

April 2026

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 4: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast@ Effie's in Campbell(1st Sat of the Month;
May 2, Jun 6 , July 4, Aug 1)**

Apr 18: 8:30 AM: Women's breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell

Apr 26, 10:15: One Congregational Service

Sunday services-Traditional – 9.00 AM *Contemporary Service - 10.45 AM

Online Service - <https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php> (Live stream)

Inside this Issue

Pastor Derek Writes.....	2
People Helping People.....	4
Children's Story.....	6
Women's Breakfast.....	7
Men's Breakfast.....	7
Crossword Puzzle.....	8
Mark Your Calendar.....	9
Memories at ILC.....	10
Upcoming Events.....	11
ILC Wedding.....	15
Editor's Desk.....	16
Vaccination information.....	25
Come Worship With Us!.....	26
About the Messenger.....	26

Maundy Thursday- Apr 2 @7:30 pm (with communion)

Good Friday – Apr 3 @7.30 pm

Easter Sunday Apr 5 @ 9.00 am Traditional Service

@ 10.45 am Contemporary Service

****ILC Trust Fund Scholarship Application Guidelines -Pg 24**

Pastoral Sabbatical Plans – Pg 22

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 🌸 –Pg 9

"Volunteer to Serve on Sundays!"

Please sign up for weekly Altar Guild **



On Easter morning, no one was expecting what took place. Every person who made their way to the tomb – without exception – was expecting to find a dead body. No one was expecting to find an empty tomb. Even less did they expect to be confronted with the resurrected Jesus! So we easily forgive Mary for looking right past Jesus and thinking He was a stranger. But when He uttered her name... wow! That was all it took. She immediately recognized the name that was hers, as well as the Shepherd who uttered it.

That's when your faith comes alive, isn't it? When you hear the Good Shepherd call your name. When you recognize your place in the Story.

The biblical witness is just that: Jesus not only gave His life for the sins of the world – He gave his life for you. You have not been forgotten. You have not been excluded.

Today, some of our neighbors are fearful of having their names called out loud. That, if they turn and respond to the voice that is calling, they will be rounded up, arrested, and removed from their family and from the place they have called home.

But the Voice of the Good Shepherd never beckons us to harm us, but to welcome us in loving embrace with wondrous hospitality. For this is the heart of God.

For God so loved... you... that He gave His one and only Son. Trusting in Him will never prove to be foolish. For He is faithful, through and through. Jesus loves you, this I know... for the Bible tells me so.

I encourage you to spend time in the Holy Scriptures. Listen to the Voice of Good Shepherd, as He calls your name. The Resurrected One will bring you refreshment and renewal. And when He calls your name, it will be with unmistakable recognition and with a welcome of belonging.

In the resurrected Jesus, you will find much more than you expect: You will discover the very fulfillment of your deepest hope.

Serving in Your midst with Gratitude,

Pastor Derek



THE MESSENGER

People Helping People !

An experience by a congregation member – 1. Man on the Median – Our member was driving and about to make a left-hand turn onto Saratoga from Prospect/West Campbell Ave when he saw a man holding 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 he could really use this, then added 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 Joe's 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 to get around and look for a job. Our member mentioned the food packages and that our Church ILC has always been trying to help people. The young man said that it 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 discussed positivity and the use of all available government services. The young man took the two bags and thanked our member profusely.

Helping anyone, even if it is just a little, means so much to people who literally have nothing—God's grace.

