

March 2025

# 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 1: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell (1st Sat of the Month, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7)

Mar 15, 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)

March 30, 10:15 AM: One Congregational Service

March 5th - Ash Wed @ 7.30pm - Page 11

March 31 @ 9-11:30 am - Beatification Team Work Day - Page 11

Apr 5 @ 1.30 pm Women of distinction - Page 11

Inspirational Christian Story - Page 17; Bible Crossword Puzzle - Pg 8  
Bible Wordoku - Pg 12; Bible Coloring for Therapy - Pg 19  
Bible Word search puzzle - Pg 20; Bible Trivia Questions - Pg 21  
Flu and CDC Covid 19 vaccine updated on 09/06/2024 - Page 22

\*\*CDC new variant 2nd booster shot recommendation for immune-compromised and all ages 65 and above - 10/23/2024

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\*\*\*

## 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
Editor's Desk.....	16
Vaccination information.....	23
Come Worship With Us!.....	24
About the Messenger.....	24





Secondly is **dependence**. As you grew into adulthood, you learned to leave behind your dependence on our parents and to take care of yourself – to be your own person, to be independent. In the process, however, you may have lost perspective, thinking you are completely independent – a god unto yourself. But, of course, your dependence on God remains throughout your lifetime, much as it might go unrecognized, much as you might insist on our own independence. (For... who kept your heart beating last night? Who kept your lungs breathing – even in your unconscious state?) The ashes on your forehead, remind you of death to come and of your dependence on God.

But this, finally, is a good thing. Why? Because God can be trusted. The final “d” to recall is the **divine**. The last word belongs to God – and it is a word of life. Life to us all in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Lenten journey – 40 days, not including Sundays – has us mindful of two things: ourselves and our Lord. We follow our humble Lord in our own steps of humility, as He makes His determined journey to the cross. While we are in awe of His sacrifice for us all – laying down His life on our behalf – we know that God has a Final Word to speak... the Word that will be spoken on Easter Sunday.

May the **dust** remind you of **death, dependence** and the **divine**. And never forget that in the end, you are in the hands of your good and gracious God. There is no better place for any of us to be.

Thanks be to God!

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."**

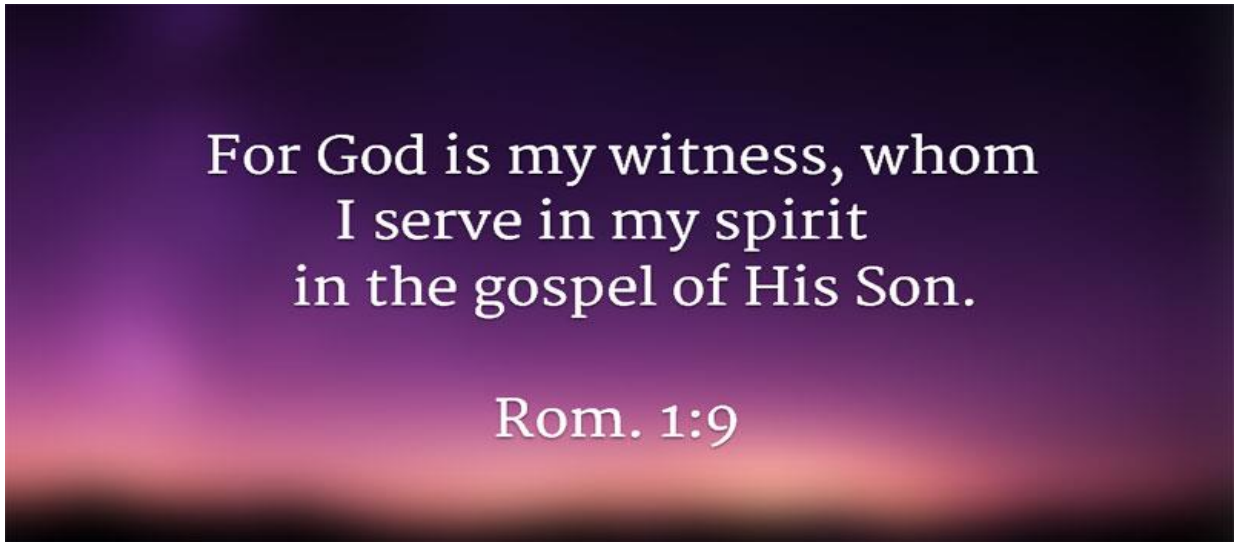
***Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's Word. Preaching isn't enough. A systematic teaching of the Scriptures – not just preaching (Acts 5:42) needs to occur through all age levels. Children, youth, and adults need opportunities for discovery, review, and interaction as they study God's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

