

April 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

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

**Apr 19, 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)**

Apr 27, 10:15 AM: One Congregational Service

Easter Layette collection- donate by April 17, 2025 – Page 23

Apr 12: Preparations & Decorations -10.00 am – Pg 11

Apr 13: Palm Sunday Traditional and Contemporary Services - Page 23

Apr 17: MAUNDY THURSDAY (with Communion @ 7:30 pm - Page 23

Apr 18: Good Friday @ 7.30 pm- Page 23

Apr 20: Easter Sunday Traditional-9.00 AM Contemporary-10.45 AM Page 23

Apr 5 @ 1.30 pm Women of distinction – Page 11

April 28 @ 9-11:30 am - Beatification Team Work Day – 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

Sign-up for Sunday Service Altar Flowers-Page 9 🌸

Sign-up for Easter Lilies -Page 23 🌸

"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.....	24
Come Worship With Us!.....	25
About the Messenger.....	25

May this Easter Sunday inspire you
to new hope, happiness, prosperity,
and abundance, all received
through God's divine grace.

Happy Easter!



@DeepestFeelings.com

There is only one possible response – and the women set out to do it: They communicate the compelling message to those nearest and dearest. To them “they told all these things,” writes the evangelist Luke.

As it has been from the beginning, so it continues to be: the Gospel is inherently sharable. Like every true blessing, it must be passed on to others for the blessing to impart its richest rewards.

Some may remark that faith is a private affair that should be kept to oneself. That, out of respect for others, one should put all religious observance on mute.

Forcing faith upon others is, of course, not at all what God intends. But bearing witness to the most amazing event in history – and what it means for all of creation – this is an entirely different matter.

Indeed, faith is deeply personal. But it is never private. God has called us to live our faith out loud. That we are rightly compelled to bear witness does not mean we are to be rude or disrespectful. But when a relationship develops between us and others, how can we *not* share what is at the heart and center of our life’s meaning and purpose?

The apostle Paul wrote that he was not ashamed of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16). Indeed, he affirmed that the Gospel held the power of God for the salvation of all God’s people.

The resurrection of our Lord did not only bring about life for Him. His resurrection also brought life to the first recipients of the message that Easter morning – and then to those who listened to the news they had to share.

And on it goes... until it has reached your own ears.

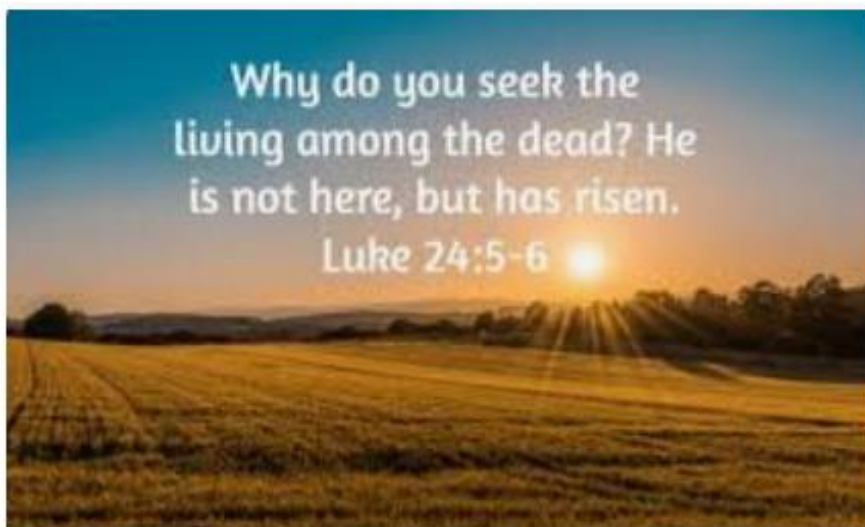
And now what shall you do with it? The only suitable response has been laid out for you by those who traipsed to the tomb in dedicated discipleship that first Easter morning.

