



March 2024

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

Mar 2: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell (1st Sat of the Month:
Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1)
Mar 16, 8:30 AM: Women's breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell

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

Mar. 24: PALM SUNDAY
Mar. 28: MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 PM (with communion)
Mar. 29: GOOD FRIDAY 7:30 PM

****Easter-Mar 31: Single Service Sunday, 10:15 AM, and refreshments.
Sign up for Easter Lily plants- Pg 9**
Beautification Team fund raiser-Wed, March 6, 11.30 am -8.30 pm - Pg 11
Layette Ministry- Donation deadline- Sunday, March 24- Pg 18

Inspirational Christian Story - Page 17
Bible Crossword Puzzle-Pg 8, Bible Wordoku-Pg 12
Bible Coloring for Therapy-Pg 18, Bible Word search puzzle-Pg 19
CDC Covid 19 vaccine update 09/29/2023- Page 23

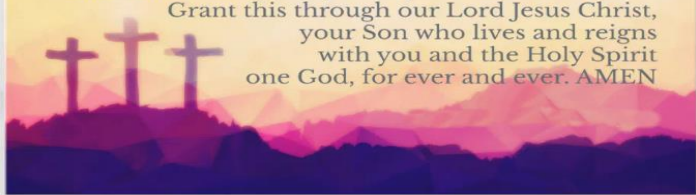
Sign-up for Sunday Service Altar Flowers-Page 9 🌸
"Volunteer to Serve on Sundays!"
Please sign up for weekly Altar Guild **
Shelter Meals Schedule: Please Sign up to cook or serve**

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EASTER PRAYER

God our Father, by raising Christ your Son
 you conquered the power of death
 and opened for us the way to eternal life.
 Let our celebration today raise us up
 and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us.
 Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 your Son who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit
 one God, for ever and ever. AMEN



The temple in Jerusalem had different areas of accessibility. Non-Jews were able to get as far as the Courtyard of the Gentiles – but no further. Jews could get closer, but could not enter the holy place – that was reserved for the priests. And the Holy of Holies, where the very presence of God was made known: that was accessible only to the High Priest – and then only on the Day of Atonement.

The Holy of Holies was a sacred space, sequestered and sealed, as it were, by a veil. This veil was the one that was “rent in twain” from top to bottom – at the moment of Jesus’ death.

What is Mark telling us by writing of this occurrence? In a word: Access! Entry! Welcome!

You may have never before conceived of Jesus as Lord Locksmith. But this is indeed one portrait of Jesus and the work He has accomplished.

His death and resurrection proclaim access to the presence of God. The Passion proclaims who God is and what God does. Heaven is not off-limits or inaccessible to all but the most religious saints – the holy of holies. Jesus – the Key of David – unlocks heaven’s gates and welcomes all into the presence of God.

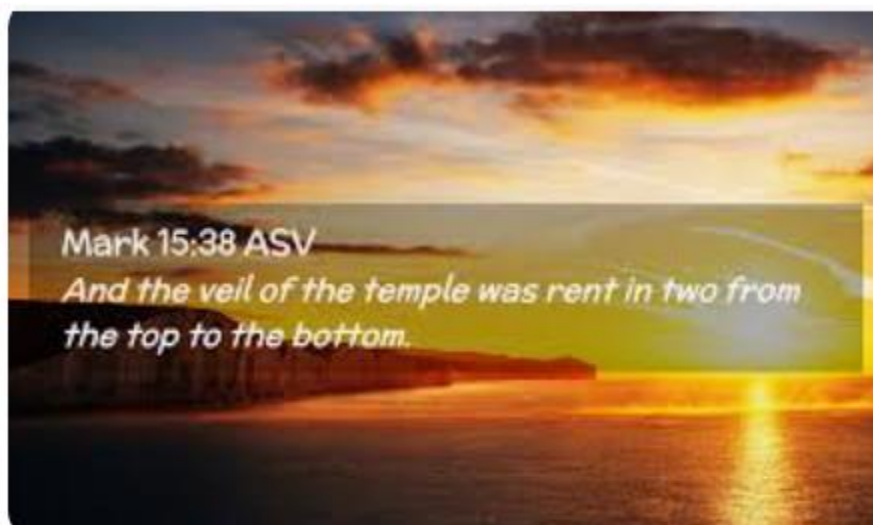
Our Lenten season continues in these next weeks and culminates in Holy Week, during which we will rehearse once more these momentous events and bow down in awe before our self-giving Lord.

You are invited to celebrate the goodness of God – and you are encouraged to extend the welcome to others – that they, too, might to come hear the Good News of this great salvation.