***Sunday School meets needs!***



# THE MESSENGER

## Volunteer to Serve on Sundays



**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 Morgan [alyssamccoy@comcast.net](mailto:alyssamccoy@comcast.net)



**Worship + Love + Serve**

# THE MESSENGER

## Children's Story



### The Lenten Lantern



Once upon a time, a young girl named Lily lived in a small village nestled near a sparkling river. Lily loved to craft, and every year, as the season of Lent arrived, she would eagerly prepare her special "Lenten Lantern."

Lent was a time for Christians to remember Jesus' journey in the desert, where he fasted and prayed for forty days, so Lily's lantern was a way to shine a light on his story and her own commitment to be kind and thoughtful during this special season.

This year, Lily decided to make her lantern from a simple clay pot, which she carefully shaped and decorated with tiny, twinkling stars that glowed when a candle was placed inside. As she worked, she thought about all the things she could "give up" during Lent, like extra sweets or watching too much TV, so she could focus more on helping others and being closer to God.

When her lantern was finished, Lily placed it on her windowsill so that everyone passing by could see its warm, flickering light. She even made a tiny paper dove to represent the Holy Spirit, which she carefully attached to the top of the lantern.

One evening, as the sun began to set, Lily noticed a little boy from her neighborhood, Tommy, standing outside her window, gazing at the lantern with wide eyes. Tommy was new to the village and didn't know much about Lent, so Lily invited him inside.

Lily lit the candle within the lantern, and as the stars twinkled brightly, she told Tommy the story of Jesus in the desert, explaining how the light of the lantern represented the hope and strength that Jesus brought to the world.

Tommy was captivated by the story and the lantern's gentle glow. He asked if he could make a Lenten Lantern too, and Lily happily agreed to help him. Together, they gathered materials, and soon, Tommy had his lantern shining brightly on his windowsill.

As the days of Lent passed, Lily and Tommy shared stories about their acts of kindness, like helping their neighbors with chores or donating old toys to charity. They realized that even small acts of love could make a big difference, just like the small flame in their lanterns could light up their whole neighborhood.

On Easter morning, when the sun rose, Lily and Tommy looked out at the village, seeing countless Lenten Lanterns shining on windows, each a reminder of the light of Jesus' love and the good deeds done during Lent.

The End

Key points for young children:

- Lent is a special time to focus on being kind and helping others like Jesus did.
- A Lenten Lantern symbolizes the light that Jesus brings to the world.
- Even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.





## 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, 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: Tom Lowdermilk)



