

May 2025

# The Messenger

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SARATOGA 14103 SARATOGA AVE.,  
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\*\*\*\*\* BUILDING PEOPLE, SERVING GOD \*\*\*\*\*



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

## Coming Events

May 3: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell (1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the Month; Jun 7, Jul 5, Aug 2)

May 17, 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)

May 25, 10:15 AM: One Congregational Service

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May 17-Saratoga Blossom Festival - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm – Pg 23

<https://www.saratogahistory.com/>

2025 Scholarship Applications – by Sunday May 18, 2025 – Pg 22

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

**\*Please sign up for weekly Altar Guild \*\*\***

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

Family Supportive Housing: May 18 – Contact: Linda Jacks





cover of *Time* magazine, and he owns more than 40 restaurants. Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, he founded *World Central Kitchen*, a not-for-profit NGO, formed with the sole purpose of providing humble plates of food to those in need. In 2020, *World Central Kitchen* raised more than \$250 million to feed those in need and has come to the assistance of the war-torn both in Ukraine and in Gaza.

When I first heard Andrés speak, I was immediately intrigued. His compassion, kindness and demeanor had me thinking he might be a priest. He was profoundly impacted by a mentor who once told him, “Charity should not be about the redemption of the giver; charity should be about the liberation of the receiver.” Andrés is a devoted Catholic and a big believer in humble service to others. Serving everybody, he says, begins by “serving the person in front of you... You may change the life of that person. And that person may well change your life, too.”

The Bible bears witness that the eternal Son of God became incarnate and lived among us in the person of Jesus. Jesus manifested the love of God in word and deed, in His teaching and by His compassionate and humble service. Jesus would stop at nothing to carry out the plan set before Him, graciously pouring out His life for the sake of sinful humanity. Jesus – the Truth Incarnate – spoke God’s truth to God’s people, even when it was less than pleasing for them to hear. Many left off following Him because of it. Peter, speaking for the Twelve, maintained he could do no such thing. He was compelled to follow the One who spoke words of eternal life and promised He would faithfully lead us all into it.

There are many voices speaking in the world today. Some offer pure entertainment, nothing more. Others set an example that, once we observe it, move us to hop onboard and join in the good work. And then there is Jesus, whose integrated message and unique gift compel us to follow with all that is in us. He alone is worthy of our life’s dedication.

Moving forward among you, in the steps of our Savior,

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."**

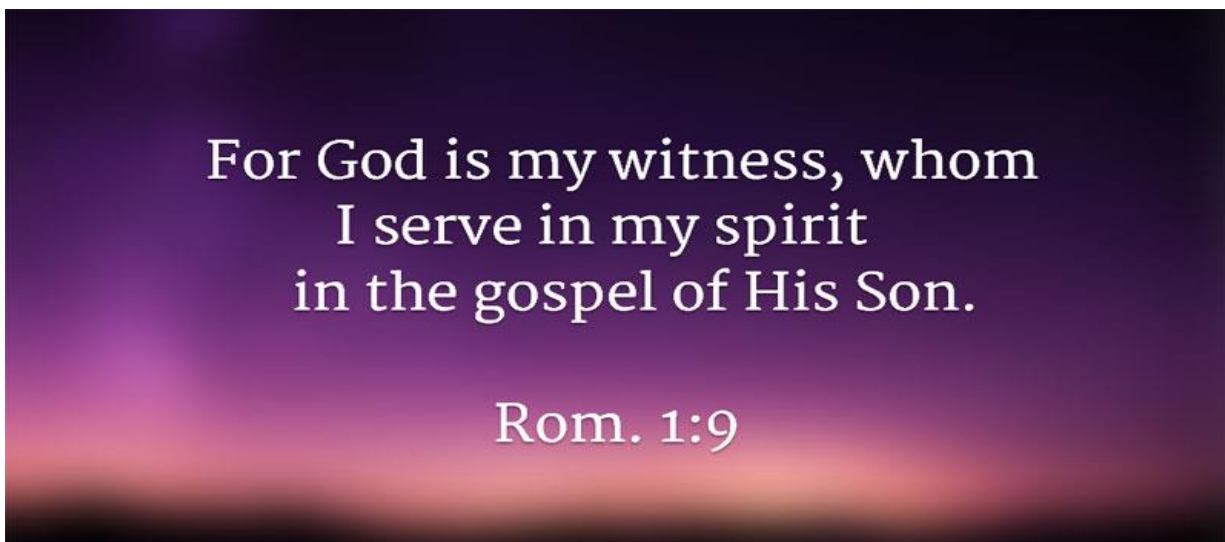
***Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's Word. Preaching isn't enough. A systematic teaching of the Scriptures – not just preaching (Acts 5:42) needs to occur through all age levels. Children, youth, and adults need opportunities for discovery, review, and interaction as they study God's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