Serving in Your Midst with Gladness & Joy,

Pastor Derek J Engfelt

P.S. Many thanks to my dear wife, who graciously took the time to ferry the extra key and rescue me from the above predicament. She uttered no words of blame – only kindness and compassion. An example of Christ to me – then, and often.



Mark 15:38 ASV

*And the veil of the temple was rent in two from
the top to the bottom.*

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.

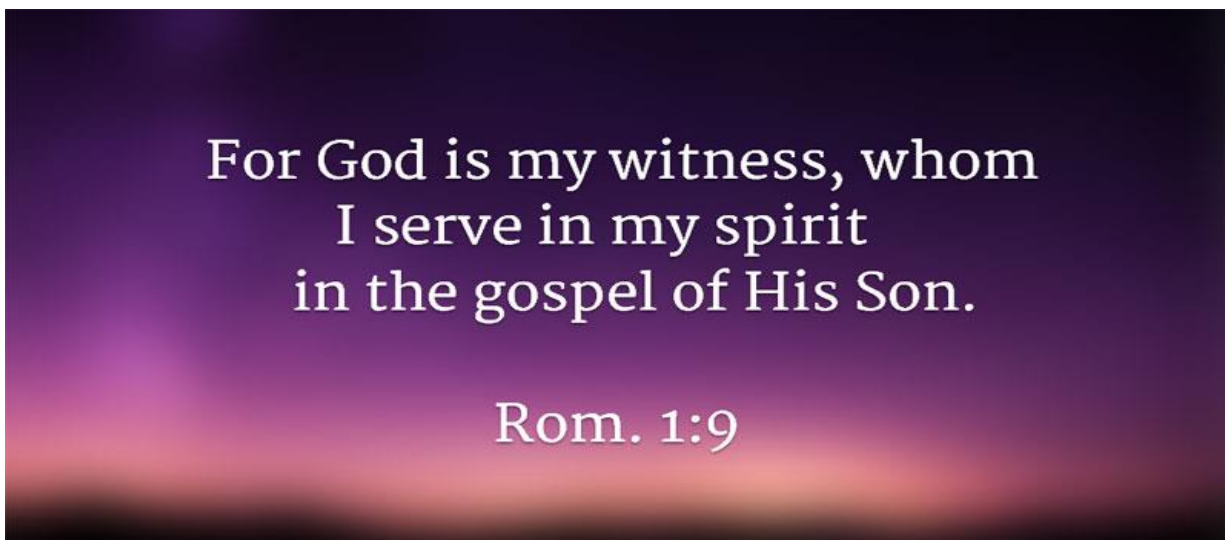
Come join us as we serve those in need in practical ways. As we do so, we're living into our ILC vision of "passionately responding to the grace we've received by joyfully serving others in the name of Jesus."

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



For God is my witness, whom
I serve in my spirit
in the gospel of His Son.

Rom. 1:9



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



If you have questions about any of these Sunday Morning Activities, please email Alyssa McCoy alyssamccoy@comcast.net



Worship + Love + Serve



Children's Story



How Easter Came to Be

Jesus is the greatest man who ever lived. While on earth, He was tempted to do bad things, just like you and me. But Jesus never once told a lie or was mean to a friend who was mean to Him. He never disrespected his mother, father, or teachers when they told Him to do something he didn't want to do. He didn't cheat, steal, or participate in any other sin—ever! He was totally perfect in every way.

Jesus is God's only son and the same as God. Long ago, He left Heaven to come to earth for a very important reason—He loves us.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

When you love someone, you want to be near them all the time. But God is Holy, and humans are sinful.

That was a huge problem. Sin keeps us from being close to God and loving him like we should. Sin is so terrible that it's like a poison that destroys everything in our lives—including us. God knows how dangerous sin is. That's why he can't be near sin and why He says the punishment for sin is death.

God loved us too much to let sin destroy us and keep us apart from Him. So, He sent Jesus to earth to fix the problem and rescue us.

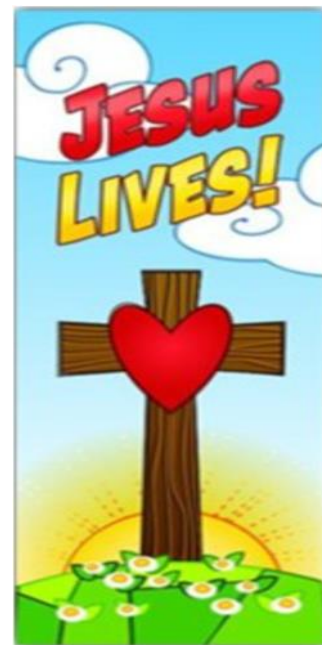
“God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17, NLT)

While Jesus lived on earth, he healed the sick, performed miracles, and taught everyone he met about the dangers of sin. Jesus had close friends called disciples who loved Him and believed He was the son of God.