### 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.

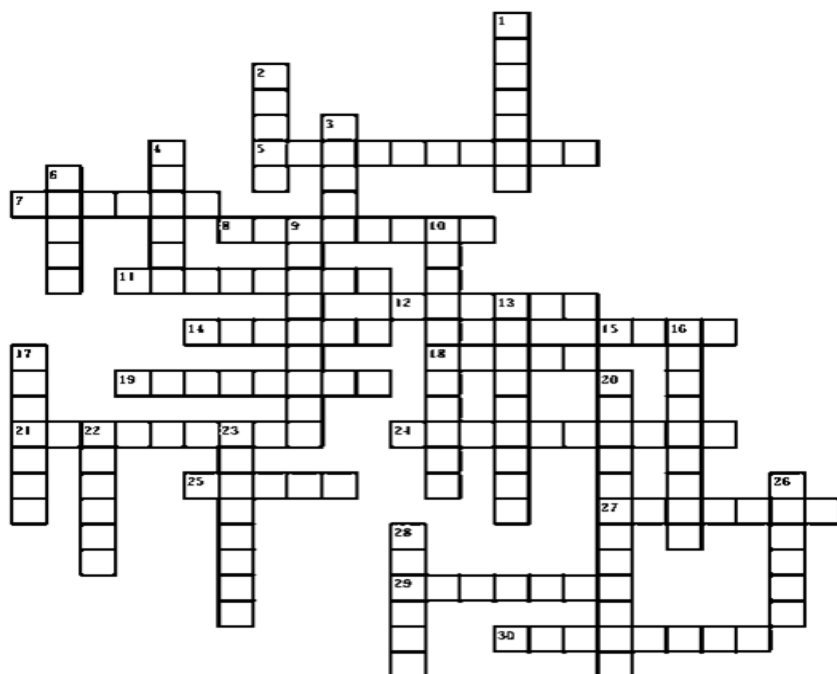


ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)





**Crossword Puzzle: Jesus meets Nicodemus**



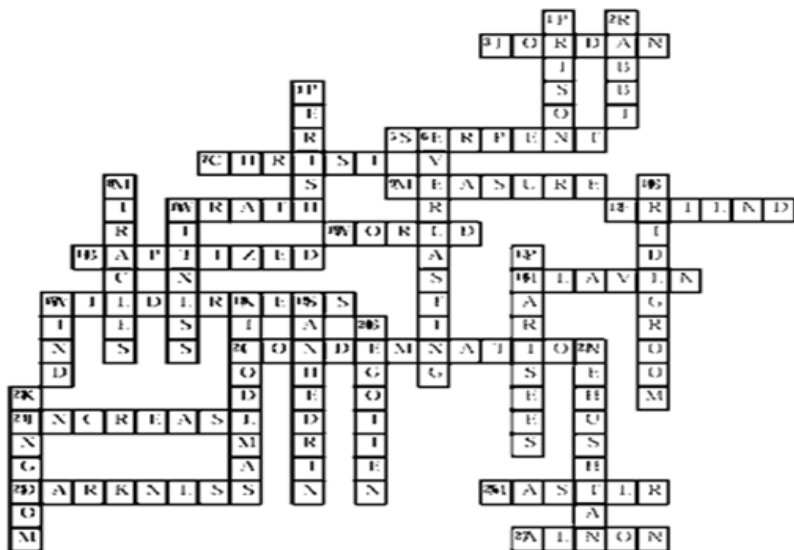
**Across**

- 5 He that has the bride.
- 7 Name of the river where John baptized (cf. Mk. 1:5)
- 8 Jesus did this in Judea.
- 11 Opposite of "decrease".
- 12 Where John would be sent.
- 14 Be lost.
- 15 What everyone born of the Spirit is like.
- 18 Place near Salim where John baptized.
- 19 What men have loved.
- 21 His name means "innocent of blood".
- 24 Where Moses led Israel.
- 25 This abides on the unbeliever.
- 27 Jesus did not have the Spirit by this.
- 29 Moses lifted this up in the wilderness.
- 30 "God so loved the world that He gave His only \_\_\_\_\_ Son."

**Down**

- 1 Cannot enter without "new birth".
- 2 Teacher
- 3 He that does Truth comes to this.
- 4 Jesus came down from this place.
- 6 God loved this.
- 9 Sect to which Nicodemus belonged.
- 10 Eternal
- 13 Religious council of which Nicodemus was a member (cf. Jno. 7:50).
- 16 The brass serpent (2 Kings 18:4)
- 17 John bore this concerning Jesus.
- 20 The unbeliever has this already.
- 22 John said he was not this person.
- 23 What Nicodemus saw that convinced him Jesus was Christ.
- 26 John said he was this to Jesus.
- 28 Nicodemus was one of these in Israel.