***Sunday School meets needs!***



# THE MESSENGER

## Volunteer to Serve on Sundays



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](mailto:alyssamccoy@comcast.net)



**Worship + Love + Serve**

## Children's Story



Magic Coins



There was once a rich and kindly older man who, reaching the end of his days, decided to leave his possessions to an honest and intelligent young man. Speaking of this decision, he told a good friend he wanted to choose wisely. The friend advised him, “The next time you sell something and give the customer their change, make sure you give them too much. The customer who returns the extra money to you will know that they are honest”.

The rich man thanked his friend for the advice, thinking it was a good idea and easy to carry out.

**What he did not know was this.** One of those present during the conversation – a neighbor who pretended to be his friend but was very envious of the wealthy older man – hired the services of a wizard. He paid the wizard to cast a spell on the rich older man’s coins. The spell would mean that anyone who saw coins touched by the older man, **rather than seeing them as coins**, would see them as what the customer wanted most. With this plan, the envious neighbor believed that no customer would return the older man’s change, and, having no one to leave his money to, **the older man would leave it all to the neighbor’s young nephew.**

Indeed, everything went according to plan for the greedy neighbor, and not a single customer could return the enchanted coins. Some saw in these coins the biggest diamond or precious stone, others saw a work of art, some saw a relic, **and some saw a miraculous healing potion.** When the older man had almost given up trying to find an honest person, the greedy neighbor sent his nephew to his business, taking great care to instruct the boy to return the older man’s money. The nephew was determined to do so, but upon receiving the enchanted coins, he saw in them all the possessions and honors of his uncle. **Believing that what his uncle had told him was a trick**, he left with his useless coins and his greed.

The rich older man, sick and depressed, **decided to call his servants before he died.** He gave them some possessions so that they could freely live when he was no longer with them. Among these servants was a youth who received some money by mistake. The youth **was raised in the house of the wise and just older man**, whom he loved like a father. He saw that a powerful medicine that would cure the older man was what he most wanted in the world. The youth returned the money to the old man, saying, “Take this, Sir, it’s for you; it will make you feel better”.

**And the return of that simple coin indeed acted like the most miraculous of cures.** The older man leaped with joy at finally finding an honest person, which filled him with joy to find that this honest person had always been in his house. And so, the young servant went on to manage, with great justice, generosity, and honesty, **all the older man’s possessions and business concerns.** The older man treated the younger man like a son for the rest of his life.

## 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

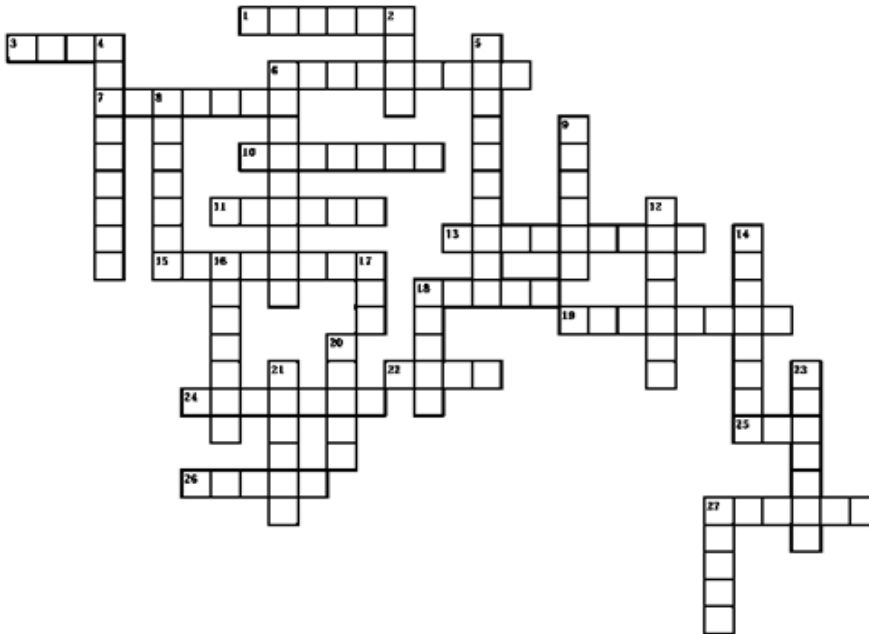
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