But others hated him for telling the truth. They liked doing bad things and didn't want to hear what Jesus had to say. They wished He would go away and leave them alone.

Little did they know, Jesus would go away. For God's rescue plan to work, Jesus had to die to take the punishment for all our sins. But the good news is Jesus didn't stay dead!

God raised Jesus back to life so that every single person who repents of their sins and believes in Him no longer has to be separated from God. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He comes to live inside our hearts and makes us a brand new person so that we can be near him forever. Nothing can ever separate us from God's love again when we put our trust in Jesus. That's why we celebrate Easter!



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: Pastor Derek)



Women's Breakfast

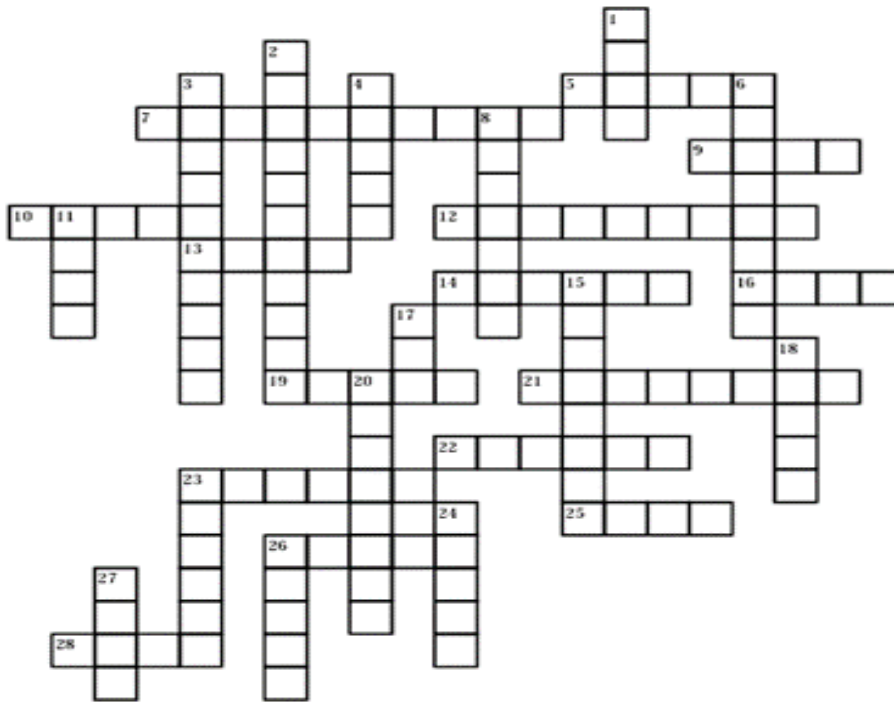
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



Crossword Puzzle: The Genealogy of Jesus



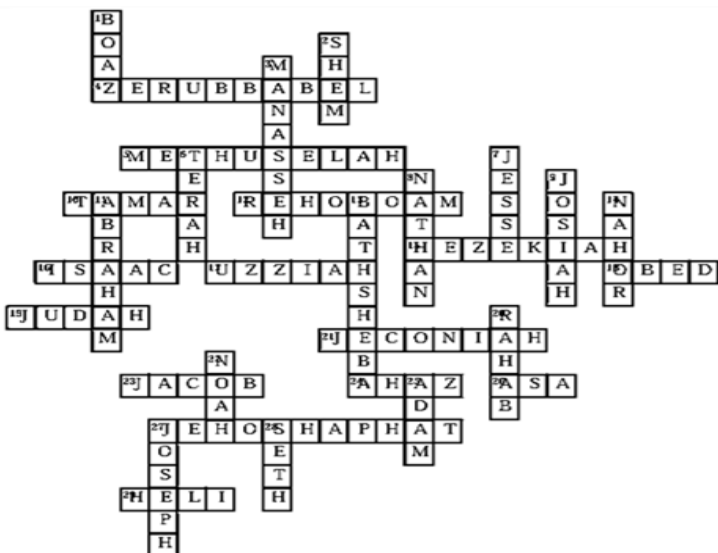
Across

- 5 Abraham's grandfather
- 7 The oldest man ever
- 9 Helped to build the Ark
- 10 Boaz's mother
- 12 An adultress
- 13 Married Ruth
- 14 Solomon's brother (1 Chron. 3:5)
- 16 Didn't believe Isaiah 7:14
- 19 A great grandmother of Jesus who was a prostitute
- 21 The childless king of Israel (Jer. 22:30)
- 22 A leper
- 23 Destroyed altar at Bethel
- 25 Father of Mary the Mother of Jesus (Lk. 3:23)
- 26 Father of David the King
- 28 Third born son of Adam

