-registration/>

## The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

Come join us, as we explore part of the wonderful nature that surrounds our neighborhoods.

These hikes are planned to be fun for the whole family – “no one left behind” hikes. Invite your friends!

**Sep. 24: Villa Montalvo Lookout Point:** An out-and-back, looped, moderate hike with just one (extended) hill. Approximately 5 miles.

**Getting There:** From the church, head southwest on Saratoga Ave. toward Big Basin for 0.5 miles. Turn left on Los Gatos – Saratoga Rd. In 0.4 miles, turn right on Montalvo Rd. Park as soon as it is safe to do so, on Montalvo Rd.



**Time: 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 [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com) or calling 408-499-4866.

### Lion's Club Donations Update

We've Got Glasses! Thank you for your contributions! With the congregation's help and our outreach, so far this year we've collected 60 pairs of glasses (prescription and sunglasses), 30 cell phones, and 153 printer cartridges. We take hearing aids, too. That's 60+ people that we've assisted with their sight! We can do even more, so please drop these items off in the Lion's Club box in the Church Office (Fridays 12-4), after Sunday services, or contact Laura Gloner to arrange a pickup: [laura.gloner@gmail.com](mailto:laura.gloner@gmail.com)

### Livestream Training

Are you a reasonably tech savvy person who is interested in helping out with our livestream? Are you interested in being trained to run the Sunday morning livestream? This training (led by Aart Bik, who has been running our livestream operation since its inception) is expected to run for 1 to 2 hours and will take place on a Saturday morning (date TBD based on responses) in the sanctuary. Aart will go over the camera setup, connections, and livestreaming basics, from scheduling the next service on YouTube, to starting a livestream, controlling the cameras, and overall making sure that our Church without Walls runs smoothly. If interested, please let Pastor Derek know ([pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com) or at 408-499-4866). Based on the responses received, a Saturday will be selected for training.



**Butterflies Academy**  
Where Learning Is Fun

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](http://www.ButterfliesAcademy.com)





# THE MESSENGER

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 makes it possible for other patients to receive their vital prescriptions on time!

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

## Birthday Gift



fellow was very much in love with a beautiful girl. One day she told him that the next day was her birthday. He told her he would send her a bouquet of roses for each year of her life.

That evening he called the local florist and ordered twenty-one roses with instructions that they be delivered first thing the following day.

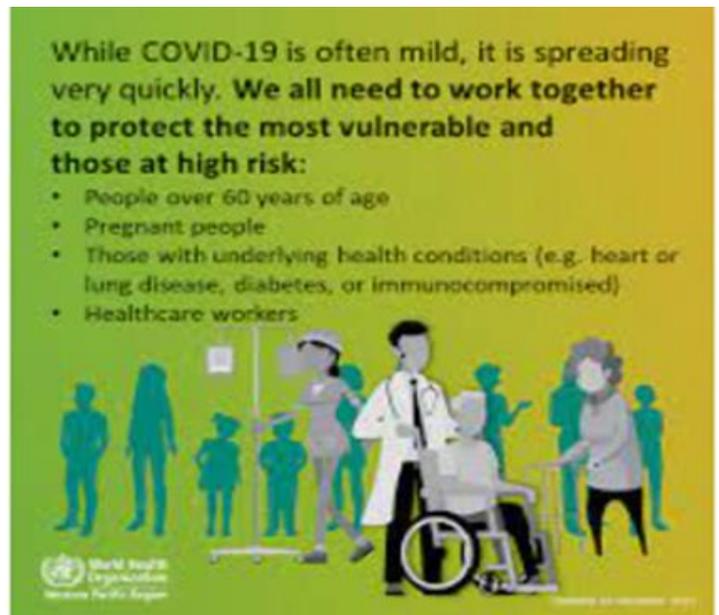
As the florist was preparing the order, he decided that since the young man was such a good customer, he would put an extra dozen roses in the bouquet.