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



**Crossword Puzzle: The Woman at the Well**



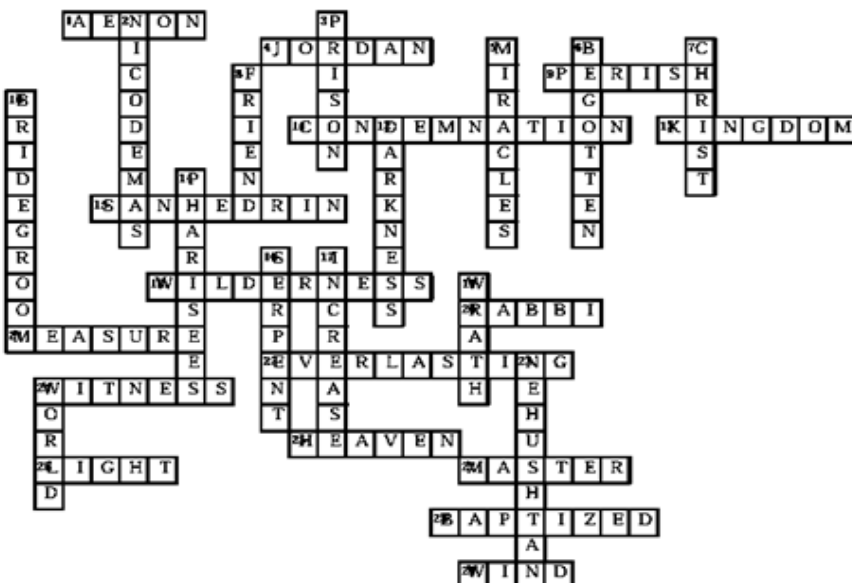
**Across**

- 1 Samaritan city near Jacob's well.
- 3 What the disciples went to buy.
- 6 This is "of the Jews".
- 7 Region of Palestine between Judea and Galilee.
- 10 Christ is this to the whole world.
- 11 What those who drink living water never have again.
- 13 Where the Jews worshiped.
- 15 The Samaritan woman had five of these.
- 18 Said, "I am He."
- 19 What the men of Samaria did because they heard Jesus.
- 22 "My \_\_\_\_\_ is to do the will of Him that sent me."
- 24 Mountain where the Samaritans worshiped.
- 25 Number of days Jesus spent in Samaria.
- 26 What Jesus asked the Samaritan woman to give Him.
- 27 Jacob's son buried near Sychar.

**Down**

- 2 Gather in the crops
- 4 They left Jesus at the well alone.
- 5 God is seeking true ones.
- 6 Race descended from intermarriage of Jews and Assyrians.
- 8 Means "the Anointed One".
- 9 Greek equivalent of "Messiah"
- 12 Why Jesus sat down at the well.
- 14 What the Samaritan woman left at the well.
- 16 Where Jacob bought a possession.
- 17 scatter seed
- 18 Where Jesus had been baptizing and making disciples.
- 20 Ripe or ready to be harvested
- 21 Kind of water Jesus possessed.
- 23 What the woman thought Jesus to be.
- 27 Dug the well near Sychar.

**April 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.



# 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.




[PayPal](#)

[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](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 minor prophets, now considering the witness of *Hosea*. 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](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.