Down

- 1 Saw the first rainbow
- 2 Asked for a prophet of the Lord
- 3 Rebuilt the Temple
- 4 Sacrificed at Moriah
- 6 Divided Israel
- 8 Father of the Jewish nation
- 11 The son of God
- 15 Saw time move backward
- 17 Took away the sodomites out of Judah
- 18 The heel grabber
- 20 A penitent king who ruled the longest
- 23 Jesus' adopted father
- 24 Died in Haran
- 26 Father of the kings of Israel
- 27 David's grandfather

February Answers



* Please use the '-' minus and '+' plus sign on top of the pdf page to enlarge this page to view the numbers on the crossword puzzle.

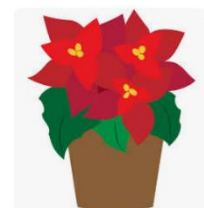


ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FOOD CART - Please consider adding a package or two of food to 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.



Each Sunday, we adorn our altar in the sanctuary with flowers. If you would like to purchase flowers in honor of a special birthday or anniversary, please email Ann, our administrator, at office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com.

Also are available for sign-up in honor or memory of someone -

Easter Lily plants for Easter  and Poinsettia plants for Christmas! 
*These flowers adorn the sanctuary for these special services!

Memories at ILC

EASTER



LADIES RETREAT



Habitat for Humanity



Summer Concerts In the Park



Thanksgiving Interfaith Service



Tree Decorating



Christmas Concert



Children's Christmas Play



Worship Offerings

We offer three worship experiences – traditional, contemporary and livestream.
<https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php>. Please check website for each week's Livestream start time.

Wednesday Bible Study: God's River of Life

Join us Wednesday mornings in at 10:00 AM as we journey down *God's River of Life*. All are welcome.

We meeting in person in the Fireside Room. Treats are served at the conclusion of the class (11:30). If you're unable to meet with us in person, you can join via Zoom by clicking here:
<https://uso2web.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. Refreshments are served. We are continuing our study on the *Gospel according to Mark*. If you're unable to join us in person, you can participate from the comfort of your own home by clicking here:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87581100281?pwd=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNlQTo9>

Diving Deeper: 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. Can't join us in person? Participate from the comfort of your home by clicking here: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87353776510>

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/>

Beautification Team's March Outing & Fundraiser

Place: **Willow Street Pizza**, 20 S. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos

Date: Wednesday, March 6

Time: 11:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Details: In person or take out. For in-person, bring flyer (which can be received at church on 3/3), or soon found on our church website by clicking the news tab or here: [Willow Street Flyer](#) with you. Willow Street will donate 20% of the proceeds back to the church.

Want some company for your meal? Several from our faith community are planning to gather at 6:00 PM and we'll gladly make room.

All are welcome.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP:**March 24: PALM SUNDAY**

9:00 Traditional Service

10:45 Contemporary Service

March 28: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 PM (with communion)

March 29: GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 PM

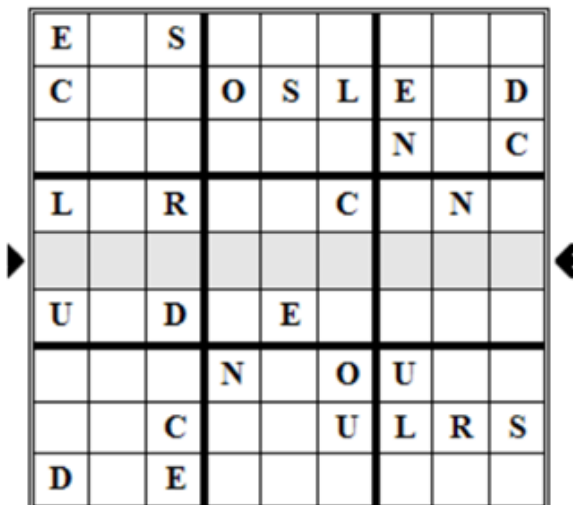
March 31: EASTER SUNDAY**Single Service Sunday**, 10:15 AM, followed by refreshments.

Wordoku has the same rules as regular Sudoku, but uses letters instead of numbers:

- Each of the nine rows is nine cells wide, and must contain the 9 letters used in the puzzle. So, each letter must appear once and only once in each row.
- The same is true with the nine columns. So, each letter must appear once and only once in each column.