You have heard the Good News. Now: Go and tell!

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



Thank you for
Serving!

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

Rom. 1:9

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



Worship + Love + Serve

Children's Story



Raining Easter Eggs



It was nearly Easter. "I do believe...." said Henny Penny slowly, "that what must have hit me on the head was an Easter Egg!" "And if it came from the sky, that can only mean that the Easter Bunny can fly!" What a wonderful thing! Henny Penny was beside herself with excitement about telling the others.

She tripped and skittered back up to the farmhouse to the shed, where Ziggy Piggy sloped in the soft, hot mud, feeling the sunshine on his belly. "Ziggy Piggy! Ziggy Piggy!" said Henny Penny, breathlessly a-flap. "Did you know that the Easter Bunny can fly? He just dropped an egg on me, and it hit me on the head!" "The Easter Bunny can fly?" said Ziggy Piggy, laughing, "With what wings?"

"Well, an Easter Bunny hasn't got wings, of course," flustered Henny Penny. "So perhaps he was in a hot air balloon. People can fly in hot air balloons, you know. Why not the Easter Bunny?" Ziggy Piggy thought this was very funny. He decided to lift himself from the mud – oof! – and tell Tony Pony about the surprising news. He wandered to the grassy field, where Tony Pony was munching and twitching files away.

"Tony Pony, Tony Pony!" said Ziggy Piggy. "Do you know that the Easter Bunny flew over the farm in a hot air balloon?" "Wouldn't the hot air have melted his chocolate eggs?" asked Tony Pony. That was true. Ziggy Piggy paused to think about it. Then he said: "Perhaps he had a fridge in his hot air balloon to keep the chocolate eggs nice and cool." Tony Pony thought this was so funny that he curled his big lips back and laughed. His teeth were as large as dirty piano keys. "That is quite the story," said Tony Pony. "I'd better tell Mucky Ducky."

Mucky Ducky was wiggling and waddling all about the yard, searching for juicy worms and bread bits, when Tony Pony galloped up, hooves throwing clover high into the springtime air. "Mucky Ducky! Mucky Ducky!" said Tony Pony. "Did you know that the Easter Bunny just floated past in a hot air balloon with a fridge to deliver Easter Eggs to the farm?" Mucky Ducky looked very surprised to hear that. "But how could the Easter Bunny run a fridge in a hot air balloon? He would need electricity!" Tony Pony thought about that, then whinnied, "Maybe he had a little hedgehog on a bicycle, pedaling very fast, to make kinetic electricity...." "But where?" demanded Mucky Ducky. "Hung by a ribbon from the back of the basket, of course!" said Tony Pony.

Mucky Ducky did laugh. "The Easter Bunny in a hot air balloon, with a fridge in it, powered by a hedgehog on a bicycle, attached to the basket with a string?" Tony Pony nodded, very serious. "Well, that is a tale!" said Mucky Ducky. "Let me tell my friend Conkey the Donkey. He will get a laugh out of that!" "Everyone!" said Mucky Ducky. And indeed, everyone had now caught up to Mucky Ducky and were in great agreement, nodding and looking very serious and convincing. "And what was he doing?" said Conkey Donkey. "In this hot air balloon?"

"Delivering Easter Eggs!" squawked Henny Penny. "One of them hit me on the head!" "You do know, there is probably a simpler explanation?" said Conkey Donkey. It was a little obvious, but it had to be said. "In cases where he is improbable, it's always more likely to be a simpler explanation." "But what is the simple explanation?" asked the group of friends, bewildered.

Conkey Donkey just rolled his eyes at them all. "That it's raining Easter Eggs, sillies!" he said. "Look!" And over in the distance, it was true. There was a beautiful rainbow, in all the colors of Easter Eggs and, more besides, glittering in the bright blue sky. "It's raining Easter Eggs!" cried all the animals. And they did a rain dance – or perhaps it was a happy dance – and waited for the chocolates to fall.