	W			E		N		
			R	N				E
			M	O				
R	N	S			O			
E	S			Y				
					M	W		
N			Y	R		D		
	S				Y			

### Hint

A limit to God's day of grace

### The 9 letters to use :

D E M N O R S W Y

### April Answer

TRAVELING

### Did You Know ?

«The kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his servants and delivered his goods to them.» (Matt. 25:14). God gave us a body, abilities, time, and material possessions. Let's use them to His glory.



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[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/>



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal, they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. Holmes said: "Watson, look up and tell me what you see". Watson said: "I see a fantastic panorama of countless stars."

Holmes: "And what does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a moment: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologic-ally, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

"Why? - What does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes was silent for a moment then spoke: "My good Watson... someone has stolen our tent."

**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 – Pope Francis: A Light Lost. And The Lessons Learned From His Life

### Pope Francis on Compassion:

"The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness."

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

"Too often we participate in the globalization of indifference. May we strive instead to live global solidarity."

"Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation." (2nd Tweet as Pope)

"Kindness is firm and persevering intention to always will the good of others, even the unfriendly."

"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace."

"We will never be disillusioned or lose our way if we are guided by God."

"We all have the duty to do good."

"Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason."

### Pope Francis on Hope:

"From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us."

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

"Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts."

"God's love calls us to move beyond fear. We ask God for the courage to put on faith, hope, and love as we go out into the world and become the word in body as well as spirit."

### Pope Francis on the Marginalized:

"This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the Good."

"Openness to God makes us open towards the marginalized of this world, and gives us the courage to leave the confines of our own security and comfort to become bruised, hurting and dirty as we joyfully approach the suffering other in a spirit of solidarity."

"Even in the developed world, the effects of unjust structures and actions are all too apparent. Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples."

### Pope Francis on Solidarity:

"Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right."

"We must always walk in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, always trying to live in an irreprehensible way."

"Solidarity, as a moral virtue and social attitude born of personal conversion, calls for commitment on the part of those responsible for education and formation."

"Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason."

"Our final judgment will be based on how we have shown compassion and mercy towards others."

Jesus "is alive and is with us always, shedding the tears of those who suffer and adding to the beauty of life through the small acts of love carried out by each of us," - Pope Francis

AMEN!

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!

**May 10: 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.

**May 24: Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. 550 Palm Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037. A relatively easy hike. 4.25 miles. 674 elevation gain.**

**Time:** 8:00 AM

**Getting There:**

- From Highway 101 south, take Bailey Avenue west. Go .7 miles.
- Turn left on Santa Teresa Boulevard. Continue 2 miles.
- Turn right on Palm Avenue. Continue .7 miles.
- The preserve is at the end of Palm Avenue.

**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



The Lord  
is my *strength*  
and my  
*shield.*

Psalm **28.7**

## WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

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

**ABIGAIL**  
**BATHSHEBA**  
**DEBORAH**  
**DELILAH**  
**ELIZABETH**  
**ESTHER**  
**EVE**  
**HAGAR**  
**HANNAH**

**JEZEBEL**  
**LEAH**  
**LYDIA**  
**MARTHA**  
**MARY**  
**MARY MAGDALENE**  
**MIRIAM**  
**NAOMI**

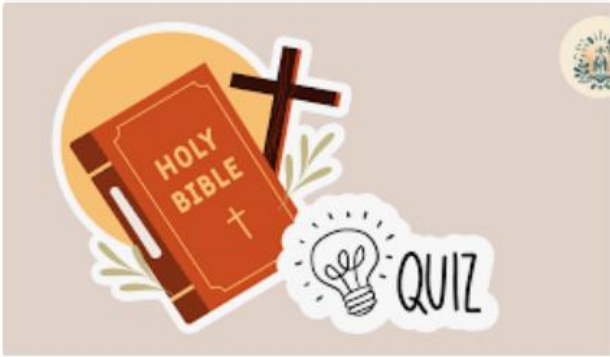
**PHOEBE**  
**PRISCILLA**  
**RACHEL**  
**RAHAB**  
**REBEKAH**  
**RUTH**  
**SARAH**  
**TAMAR**