**February Answers**



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





## 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 our Office Administrator, Sheila Wallace at [office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com](mailto:office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com) or Pastor Derek at [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com)

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

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: Expanding Our Vision

Join us Wednesday mornings in at 10:00 AM as we take a deeper dive into the second reading appointer for the coming Sunday. The class is entitled *Expanding Our Vision*. Because Sunday's sermon is almost always centered on the gospel selection, we don't often explore the second reading in any depth. This class gives us the opportunity to do so. In addition to taking a closer look at the second reading itself, we'll also consider any connections it has to the gospel reading for that Sunday.

We meet 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://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](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. We are continuing our study on *The Acts of the Apostles*. 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=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNlQTo9>

We meet every Thursday at 6:30 AM, in person in the church Fireside Room and via livestream ([Thursday AM Bible Study](#)). (If in person, you will also be able to partake of morning refreshments – coffee & pastries.) All are welcome! For any questions, please contact Jack Moorman [jack.moorman@gmail.com](mailto:jack.moorman@gmail.com) or Pastor Derek [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com).

## 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://us02web.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/>

## Lions in Sight

Got Glasses? Just a reminder that we have a donation box church office to collect used prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses (prescription or non-prescription), printer/toner cartridges, hearing aids and cell phones in partnership with the Lions Club. Your donation of these unused items will help those locally who cannot afford prescription glasses; the other items are used to fund the program. If you can't drop the items in the box, please email Laura Gloner ([laura.gloner@gmail.com](mailto:laura.gloner@gmail.com)), and she'll be happy to arrange a pickup or drop-off. (Website: <https://www.lionsinsight.net/>)



## Echo, Echo...

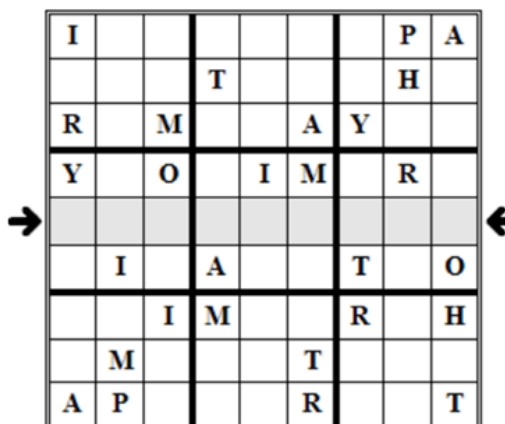
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high-end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities, including Santa Maria Urban Ministries, as well as houseless, women's, and children's causes. High-end items can be donated directly to the shop's red back door during business hours or by making an appointment. Our Children's Book Ministry flows through the shop, as well. Several women from ILC regularly volunteer and have a great time pricing, sorting, and stocking merchandise, while making new friends. If you have any questions about volunteering or donating, please contact Myra Sternlieb ([msmyrabeth@yahoo.com](mailto:msmyrabeth@yahoo.com)) or Margit Chapman ([margitc@aol.com](mailto:margitc@aol.com)). (website: [The Echo Shop](#))



**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

How to use God's hotline

### The 9 letters to use :

A H I M O P R T Y

### February Answer

IN THE BODY

### Did You Know ?

«We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body.» (2 Cor. 5:10). God has appointed a great Advocate for each one of us, Jesus (1 John 2:1). Don't leave Him behind.





**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 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.contacthelpline.org/emotional-listening-support)

<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**.

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



The wife and I took a long, leisurely drive out to the country and pulled over to fill up our car's gas tank and tires... She was surprised to see that the station had a fee to fill the tires and asked me, "Why in the world do they charge for AIR?!" I responded, "Inflation."