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

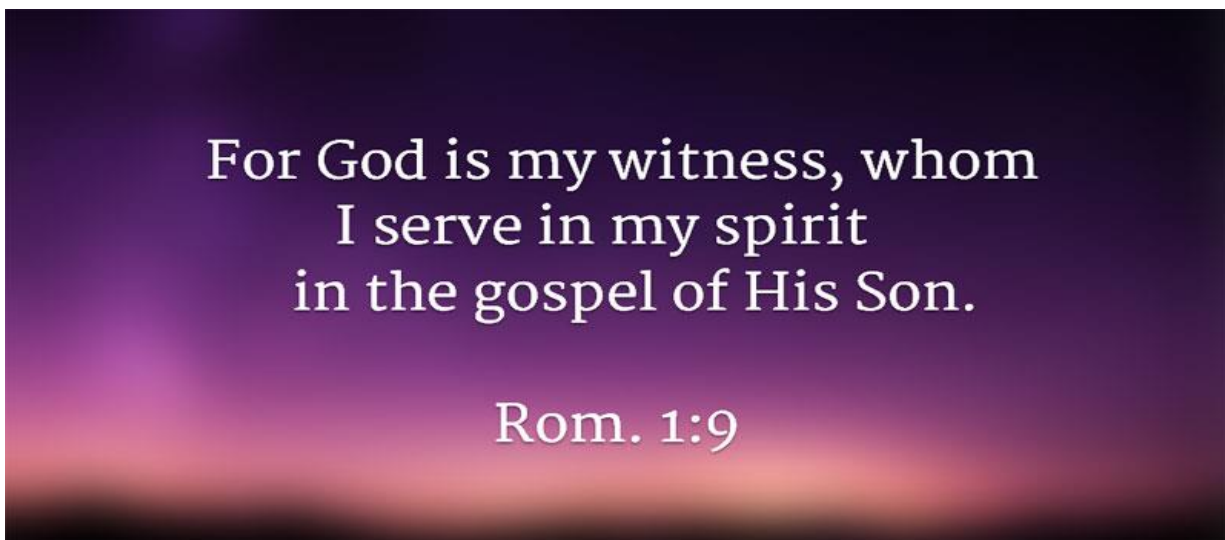
Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's Word. Preaching isn't enough. A systematic teaching of the Scriptures – not just preaching (Acts 5:42) needs to occur through all age levels. Children, youth, and adults need opportunities for discovery, review, and interaction as they study God's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

Sunday School meets needs!



THE MESSENGER

Volunteer to Serve on Sundays



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

Rom. 1:9



Thank you for
Serving!

It takes many people to make Sunday mornings "happen". You're welcome to participate and be one of them!

Service Opportunities include:

Altar Guild: Prepare communion elements, prepare sanctuary for worship; clean up after worship.

Audio: Make sure our sound system is in good working order and monitor sound during the service.

Livestream: Control the livestream setup and camera during the service to support our "Church without Walls"

Coffee: Provide treats for fellowship time after service

Communion: Help distribute communion during service

Greeter: Warmly welcome people at the door and hand them a bulletin

Lector: Read lessons in church

Liturgist: Assistant leader in worship, chant the opening liturgy

Usher: Hand out announcement pages, take offering, light and extinguish candles



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



Worship + Love + Serve



The Seeds



Once upon a time, four seeds were good friends. Taken up by the wind, they finally landed in a jungle clearing. There they remained, hidden on the ground, hoping to grow into beautiful trees.

But when the first seed began to germinate, they realized it wouldn't be as easy as they thought. In that clearing, there lived a group of monkeys, and the smallest monkeys would amuse themselves by throwing bananas at any plant they noticed was starting to grow. Using this game, the monkeys learned how to throw bananas and kept the clearing free of vegetation.

They threw so many bananas at that first seed that it split almost in half. And when it told the other seeds what happened, they all agreed it would be better to wait for that group of monkeys to move on before they attempted to grow.

Well, they all thought that, apart from one, who thought she should at least attempt it. And when she tried, she was pelted with bananas and left folded over in two. The other seeds got together and asked her to stop trying, but the little seed was very determined to become a tree, and time and again she would try and try. On each new occasion, the little monkeys had slightly improved their aim, and so the little seed ended up doubled over yet again.

But the seed didn't give up. Every time the monkey pelted the seed with bananas, she tried even harder, despite her friends begging her to stop and telling her to wait until the monkeys left. And so, for days, weeks, and months, the little plant was attacked by the monkeys, and she always ended up stooped and doubled over. For a few days, she would manage to avoid the bananas, but then the next day, some monkey would hit her, and it would all start over again.

And then, one day, she didn't double over. A banana hit her, and then another, but none of them managed to make her stoop. She had taken so many blows and been doubled over so many times that she was full of hard knots and scars that helped her to grow more strongly than the other seeds. So, her slim trunk thickened and became more resistant, until it could withstand the impact of a banana. And she was already so well developed that not even the little monkeys could uproot her from the ground. And there she stayed, growing, growing, and growing.