### April Answers

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

# THE MESSENGER

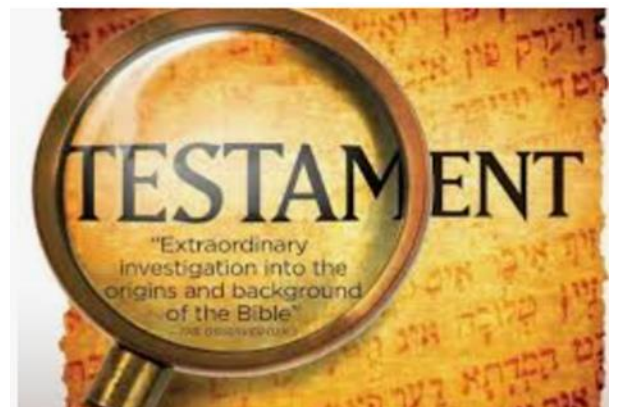
## Bible Trivia Questions: Bible Characters



1. Whom did King Nebuchadnezzar force into a fiery furnace?
2. Jesus raised this friend from the dead four days after he died
3. Who was the Jerusalem priest who instigated the trial of Jesus?
4. This man sat on a donkey that talked to him.
5. Who was the thirteenth apostle who replaced Judas Iscariot?
6. Who was the only female judge in Israel?
7. Whom did Samuel anoint as the first king of Israel?
8. Who was the last king of northern Israel??
9. He was Elijah's apprentice.
10. Which tribe of Israel looked after the religious aspects of the faithful?

### April Answers

1. God
2. About the age of thirty
3. Noah and family
4. Aaron
5. Herod Antipas
6. Jesus and Peter
7. Aaron
8. 30 pieces of silver
9. Bartimaeus
10. Uriah



## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS!

If you are a graduating senior or are continuing on to college and are a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, you may be eligible for a Trust Fund Scholarship. Applications are now available electronically. All applications must be fully completed and submitted to Anna Popovici **by Sunday, May 18th** in order to be considered for a scholarship.

Thanks to generous donations and bequests from members and friends of Immanuel, the Trust Fund is able to provide the following scholarships:

- Shonk Memorial Scholarship
- Joseph W. Doherty Memorial Scholarship
- Amundson/Geri Memorial Scholarship
- Lutheran School Scholarship
- Richard Johnson Memorial STEM Scholarship

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Anna Popovici at 650-854-8051; [anna.popovici@gmail.com](mailto:anna.popovici@gmail.com), the church office at 408-867-0822, or our church website here: [Trust Fund Scholarships](#)

## Expressing Our Gratitude

**Jack Williams**, child of God and example to us all, died on Tuesday, April 15, in Greensboro, North Carolina, surrounded by his loving family. He was 96. Jack was a consummate servant of God and an example of true Christian discipleship to all who knew him. His ever-present smile, good humor and servant heart inspired many in our faith community. His dedication to his family and to our Immanuel congregation were a gift of grace. He will be missed, but always remembered. While we give thanks for his life on earth, we pray for those who mourn, especially Jack's daughters and their families. May God bless them all with peace and comfort – and with the assurance of heavenly reunion in Jesus Christ our Lord. **A memorial service will be held at Immanuel on Saturday, June 21, at 11:00 AM, followed by a catered reception in the Fellowship Hall.**



**Landscape project nearing completion!**

Photo credit: Gail Wesling

# THE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

May 17, 2025 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heritage Orchard & Civic Center  
(13777 Fruitvale Avenue)

***Free, Family Fun***

Sponsored by the City of Saratoga

Produced by the Saratoga Historical Foundation

For more information go to  
[www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com) or e-mail  
[info@saratogahistory.com](mailto:info@saratogahistory.com)  
or call 408-867-4311.

*Free parking in parking lot 4  
at West Valley College.*

## Enjoy

- Antique cars
- Live music — Blue Grass, Dixieland, easy rock!
- Antique farm motors
- Gourmet food trucks
- Children's activities
- Art by local artists
- Petting zoo
- And more

Enjoy a day of  
family fun  
learning about  
local history  
and the  
community.





## 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/)  
<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](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](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\\_05.pdf](https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter_2025_05.pdf)

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070