**"Covid Coach" for self-care and mental health:** App found in Google Play in Android phones and Apple Store on iPhone or iPad

<https://mobile.va.gov/app/covid-coach>

Show empathy to those still susceptible to Covid-19. Some have multiple high-risk factors, 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





## Inspirational Christian Article – Jesus was crucified, for he loved his children dearly!

This story is about a young woman named Sarah who worked in a small town hospital and was often swayed by the gossip and negativity of her colleagues but stood by her convictions to treat patients with kindness and respect, demonstrating the Christian principle of not always listening to the opinions of others to uphold her moral compass. Sarah had always been compassionate, and when she started working as a nurse's aide at the local hospital, she was eager to make a difference in her patients' lives. However, the hospital environment was often rife with gossip and negativity amongst the staff, particularly towards the elderly patients seen as less "worthy" of attention.

One day, Sarah was assigned to care for an elderly man named Mr. Jackson, who was admitted with a severe case of pneumonia. While attending to his needs, Sarah noticed Mr. Jackson was often left alone, with other staff members whispering and gossiping about his "dispirited" demeanor and dismissing his concerns. When Sarah tried to engage with Mr. Jackson, she discovered the man was a retired professor full of stories and wisdom. Sarah often spent extra time talking to him, listening to his tales of the past, and ensuring he felt cared for.

However, when her colleagues caught wind of this, they criticized Sarah. "Why are you wasting time with him? He's just going to complain anyway," they would say, trying to discourage her from giving Mr. Jackson extra attention. Initially, Sarah felt conflicted. She wanted to be a good team player, but her Christian values told her to treat everyone respectfully, regardless of age or perceived personality. She began to pray for guidance, asking God to give her the strength to stay true to her convictions.

As time went on, Sarah noticed a change in Mr. Jackson. With Sarah's extra attention and kindness, he began to open up, sharing his fears and anxieties. Sarah continued to listen patiently, validating his feelings and making him feel valued. One day, Mr. Jackson's family visited and was astonished by the positive change in their father. They thanked Sarah profusely, expressing how much her care had meant to Mr. Jackson. This positive feedback from the family further solidified Sarah's belief that she was doing the right thing, even when others disapproved.

The Lesson: Through Sarah's experience, the story highlights the importance of not blindly following the opinions of others, especially when it comes to treating people with kindness and respect. By actively choosing to listen to her own conscience and the teachings of her faith, Sarah made a significant difference in the life of a patient often overlooked by others. Her actions serve as a reminder that true Christian values lie in actively choosing to do the right thing, even when it is not the most popular choice.

"Gossip" is non-value-added talk with others about someone else's failures and faults without permission. "Slander" is demeaning another person's character, saying something behind their back that one would never say to their face. Gossip and slander are antithetical to the heart-circumcising cross of Christ. To gossip and slander someone is to shame them before others, to crucify before the world and watch them hang with their laundry list of real and rumored misdeeds. This is the work of the antichrist.

Christ came to save, not crucify, to love, not shame. Christ was crucified for our rescue and salvation. To gossip and slander is to crucify the people Jesus came to die for. Christ was crucified, so we, though deserving of crucifixion, would not be.

The Lent season starting with Ash Wednesday, is a time of reflection on our Lord, who loves us so much that he willingly died for us! Amen!





## 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. We're planning to venture out on the second and fourth Saturdays of March. These will be "no one left behind" hikes. Invite your friends!

**Mar. 8: Hidalgo Cemetery Descent:** An out-and-back hike along partially tree-covered, rolling hills with some nice views. Approximately 4 miles.



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

**Time:** Arrival: 7:45 AM; Departure: 8:00 AM

**Mar. 22: Santa Teresa Park: Fortini Trailhead:** 22581 San Vicente Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. Moderate difficulty. A hilly, meandering loop hike.

**Getting There:** Driving south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south, continuing on Almaden Expressway for about 4.9 miles to the end, where it "T's" at Harry Road. Turn RIGHT and go 0.1 miles to first stop sign. Turn left at McKean Rd. Proceed 1.3 miles, then turn left on Fortini Rd. and proceed to the end. Turn left. The staging area (parking) is on your right.