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

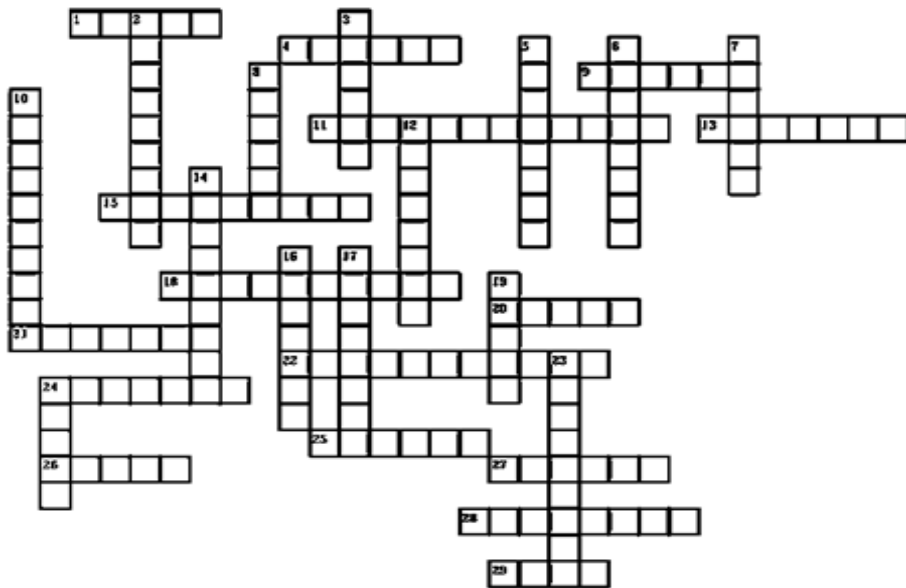
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



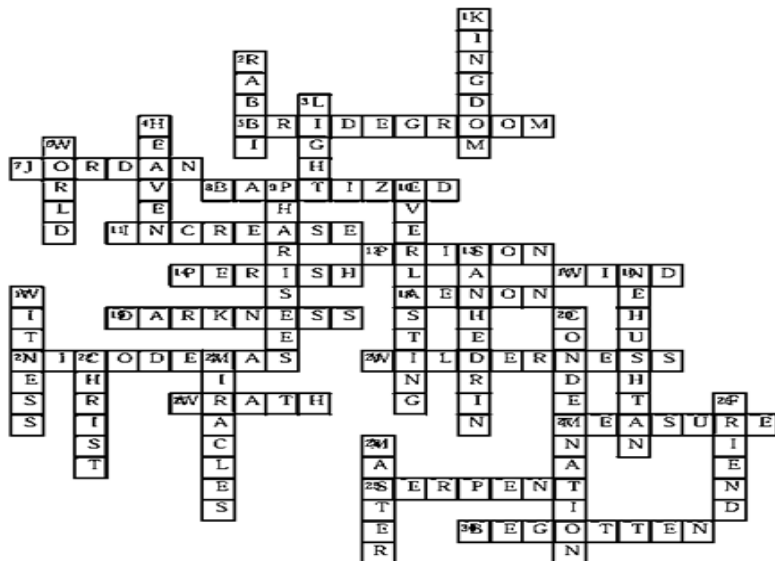
ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



Crossword Puzzle: Jesus meets Nicodemus



March Answers



Across

- 1 Place near Salim where John baptized.
- 4 Name of the river where John baptized (cf. Mk. 1:5)
- 9 Be lost.
- 11 The unbeliever has this already.
- 13 Cannot enter without "new birth".
- 15 Religious council of which Nicodemus was a member (cf. Jno. 7:50).
- 18 Where Moses led Israel.
- 20 Teacher
- 21 Jesus did not have the Spirit by this.
- 22 Eternal
- 24 John bore this concerning Jesus.
- 25 Jesus came down from this place.
- 26 He that does Truth comes to this.
- 27 Nicodemus was one of these in Israel.
- 28 Jesus did this in Judea.
- 29 What everyone born of the Spirit is like.