The third unit, the region, is a « 3 x 3 » square bordered by a thick line, and it must also contain the 9 letters used in the puzzle. So, each letter must appear once and only once in each « 3 x 3 » square.

When the grid is completed, the grey squares will reveal a nine-letter word or sentence at the center of the puzzle, between the two arrows.

**Hint**

«Nabal is his name, folly is with him.»

The 9 letters to use :

C D E L N O R S U

February Answer

CAROUSING

Did You Know ?

«Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.» (Luke 21:34). Fleshly indulgence hinders our being prepared for Jesus' coming.



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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





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. 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 useful and informative websites!

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

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

Text **211211** to receive texts on updates

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

<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)

[Warm Line - Mental Health Association of San Francisco \(mentalhealthsf.org\)](http://www.mentalhealthsf.org)

<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**.

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://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>



Math

- Teacher: "How much is half of 8?"

Little Johnny: "Up and down or across?"

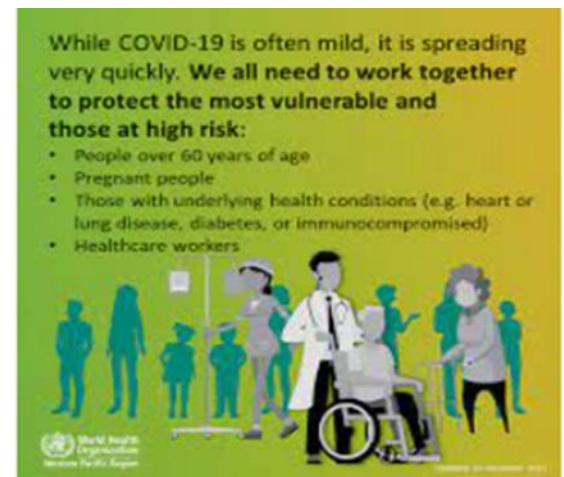
Teacher: "What do you mean?"

Little Johnny: "Well, up and down makes a 3, or across the middle leaves a 0!"

"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 MESSENGER

Inspirational Christian Article

Acts of Kindness to Do for Easter

Easter is a time to reflect on a God who loved us so much that He gave His life for us. As we think about how blessed we are on this day, take this opportunity to be a blessing to someone else. Make acts of kindness a new part of your yearly Easter traditions. Here are some inspiring deeds you can do for your friends, family, loved ones, and even strangers.



1. Ask someone to go to church with you on Easter Sunday

Does your family have a tradition of attending church service on Easter Sunday? Every year, invite someone you know who goes to church alone or wants to attend a service in a new place. Ask them about the traditions at their own church or the kind of Easter services they attended as a child. Share what your own church does so they can get excited. It is a great time to take a friend with you to hear the message of Easter.

2. Take a meal to someone alone on Easter

Many of us know someone—a neighbor, a coworker, a family friend—who will be spending Easter alone. Even if you are not able to invite them to join your own festivities, you can still brighten their day with acts of kindness on Easter. Find out their favorite foods and cook them a delicious Easter meal. Drop it off on Easter Sunday morning and spend some time with them before heading to your own celebrations.

3. Fix Easter baskets for your friends and family

Nothing brings joy like receiving an Easter basket, even if you are an adult. Take on a tradition of putting together Easter baskets for your friends and family, not just the kids. See the smile it will bring to their faces. You could put the usual jellybeans, Easter eggs, and chocolate bunnies in the basket, but here are some other ideas:

- A pot of cheery flowers that will keep on blooming
- A "gift card" to mow their lawn or clean their house
- A small decoration for their home
- A gift card to a local restaurant

4. Pray for others

Never underestimate the power of praying for others. This year, as you hunt for eggs, sit down for Easter dinner, or attend a church service, take the time to show someone acts of kindness by praying for them. Let your Easter prayers for others focus on what this season is all about: hope, renewal, and new beginnings.

"Glory and praise to you, Risen Savior, for you bring light to our darkness, joy to our sorrow, and the fullness of love to our reluctant hearts"!

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

This year will repeat some of our best hikes and have new opportunities to explore, as well.

These are “no one left behind” hikes and fun for the whole family. Invite your friends!

March 23: Quarry Park, 22000 Congress Springs Rd, Saratoga, CA 95070 (This will be an out-and-back, mostly uphill – but not too steep – on the way out and mostly downhill on the way back.



Getting There: From the church, turn right, heading southwest toward the Village of Saratoga. Saratoga Road becomes Big Basin at the light. Continue straight, through the Village of Saratoga. You will pass Hakone Gardens on your left. Entrance to the park will be on your left, about ½ mile down the road (1.6 miles from church). **Beware of oncoming traffic**, as you turn left to get into parking lot.