**Plan to arrive for each hike 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. In case of bad weather, I'll send a cancellation note to all who RSVP by 9:00 PM the evening before. Dress in layers, 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.

## Book-Go-Round

For a treat, visit Book-Go-Round (BGR) at 14410 Oak Street in Saratoga. BGR is a secondhand bookstore operated by volunteers of the Friends of the Library and the National Charity League, Inc (NCL). The store opens at 12:00 PM every day (Saturdays at 10:00 AM). BGR has supported the Saratoga Library for 50 years and is packed with a wide range of books, as inexpensive as \$.25. Newer paperbacks are usually \$1 to \$3. Also available are also a number of children's books, as well as CD's, DVD's, VHS, Audio books, sheet music and records – all at good rates. Additionally, there is a comfortable seating arrangement, where visitors may enjoy classical music while perusing.

## Children's Books Ministry

You may have noticed the green bins in the parking lot and wondered: Where do the children's books go? With a recent partnership with the [Echo Resale Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga, many of the children's books will now go to [Santa Maria Urban Ministry](#) (SMUM) in San Jose. SMUM runs a food pantry, helps the unhoused, and offers school-age tutoring support. Please donate new and used books that are just waiting to be the source of new adventure for young minds...

Bible Verse Coloring



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



# JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS

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

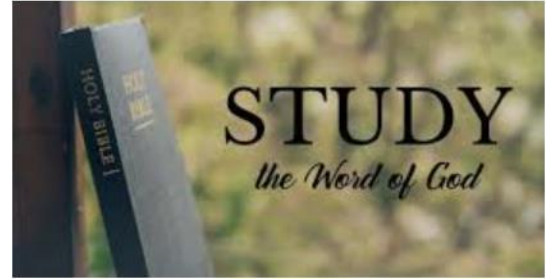
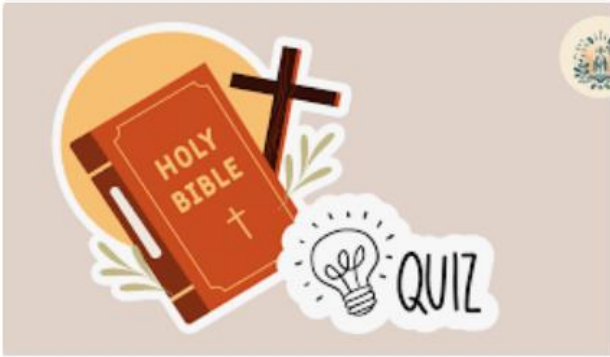
**BETRAYAL****COVENANT****DISCIPLES****FAITHFUL****GARDEN****GOSPEL****HEART****JUDAS****KISS****LORD'S SUPPER****MOTIVE****NIGHT****PRAY****PROMISE****SATAN****SCRIPTURE****SILVER****SPEAR****TEMPLE****TRUTH**

## February Answers

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

# THE MESSENGER

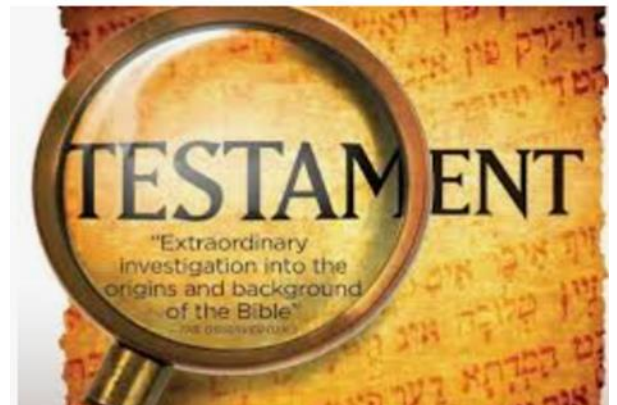
## Bible Trivia Questions: Bible History



1. Who's the biblical figure that was turned into a pillar of salt?
2. What type of tree did Zaccariah climb?
3. Was Goliath a Philistine or an Egyptian?
4. How many people were saved on the ark?
5. Which type of animal did Balaam ride?
6. Which two men hid in a well to save their lives?
7. How many cities were given to the Levites for their use?
8. What is the first city mentioned in the Bible?
9. What was the garden of Eden guarded with to prevent future access to the tree of life?
10. Which two men hid in a well to save their lives?