Thanks to the extraordinary strength of her trunk, she continued overcoming all difficulties until she became the most majestic tree in the jungle. Meanwhile, her friends remained hidden underground. They continued as ever, hoping that those horrible monkeys would abandon the clearing, never realizing that those very same monkeys were the only ones capable of strengthening the seeds' trunks by throwing bananas, something that would prepare the seeds for all the problems they would confront during their growth.

Copyright: Internet article.



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.

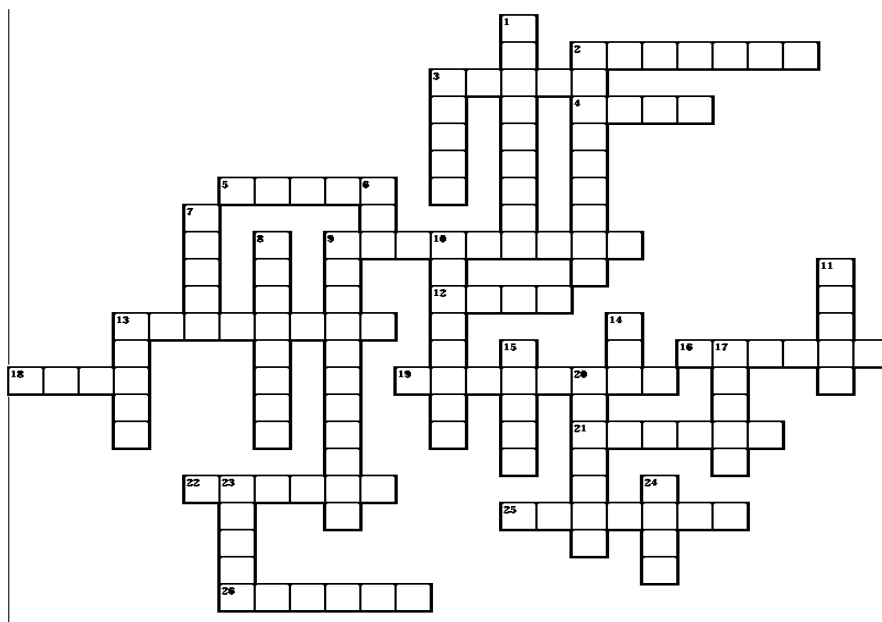


ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



Crossword Puzzle: Jesus Heals at Bethesda

Across

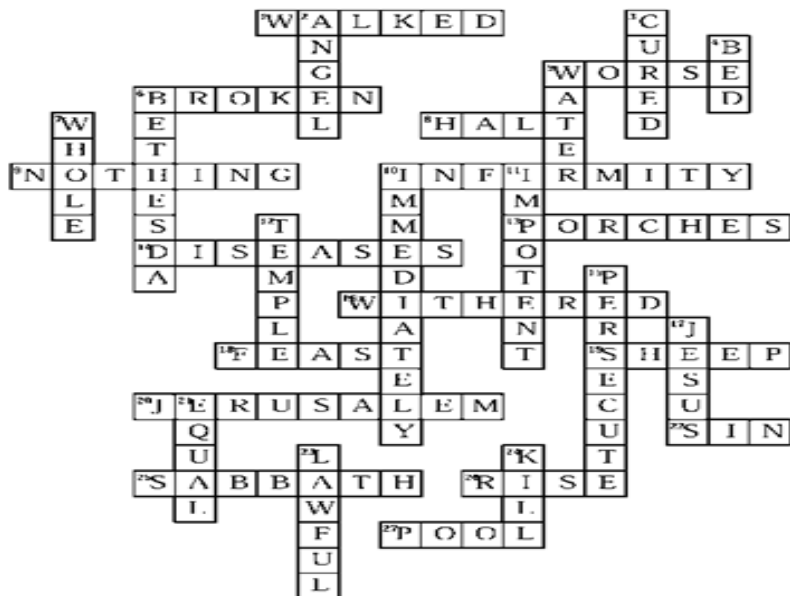


- 2 There were five of these at Bethesda
- 3 This could happen to the man Jesus healed (cf. 5:14)
- 4 The commandment Jesus gave the impotent man
- 5 Who healed the impotent man?
- 9 A certain man had this for 38 years
- 12 Bethesda was one of these
- 13 This word is used to describe a deformed arm or leg
- 16 What the man did after Jesus healed him
- 18 This word means "to limp or hobble"
- 19 This word means "House of Grace"
- 21 The Jews accused Jesus of having _____ the Sabbath
- 22 Place where Jesus found the man he had healed
- 25 What the Son could do "of Himself" (5:19)
- 26 "It is not _____ for thee to carry thy bed."

Down

- 1 Bethesda located here
- 2 The Jews did this to Jesus
- 3 What those that entered the pool first were made
- 6 The man told not to do this any more
- 7 Jesus was attending this in Jerusalem
- 8 All of these were healed in the waters of Bethesda
- 9 How long after Jesus spoke was this man healed?
- 10 This word means "weak, powerless, lacking strength"
- 11 Healed or made whole (5:10)
- 13 What one stepped into to be healed
- 14 What the man healed was told to carry
- 15 This market was near Bethesda
- 17 To whom was the water's movement attributed?
- 20 Day of the week on which Jesus healed this man
- 23 Jesus made Himself this in relation to God
- 24 What the Jews wanted to do to Jesus

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.



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 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 appoiter 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 minor prophets, now considering the witness of *Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi*. 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 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...

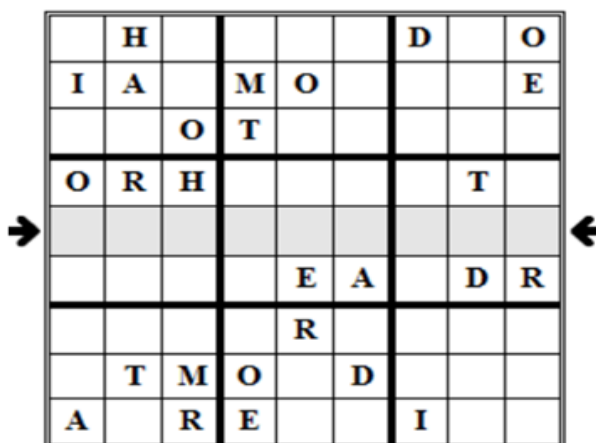
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high-end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities,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

The 9 letters to use :
A E G H I K N T W

March Answer

WEAK THING

Did You Know ?