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 or calling 408-499-4866.

Layette Ministry

Immanuel supports the Layette Ministry of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (GDLC) by collecting baby items, diapers and clothes. Our collection helps mothers in need who are referred to GDLC by Public Health Nurses, Hospital Social Workers, Rehab Centers, Mother and Children Shelters, and Domestic Violence Agencies.

Our collection begins on Sunday, March 3, and ends on Sunday, March 24. Pastor will offer a prayer of dedication for the Layettes on Palm Sunday, March 24. Donations will be delivered to GDLC the week after Easter.

Here is the wish list from Gloria Dei:

- Diapers (sizes 3 and up)
- Baby wipes
- Baby shampoo and wash
- Baby lotion
- Baby bath towels and washcloths
- Baby blankets

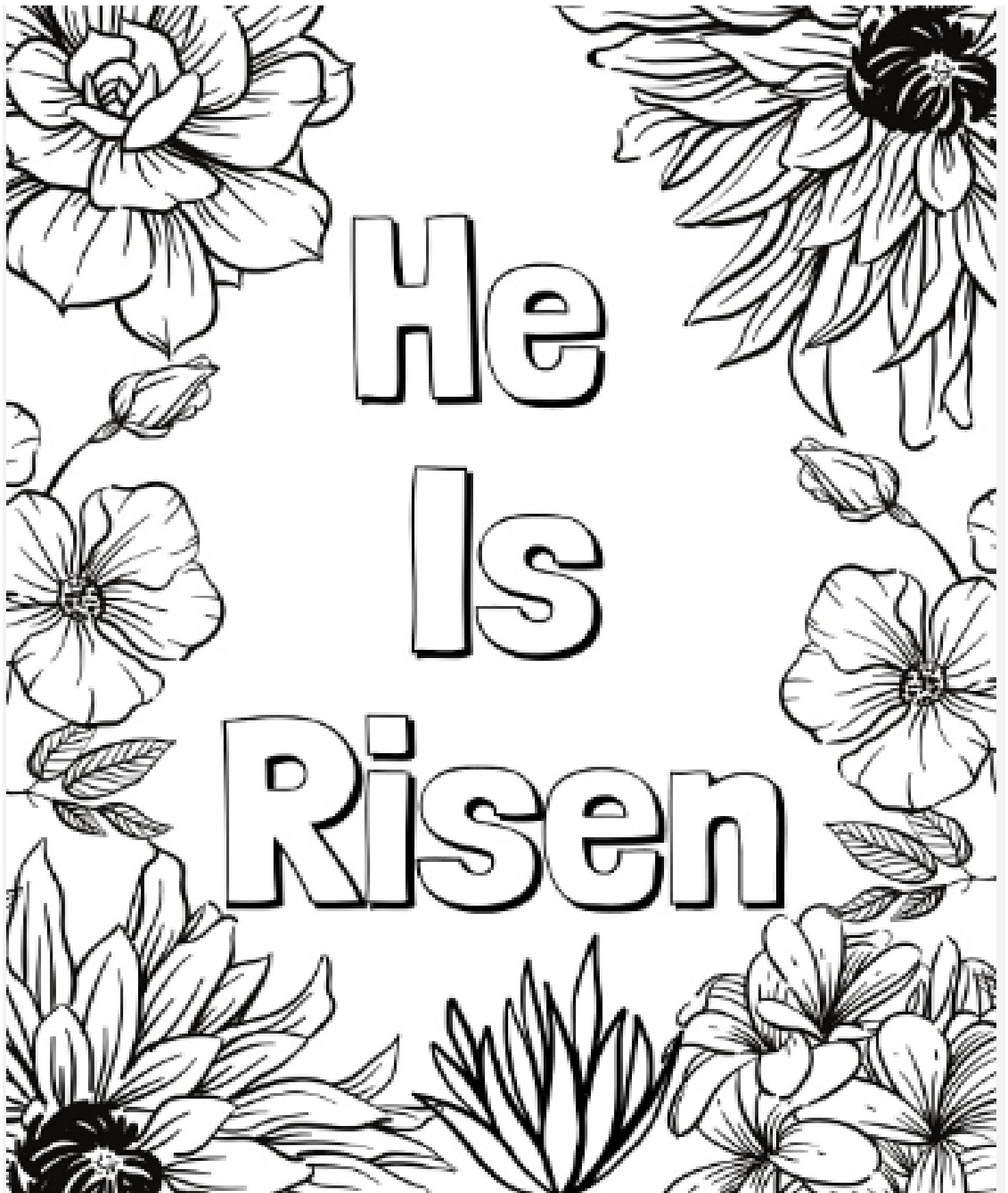
Thrivent members may also request funds to further support this program. Please contact Candy (candy.silverman@sbcglobal.net) for more information about the details of the application process.