Down

- 2 His name means "innocent of blood".
- 3 Where John would be sent.
- 5 What Nicodemus saw that convinced him Jesus was Christ.
- 6 "God so loved the world that He gave His only _____ Son."
- 7 John said he was not this person.
- 8 John said he was this to Jesus.
- 10 He that has the bride.
- 12 What men have loved.
- 14 Sect to which Nicodemus belonged.
- 16 Moses lifted this up in the wilderness.
- 17 Opposite of "decrease".
- 19 This abides on the unbeliever.
- 23 The brass serpent (2 Kings 18:4)
- 24 God loved this.

*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.

THE MESSENGER



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. Please consider making a contribution the old fashioned way, by cash or check, or electronically, via Givelify, PayPal, or Zeffy.



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 or Pastor Derek at 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

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=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNlQkto9>

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 or Pastor Derek 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), and she'll be happy to arrange a pickup or drop-off. (Website: <https://www.lionsinsight.net/>)



Echo, Echo...

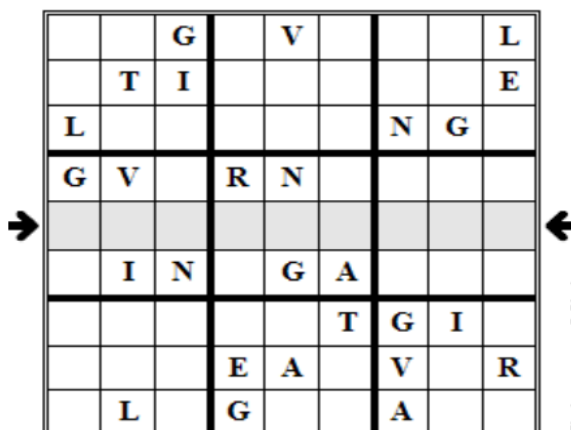
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high-end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities, 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) or Margit Chapman (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
The parable of the talents

The 9 letters to use :
A E G I L N R T V

March Answer

PRAY TO HIM

Did You Know ?
«Go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father.» (Matt. 6:6). The Bible is very clear on this point: we must pray to no one else but God. «But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord.» (Psalm 69:13).



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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.contacthelpline.org/emotional-listening-support)

<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/>



This is the true story of George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi, who was going to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the shed. George opened the door to go turn off the light but saw there were people in the shed in the process of stealing things. He immediately phoned the police, who asked, "Is someone in your house?" and George said, "No," and explained the situation. Then they explained that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be there when available. George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again. "Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them all." Then he hung up. Within five minutes three squad cars, an Armed Response unit, and an ambulance showed up. Of course, the police caught the burglars red-handed. One of the policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

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 – Kindness

Kindness expands the light within us and reaches out to touch the light in others. Kindness is an ideal that is easily accessible to all of us. We all know that a small kindness can make our journeys lighter and more enjoyable. Even bringing an instance of kindness to mind can put a smile on your face days or weeks later or perhaps even inspire you to share kindness with another. Though it may seem simple to the point of insignificance, many cultures worldwide have recognized kindness as a powerful virtue. It may be the simplest way to experience and share all the grandest ideals of humanity. We can choose to act from the best place within ourselves at any time while simultaneously recognizing the highest potential in another with the smallest of acts, nourishing the seed of hope in each soul we encounter.

In a way, kindness acts as the oil that makes the engine of our world move more smoothly and with less friction. We can still get where we are going, but the ride is more pleasant, and those around us can share in the ideal world that we help create. We are all fortunate that kindness is limitless in its supply and available to everyone. When we act in ways that confirm our ideals, we make the ideal our reality. Then, instead of affirming the experience of struggle and competition, we can shift our experience to the reality of ease and pleasurable camaraderie with our fellow citizens of the world.