«God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.» (1Co.1:27). Divine truth, though only dressed in a humble garment, is mightier than error, though clothed with the pomp of declamation.



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





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 in their lives at a quaint church and its tranquil surroundings



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Coronavirus: I have compiled hotline numbers and useful, informative websites!



Coronavirus Hotline for Seniors: **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>

Emotional Listening Support Contact 24/7 Helpline: **1-800-932-4616** (Toll Free)

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

<http://www.contacthelpline.org/emotional-listening-support>

Santa Clara County (SSC) Update on Coronavirus – www.sccphd.org/coronavirus.

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/home.aspx>

COVID-19 on CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

State of California hotline for 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 website. 1. <https://covid19.ca.gov/>



A school teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and was not noticeable at all. On the first day of school, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took the desk stapler and stapled the tie to his chest. He had no trouble with discipline that year.

Covid Coach" for self-care and mental health: App found in Google Play on Android phones and Apple Store on iPhone or iPad <https://mobile.va.gov/app/covid-coach>

Be empathetic to those still susceptible to COVID-19. Some have multiple high-risk factors, making them vulnerable to COVID-19 and new subvariants. 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 – Things Jesus Knew

Jesus understands what life is like for us. He doesn't ask anything of us that he wasn't willing to do himself, and he promises to be with us in all we have to go through. Some examples:

- Jesus knew temptation: He was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan" (Mark 1:13).
- Jesus knew poverty: Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20).
- Jesus knew frustration: He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables . . . 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!'" (John 2:15-16)
- Jesus knew weariness: "Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well" (John 4:6).
- Jesus knew disappointment: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks . . . but you were not willing." (Luke 13:34).
- Jesus knew rejection: "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him" (John 6:66).
- Jesus knew sorrow: "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (Matthew 26:38).
- Jesus knew ridicule: "Again and again they struck him . . . and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid (mocking) homage to him" (Mark 15:19).
- Jesus knew loneliness: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15