With these additional funds from Thrivent, we can contribute even more items to aid GDLC's Layette Ministry.

Thank you very much for your support.

Candy Campbell





**Send in and share your creations and make our Newsletter "The Messenger" vibrant!

EASTER WORD SEARCH

T H E K A U Q H T R A E U S I T I S W R I
 G S T R E V L I S F O S E C E I P T O M B
 N E T A L I P I E R C E D T E N T R H A T
 I V E T H E H S J R R B N A I L S A C H C
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 B E R T H N G I N N I N G F R O M O J E R
 U S A Y S I M O N O F C Y R E N E T L E M

ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH

EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB
MARY

NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS
SACRIFICE

SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB

February Answers

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THE MESSENGER

Vaccinations...



GOT YOUR SHOT? 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. [Influenza \(Flu\) - Public Health - County of Santa Clara \(sccgov.org\)](https://www.sccgov.org/public-health/influenza-flu)

CDC Recommends Updated COVID-19 Vaccine – 09/29/2023

CDC recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get the updated 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness. The updated vaccine is safe and effective at protecting against COVID-19-related hospitalization and death, and it also reduces your chance of suffering the effects of Long COVID.

Getting vaccinated is especially important for people at highest risk for severe illness, including:

- [Older adults](#)
- People who have [certain health conditions](#)
- People who have a [weakened immune system](#)
- People who are [pregnant](#)

Read more about the updated vaccine and CDC's recommendation.

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.

CDC recommends everyone stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, including all primary series doses and boosters for their age group.

The original COVID shots are no longer authorized in the U.S. That's the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 messenger-RNA vaccines based on the original strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 and were given as a two-dose primary series starting in December 2020. That strain has long been replaced by a series of variants, including the current omicron.

- **One shot gets you caught up.** Most people who haven't yet had a shot of the updated "bivalent" vaccine based on both the Wuhan and more recent omicron strains can now receive a single dose. That includes the 30% of Americans who didn't get vaccinated with the two-shot primary series of the original vaccine. Children 6 months to 5 years old who are unvaccinated or who had the original vaccine can receive multiple doses of the bivalent vaccine for kids.
- **Older and vulnerable adults can get another booster.** If you are 65 or older and already had a dose of the bivalent vaccine, you can now get a second booster of that shot after at least four months. Those with compromised immunity who had a dose of the bivalent vaccine also may receive another shot after at least two months, and additional doses at the discretion of their doctor. Most other people who already had the bivalent shot are not eligible for another.

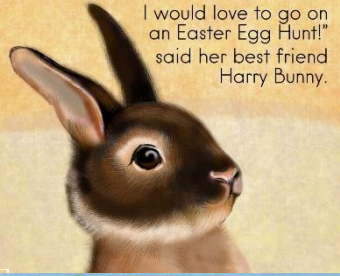
Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after you recover from COVID-19 infection provides added protection against COVID-19. **People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have [different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters.](#)** [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters | CDC](#)

Baby Bunny and the Easter Picnic

It was nearly Easter, and Baby Bunny wanted to make an Easter Egg Hunt for her friends.



"I would love to go on an Easter Egg Hunt!" said her best friend Harry Bunny.



"Can I help you hide the eggs?" asked Baby Boo Duckling.

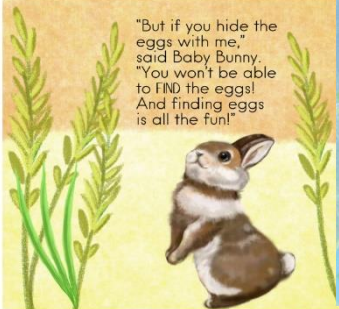
"I am good with eggs. I lived in one my whole life!"



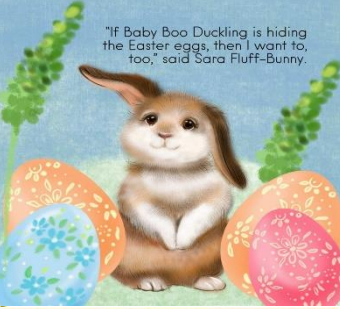
Baby Boo Duckling could already imagine his own little cracked egg fixed with chocolate, and painted a pretty orange colour.



"But if you hide the eggs with me," said Baby Bunny. "You won't be able to FIND the eggs! And finding eggs is all the fun!"