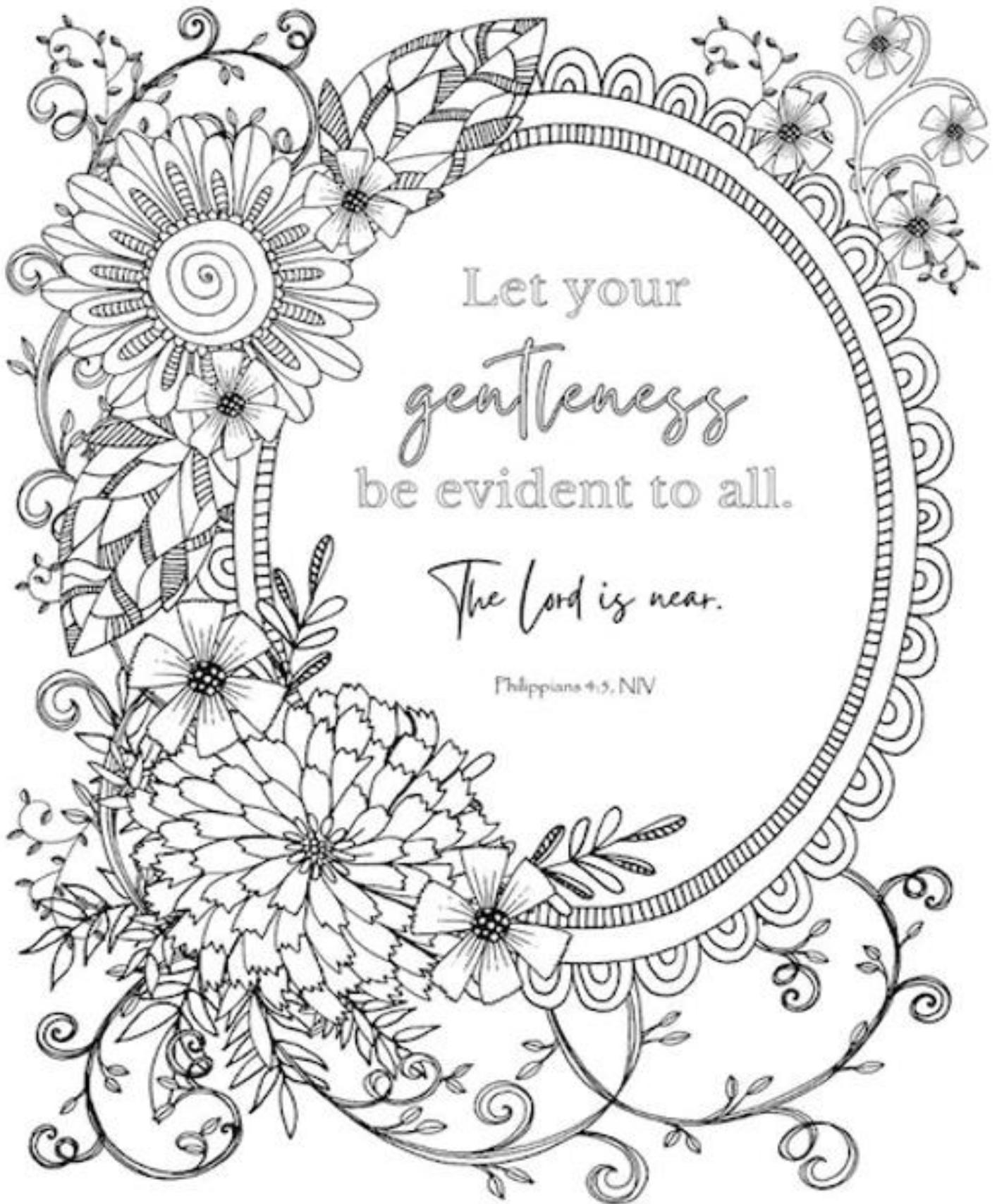
The fellow never did find out what made the young girl so angry with him.

**"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>

Show empathy to those still susceptible to Covid-19. Some have more than one high-risk factor making them vulnerable to the Covid-19 viruses and new sub-variants. Feeling more isolated and unable to partake in most human interactions, these people can do with a smile, a compassionate glance, or a kind nod that gives comfort, support, and encouragement!

God Bless and Stay Safe!  
Vaskie Turner





**The Salvage Man**

J.F. Hawley

God is an artist  
Well-known from the gallery, hushed and reverent,  
where we go each week to laud His works.

But do we recognize the cheerful Salvage Man  
His truck stuffed up and overflowing with our bits and pieces  
When He drives by?

Odds and ends he hammers, welds and fuses into something brilliant  
Sourced from garbage dumps and junkyards of our lives -

Some wave at Him, but some ask  
Why don't You zap sinners with a thunderbolt, like Zeus?  
He laughs; He hates to discard anything that could be useful.

Angry with the mess, we even take aim at His tires.  
He laughs again -

"The Word was with God, and the Word was God"  
Have you not learned?

A poet's indestructible!  
And surely a poet  
I Am.

**Remembering Joan Spitsen (1/3/31 – 8/8/22)**

It is with much grief and sadness that we say goodbye-for-now to **Joan Spitsen**, who died at Kaiser hospital in Santa Clara on August 8. She was 91. May God comfort Joan's family with the assurance of His faithful presence, grant them peace in the promises of everlasting life in Jesus, and bless them with the confident hope of the heavenly reunion of the saints in Christ.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, at 2:00 PM at Immanuel.

## 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.

**Use [CDC's COVID-19 booster tool](#) to learn if and when you can get boosters to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.**

Booster Doses of the Vaccine Are Authorized for Persons Who Meet the Guidelines Below

**Single Booster Dose Available:** To individuals 5 through 11 years of age who have completed a primary series with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

**First Booster Dose Available:**

\*To individuals 12 years of age and older who have completed a primary series with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

\*To individuals 18 years of age and older who have completed primary vaccination with another FDA-authorized or FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine. The booster schedule is based on the labeling information of the vaccine used for the primary series

**Second Booster Dose Available:**

\*To individuals 50 years of age and older who have received a first booster dose of any FDA-authorized or FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine

\*To individuals 12 years of age and older with certain kinds of immunocompromise and who have received a first booster dose of any FDA-authorized or FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine



## 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](mailto:Office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

**"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070