The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

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

April 11: Fremont Older Preserve (from Parker Ranch; moderate)

Getting There: From the church, turn right toward Big Basin. At the light (Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd.), turn right. Proceed 2.4 miles, then turn left at the light on Prospect Rd. Continue 0.4 miles to first stop sign. Turn left (to stay on Prospect Rd.) Immediately after crossing the railroad tracks, look for a place to park along the road. The trailhead is on the other side of 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 10:30.

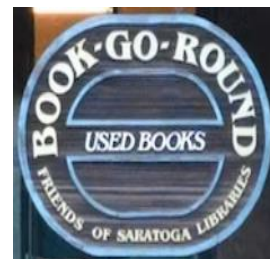
April 25: New Almaden Loop: McAbee Rd. Entrance (17501 McAbee Rd., San Jose, CA 95120) A new section of familiar park. Approximately 4 miles with a chance to add a bit more, if you're feeling ambitious.

Getting There: Heading south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 1.2 miles. Turn RIGHT on McAbee Rd. Continue for 1.7 miles (just past Castillero School). Street parking only.

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 a number of children's books, as well as CDs, DVDs, VHS, audiobooks, sheet music, and records – all at good rates. Additionally, there is comfortable seating where visitors can enjoy classical music while perusing.

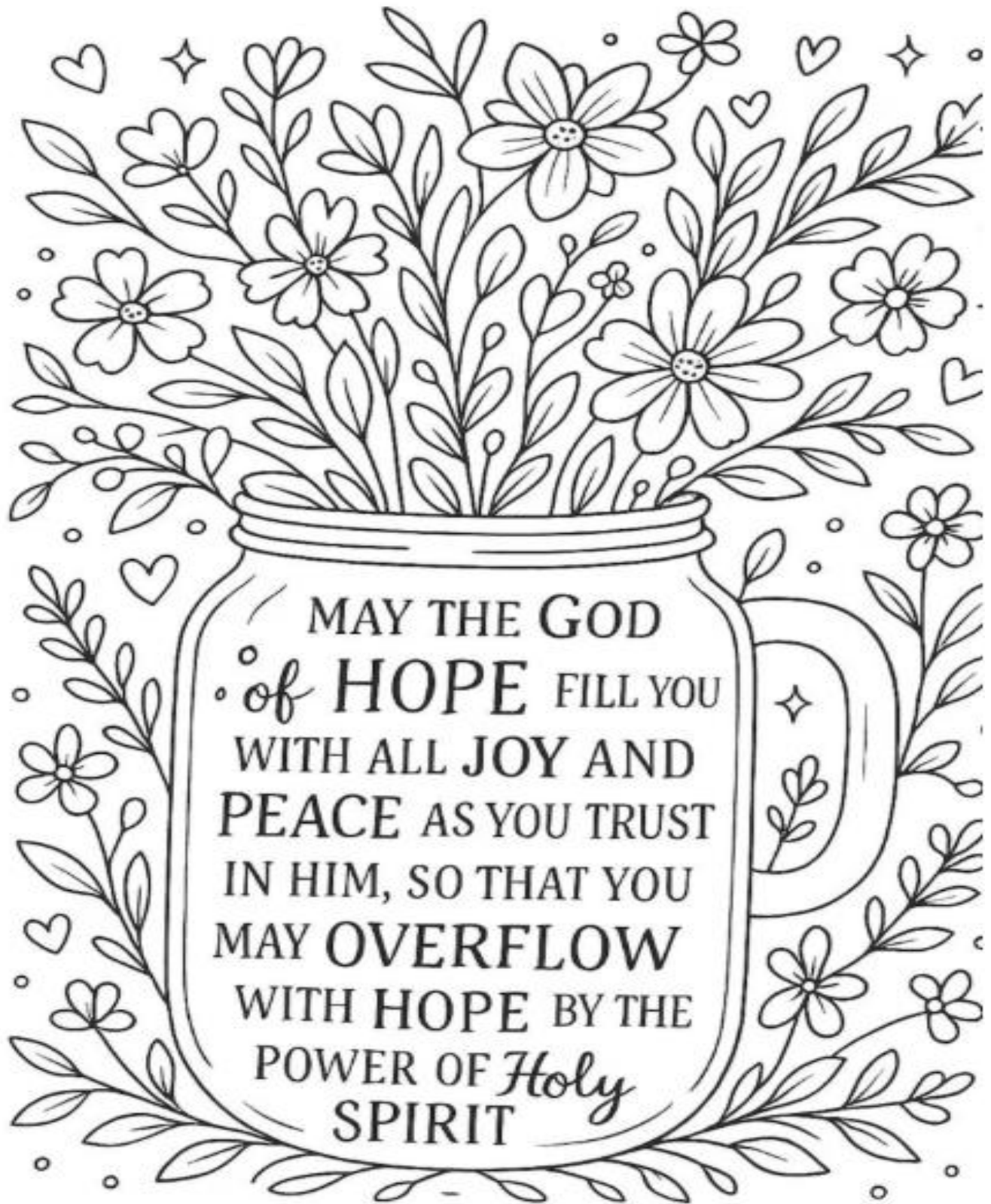


Children's Books Ministry