### February Answers

1. Peter, Andrew, James, John, Bartholomew or Nathanael, Judas Iscariot, Jude or Thaddeus, Matthew or Levi, James the Lesser or Younger, Philip, Simon the Zealot, and Thomas
2. Mary of Bethany
3. Joseph's brothers are: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, and Benjamin.
4. A fig tree
5. Rebecca, Rachel, and Ruth
6. John the Baptist
7. Four days
8. Carpenter
9. "What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him."
10. Bethlehem.





## Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7:30 PM.

The season of Lent (the 40 days – not including Sundays – leading up to Easter) begins next Wednesday, March 5, on Ash Wednesday.

The faith community will receive the imposition of ashes and hear the sobering reminder, “Remember that you are dust – and to dust you shall return.” We will also gather around the altar to partake in the Lord’s Supper, during which we will also hear the words of Jesus, “This is My body, given for you... this is My blood, shed for you.” As we’re reminded of our mortality, we also receive the promise of life – now and forever – in Christ Jesus our Lord.



If you’re unable to be present in person but would like to participate remotely, prepare some ashes, set aside some bread, wine or grape juice, and join us via livestream by clicking here: [Livestream](#)

## Women of Distinction Tea

A *Woman of Distinction* is... a role model. She has compassion, diligence, sincerity and loyalty. She’s a person with godly values and a she has a strong will to succeed.

A *Woman of Distinction* makes a difference in her family, community and in the lives of all others she meets.

As a *Woman of Distinction*, you are invited to attend Immanuel Lutheran Church’s Tea, a gathering of members and friends from our faith community. We request the honor of your presence at:

### ***Women of Distinction Tea***

Held at: Immanuel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070

On: April 5, 2025

At: 1:30 PM

**Please bring a pretty Tea Cup and Saucer to use.**



**RSVP by March 23** by calling (408) 867-0822.

Food will be catered by *Tea Traditions*. Please consider making a donation of \$20 to cover the cost. A check may be sent to Immanuel (mark *Tea* in the memo portion of your check) or placed in a basket available during the event. This event is being coordinated by Monica Bellizzi.

## Beatification Team Work Day

The Beautification Team welcomes you to join them for a work day on Monday, March 31, from 9:00 - 11:30. Please bring garden tools, clearly marked with your name on them. (In case they are left behind, we want to make sure we can return them to their rightful owners.) All workers are welcome!



## 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](https://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 that adults 50 years or older should talk with a healthcare provider to make sure they're up to date with pneumococcal vaccination – 10/23/2024.**

[CDC Recommends Second Dose of 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine for People 65 Years and Older and for People Who are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised – 10/23/2024](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s1023-covid-19-vaccine.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s1023-covid-19-vaccine.html> - People 65 years and older and everyone 6 months and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

**CDC Recommends Updated COVID-19 Vaccine – 09/06/2024** <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/index.html>

CDC recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get the updated 2024–2025 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](#)

**COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions -** <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/faq.html>

Read more about the updated vaccine and CDC's recommendation. [COVID-19 Vaccines | COVID-19 | CDC](#)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/>

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. [https://www.cdc.gov/covid/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html)

CDC recommends everyone stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, including all primary series doses and boosters for their age group. [Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines | COVID-19 | CDC](#)

**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

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.](#)** [https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/immunocompromised-people.html?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/immunocompromised-people.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html)

**\*\*Order your 4 free COVID-19 test kits per household now!** <https://special.usps.com/testkits>



# THE MESSENGER

## Come Worship With Us!



14103 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Tel: 408-867-0822

[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

[https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter\\_2025\\_03.pdf](https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter_2025_03.pdf)

---

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070