Whether giving way to someone in traffic, letting someone go ahead of us in line, donating money, or sharing our resources in a crisis, we actively create a universe of kindness and giving with every choice we make. The smallest gesture can bring a smile to light the shadow of an unpleasant situation or remove tension from a difficult task, but its effects can echo and extend far beyond the moment. We can be sure we will receive kindness in return, but giving is its own reward. Kindness expands the light within us and reaches out to touch the light in others as well, giving us all a glimpse of the glow that has the power to enlighten our world.

Matthew 7:12, often called the "Golden Rule," states: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Copyright: Internet article.



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. These will be "no one left behind" hikes. Invite your friends!

**Apr. 26: Kennedy Ascent: 15292
Kennedy Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032**

This is an out-and-back (up-and-down) hike. After a few short hills, there's a long, level stretch. Then the incline begins – with a hill & then the mountain. How far will we get? How awesome will our view be? Come and see!



Getting There: From Highway 85, exit Los Gatos Blvd. Head south for 2 miles; then turn left on Kennedy Rd. Continue 2.3 miles to the top of Kennedy Rd. Small parking lot on the right. If full, park across the street.

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. 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 or calling 408-499-4866.

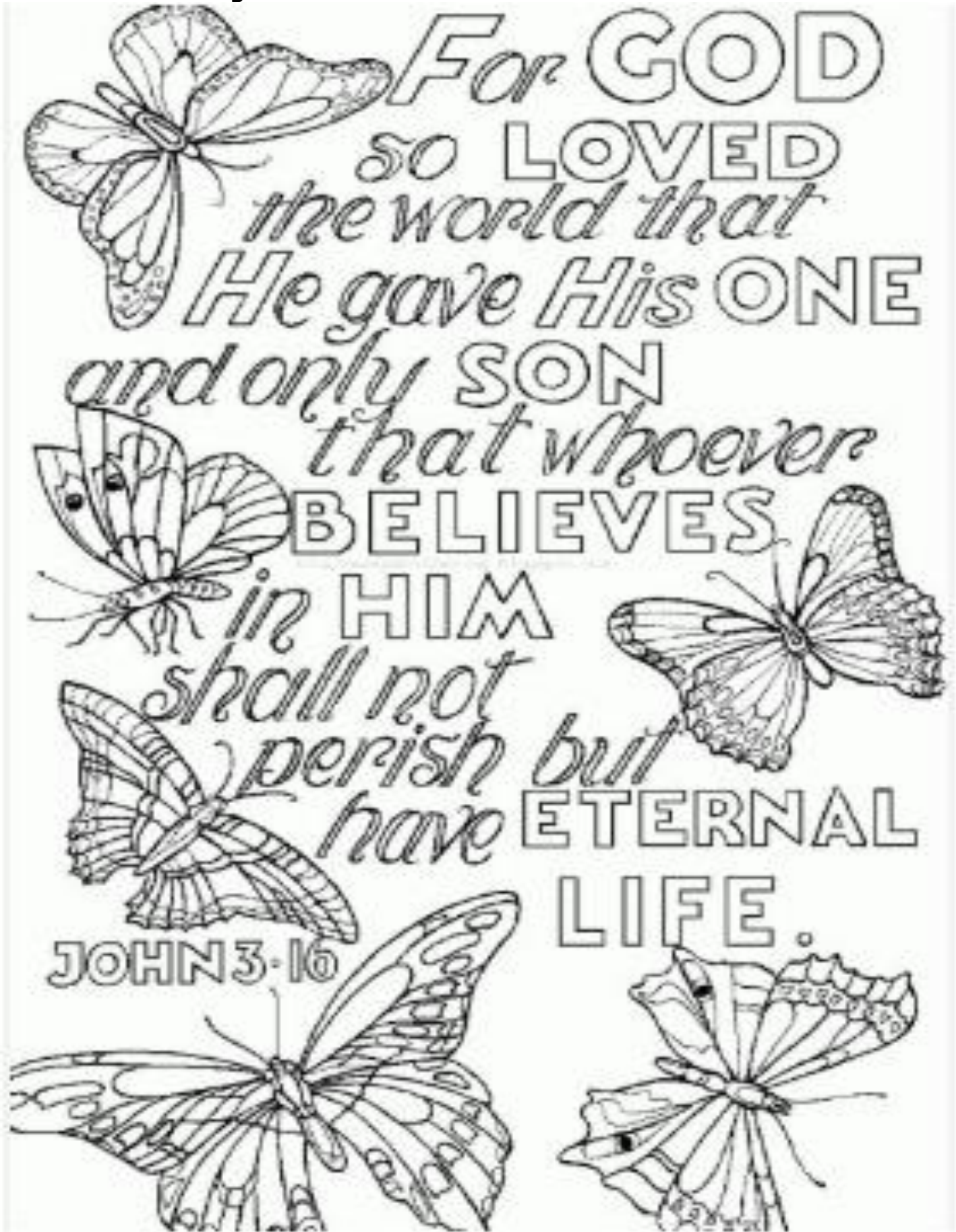
Book-Go-Round

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!

EASTER WORD SEARCH

THEKAUQHTRAEUSITISWRI
 GSTREVLISFOSECEIPTOMB
 NETALIPIERCEDTENTRTHAT
 IVETHEHSJRBNAILSACHC
 KEMRILRIUEOOSTPFSHEORA
 UIPLDEACGSSSRUSFOFPPEEL
 RHLAINIYDHSUNOANSSTTV
 HTEDHFLSAEPRSNTHITRSA
 DDLTIAASOARORGCYRRJLAR
 IOAXMDNNSHTEISHHEUFHEY
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 GOLGOTHA
 HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
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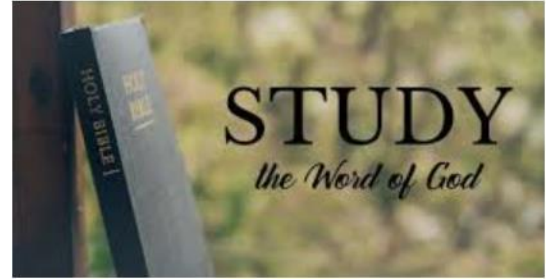
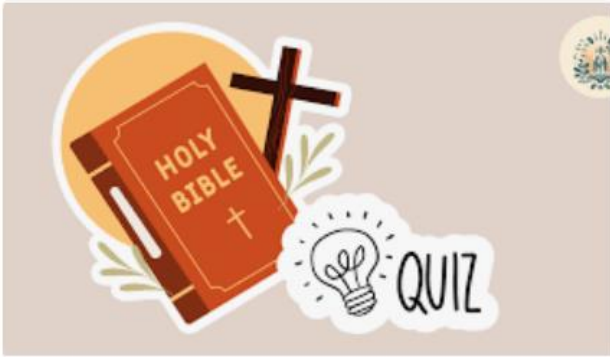
SON OF CYRENE
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 SON OF GOD
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 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
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March Answers

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THE MESSENGER

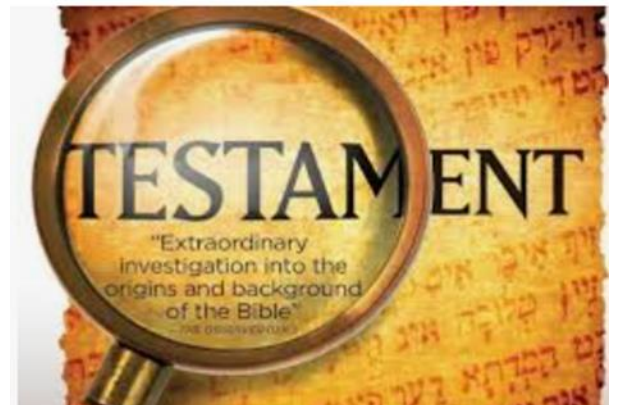
Bible Trivia Questions: Bible Characters