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, supports unhoused individuals, and provides school-age tutoring. Please donate new and used books that are just waiting to be the source of new adventure for young minds...

Bible Verse Coloring



ROMANS 15:13

BLOOD

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

ALTAR
ATONEMENT
BLOOD
COVENANT
CROSS
CRUCIFIXION
CUP
FORGIVENESS

GUILT
HYSSOP
INNOCENT
JUSTIFICATION
LAMB
MARTYRS
MERCY

PASSOVER
POURED
PRIEST
PROPITIATION
PURIFICATION
RANSOM
REDEMPTION

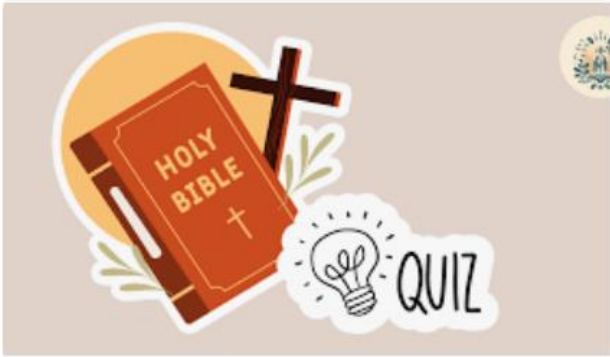
SACRIFICE
SALVATION
SANCTIFICATION
SHED
SPILLED
VEIL
WRATH

March Answers

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

THE MESSENGER

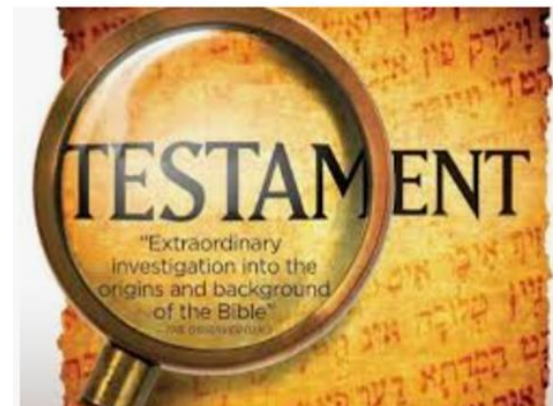
Bible Trivia Questions: Character Bible



1. How did Aaron explain to Moses about the golden calf?
2. When she looked back at Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt.
3. Who slew 1,000 Philistines with a single blow of a jawbone?
4. Who was sold into slavery by his brothers?
5. This shepherd used a sling and a smooth stone to kill a giant.
6. Who betrayed Jesus to the religious mob on the night of His arrest?
7. How much was Judas paid to identify Jesus on the night of the arrest?
8. What happened to Judas Iscariot after the mob took Jesus away?
9. What was King David's first occupation?
10. What island was John exiled on when he wrote the Book of Revelation?