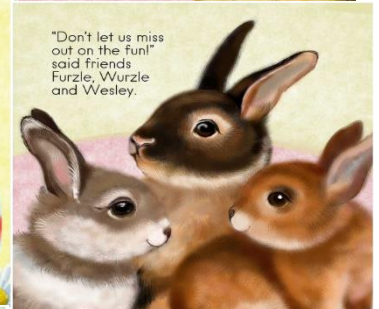
"If Baby Boo Duckling is hiding the Easter eggs, then I want to, too," said Sara Fluff-Bunny.



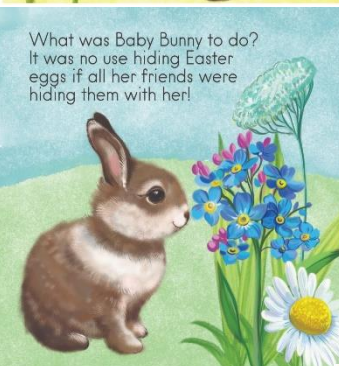
"And if Baby Boo Duckling and Sara are allowed to hide the eggs, then I should be able to help hide them, too," said Harry Bunny. "I have a quick and quivery nose that is good for sniffing out the right hiding places."



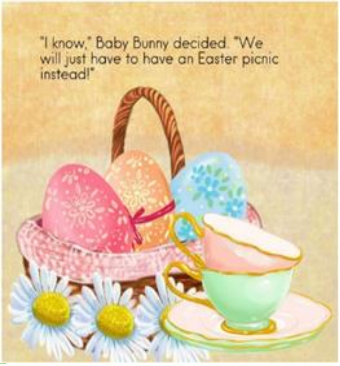
"Don't let us miss out on the fun!" said friends Furzle, Wurzle and Wesley.



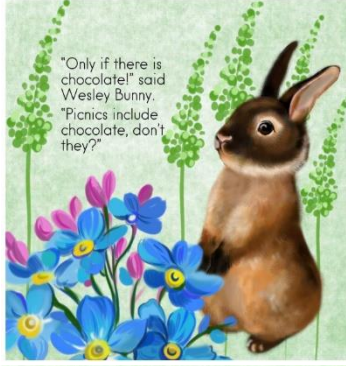
What was Baby Bunny to do? It was no use hiding Easter eggs if all her friends were hiding them with her!



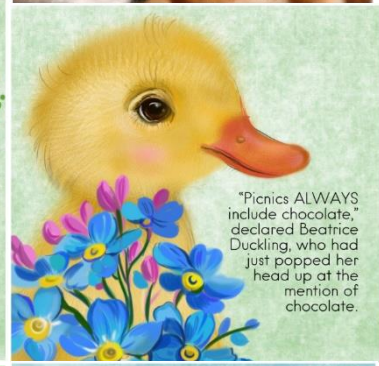
"I know," Baby Bunny decided. "We will just have to have an Easter picnic instead!"



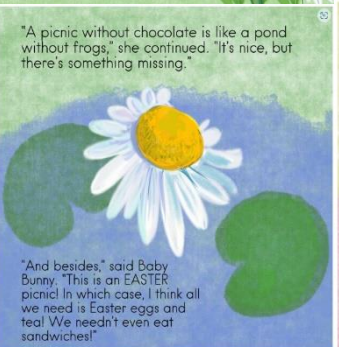
"Only if there is chocolate!" said Wesley Bunny. "Picnics include chocolate, don't they?"



"Picnics ALWAYS include chocolate," declared Beatrice Duckling, who had just popped her head up at the mention of chocolate.



"A picnic without chocolate is like a pond without frogs," she continued. "It's nice, but there's something missing."



And so the friends found a picnic basket and filled it up.

They filled it with chocolate eggs in pink, orange and blue. One for every guest.



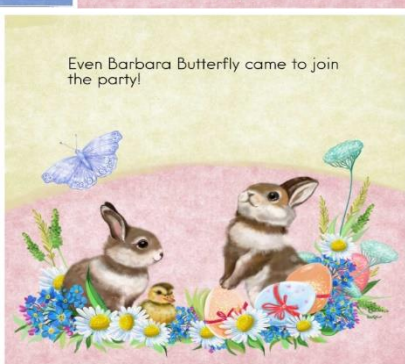
(And then some!)



They had rosehip tea, and lemon and ginger, and chai.



Even Barbara Butterfly came to join the party!



They played hopscotch, and pin-the-tail-on-the-rabbit. Sara Fluff-Bunny also showed the ducklings how to have wheelbarrow races.

Baby Boo Duckling and Beatrice Duckling won!



THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!



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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.

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Happy Easter!