1. Who is Yahweh?
2. At what age did Jesus start his ministry?
3. Who were the survivors of the massive ship called the Ark?
4. His rod turned into a snake and ate the snakes of sorcerers in Egypt.
5. Who ordered the head of John the Baptist cut off and placed on a plate?
6. Who walked on water at the Sea of Galilee?
7. Who allowed a golden idol to be made in the desert?
8. How much was Judas paid for exposing Jesus to the religious mob that arrested him?
9. Who was the blind person that Jesus healed in Jericho?
10. This man died when he touched the Ark to keep it from falling.

March Answers

1. Lot's wife
2. Mulberry-fig tree
3. Philistine
4. Eight people
5. A donkey
6. Jonathan and Ahimaaz
7. 48
8. Enoch
9. A cherubim and a flaming sword
10. Jonathan and Ahimaaz



Preparations & Decorations for Holy Week



Please join us on **April 12th at 10:00 AM** to help decorate our church for Palm Sunday. We'll need some strong hands to lift and secure palm leaves into Palm Arches in the sanctuary.

Please recruit your family members to join us for these important tasks. The schedule is flexible and we welcome anyone and all who can spare some time.

Bring your creative flair and magic touch! Join us on **April 19th** to help decorate our beautiful church for Easter!

We will divide into five teams to decorate the outside cross, as well as the narthex, sanctuary, altar, and choir railings. Each team will be paired with a lead to guide the design. It's open choice from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Come whenever you're free; we will love to have you. If you have flowers in your garden, we would be delighted if you could bring them to add to our decorations.



If you have any questions, please contact Judy Onton, Candy Campbell, or Margit Chapman.

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 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, April 28, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.** 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!

Easter Lilies

Again this Easter, we will adorn the altar space with lilies. If you would like to purchase a lily in honor/memory of someone (or to the glory of God), please email our office administrator, Sheila Wallace, at office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com or complete the flyer included in the church bulletin on Sundays. Suggested donation of \$15 per plant. Thanks to Judy Onton for coordinating this effort again this year.



Layette Ministry

ILC's Layette Ministry supports Santa Maria Urban Ministry (SMUM) by collecting baby items, diapers and clothes. Your generous donations to this ministry make a significant difference for houseless and low-income families.

Our Easter Layette collection this year continues until April 13, Palm Sunday, when layettes will be dedicated in church. All we collect and assemble will be picked up SMUM on April 17.

Below are items needed for the layettes:

- Diapers (sizes 4 and up)
- Baby clothes (new or gently used, preferably 9 months and above)
- Baby bottles and baby hygiene items
- Baby blankets

Please contact Candy (candy.silverman@sbcglobal.net) or Myra Sternlieb (msmyrabeth@yahoo.com) for more information.

Thank you very much for your support.

Candy Campbell



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP:

Apr. 13: PALM SUNDAY

9:00 Traditional Service

10:45 Contemporary Service

Apr. 17: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 PM (with communion)

Apr. 18: GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 PM

Apr. 20: EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM: Traditional

10:45 AM: Contemporary





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 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/)
<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

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](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/)

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

**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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.

Come hear our wonderful choir, bell choir, and organist.

Communion is served each Sunday as part of the liturgy.

Visitors are always welcome!

Contemporary Service 10:45 a.m.

Features a more contemporary worship. Sing praises to the Lord with our Contemporary Worship Team. The music is uplifting and enjoyable for all ages. What a great way to start the week? Communion is served every Sunday.

About the Messenger

Please submit articles by the **15th** of the month, typed (preferably text or word processing file, but paper copy is ok too), and should be approximately **150 words**. If you are interested in submitting an article for publication in our Newsletter, please contact our office.

Editor: Vaskie Turner

Webmaster: Aart Bik

https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter_2025_04.pdf

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070