March Answers

1. Zacchaeus was a tax collector.
2. Samson
3. Noah
4. Eight
5. Jonah
6. Daniel
7. Elijah
8. Elisha
9. The Ten Commandments
10. Two



Campus Hospitality

Ebenezer Church, a bilingual (Spanish/English) congregation of approximately 30 members, will be meeting for worship in the nursery area (front part of the Fellowship Hall), each Sunday at 8:30. Let us extend our kindest hospitality to this worshipping community in Christ's name.

Serving at Family Supportive Housing: Info on next Service

Would you like to prepare food? Serve it with a smile? Please contact Linda Jacks, leader of this important service through our faith community. You can reach her Linda at 408-799-1423.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP:

Apr. 2: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 PM (with communion)

Apr. 3: GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 PM

Apr. 5: EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM: Traditional

10:45 AM: Contemporary



Easter Sunday Preparations

April 4, Saturday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Members can arrive as early as 9:00 AM to set up. Easter decorations. All hands are needed.

- Tasks: Help decorate the cross on the front lawn, add artificial flowers and doves to the front window, arrange Easter lily plants in front of the podium, set up decoration pew candles, and place wreaths on the outside cross behind the Sanctuary.

Remembering Edna "Ginny" Johnson

Beloved saint of God, Edna "Ginny" Johnson, died March 10, in Roseville, CA, after spending a wonderful weekend with her family. She was 98. Ginny was cheerful, positive, and was most often found with a smile on her face. She was also a woman of strong constitution and determination, and she had a deep and abiding faith in God.

While we well rejoice at the grace she has now received, present with her loving and faithful Savior, we pray for Ginny's sons, Jeff & Ron, and their extended family. May God grant them the comfort of His faithful presence, the assurance of His love, and the peace that only He can bring. Blessed be the memory of God's dear and faithful servant, Edna "Ginny" Johnson. A memorial service at Immanuel is scheduled for April 18 at 2:00 PM, with reception to follow in the church fellowship hall.



Community Support

Thank you for your ongoing donations of clothes (placed in bags), food, and children's books. The collection bins are located alongside the church office parking lot, and donations (non-perishables) may be dropped off in the bins at any time. Your generosity is appreciated!



In the words of Jesus, "When you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40)

Trust Fund Scholarship Application Guidelines

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, by clicking here: [Scholarship Application](#). All applications must be fully completed and submitted to Anna Popovici by Sunday, May 17th 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 or the church office at 408-867-0822.

Interfaith Day of Understanding

Why is there suffering – and how are we called to alleviate it? This will be the subject of the second annual Interfaith Day of Understanding, hosted by the Saratoga Ministerial Association. "Faiths of all flavors" will share their perspectives on these questions.

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (12770 Saratoga Ave.)

Date: Sunday, May 17

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Cost: \$15 (by May 8)

The gathering will include:

Keynote speakers

Panel discussions

Breakout sessions led by local faith leaders on topics of your choice

Vegetarian dinner

Sign up here: <https://propeace.breezechms.com/form/DayofUnderstanding>

*Matt: 1:23 – "and his name shall be called **Immanuel, which means God is with us.**"*



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 \(scgov.org\)](#) **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 – 10/02/2025.**

[Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines | Covid | CDC](#) - NOV, 19, 2025

Resources

[Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

People who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine have lower risk of severe illness.

[Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Learn how to schedule and know what to expect at your COVID-19 appointment.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Basics](#)

Learn how COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19.

[Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)

Find out why you should get the COVID-19 vaccine and how it protects you from getting sick.

[Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)

COVID-19 vaccine information for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

[COVID-19 Vaccination for People Who Would Like to Have a Baby](#)

Information on COVID-19 vaccines for people who would like to have a baby.

[COVID-19 Vaccination for Women Who Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)

What you need to know about COVID-19 vaccines if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

[COVID-19 Vaccination for Long-term Care Residents](#)

Information about COVID-19 vaccines for long-term care residents.

[Vaccine Effectiveness](#)

Information for public health professionals and researchers on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness.

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, if possible, by the **20th** of the month, typed (preferably a text or word processing file, but a paper copy is okay too), and be about **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_2026_04.pdf

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

