

February 2020

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

**Men's breakfast- Feb 1 @ Effie's restaurant, Campbell. 1st Sat of the
Month- Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, July 4**

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Introduction to Lutheranism – Sunday Feb 9 at 12.30 pm

Ash Wednesday – Feb 26, 2020

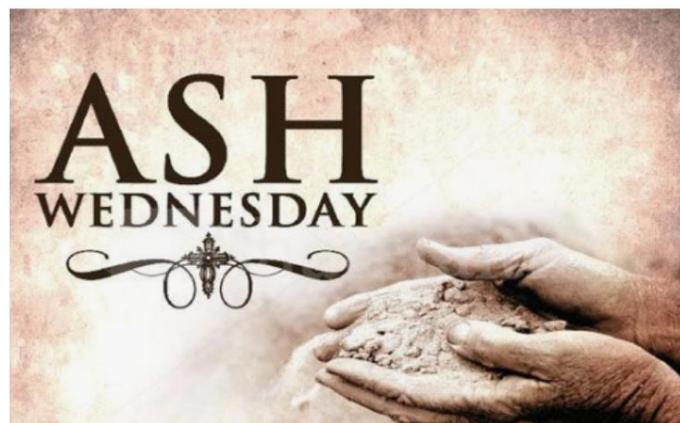
Meal and Meditation –5 Wednesdays –Mar 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, & Apr 1st

Lenten Gathering: 6:30 – 7:30 (Fellowship Hall)

God's River of Life – everyday Wednesday 10.00 – 11:30 a.m.

Pl sign up for Altar Guild

Shelter Meals Schedule: Sign up to cook or serve



But, of course, that is not the final word. The final word belongs to God, and it is a word of LIFE!

For soon after this pronouncement is made upon Adam and Eve, God clothes them. Blood had been shed, and with the exchange of their fig leaves for animal skins, the sign of forgiveness and hope is also included. God continues to care for these poor sinners. And that is good news for us all.

In the incarnation, God comes to us up-close-and-personal, pouring out His divine self for the sake of His beloved-and-broken creation. He clothes us with forgiveness – not, this time, by means of animal skins, but with the very righteousness of Christ Himself. “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

Soon spring will come (as it always does), and it will remind us again that death gives way to new life. Ash Wednesday ushers in Lent, which, in turn, gives way to Easter and resurrection.

Again: The final word belongs to God – and it is a word of life.

I hope you will accompany me on this Lenten journey from death to life. Indeed, coming face to face with our own mortality makes the living of this earthly life more precious. But much more than that: In our Lord Jesus Christ we discover confident hope: Our fear of non-being is swallowed up in the victorious resurrection life Jesus has purchased for us all in His own death and resurrection.

May God grant us all clarity of vision in this year 2020, to see Jesus in the fullness of His being and doing, that we might come to find in Him the certainty of everlasting life and the comfort of inviolable security.

Joyfully journeying with you in the footsteps 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 unwind 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 belongs 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 **“passionate responding to grace we've received by joyfully serving others in the name of Jesus.”**

***OUR Sunday
School Kids.
They are close
bonded, young
Spiritual Souls!
They are Our
Future!***



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! **Please note that we have a new link to sign up in 2019.** Please go to www.ilcsaratoga.org/volunteer or call Ann at the church office (408-867-0822).

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.

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

Liturgists – Prayers: Offer Prayers of the People during the service

Liturgists – Cantor: Assistant leader in worship, chant the opening liturgy

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

Nursery: Watch over the little ones during service

Sunday School: Teach or assist in our 10:45 Sunday school (preschool – high school)

If you have questions about any of these Sunday Morning Activities, please call the church office .



Worship + Love + Serve





Children's Story



The Little Firefighter



In Phoenix, Arizona, a 26-year-old mother stared down at her son who was dying of leukemia. (That is a cancer in the blood.) Her heart was filled with sadness; like any parent she wanted her son to grow up and to fulfill all his dreams. Now that was no longer possible. The leukemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dreams to come true.

She took his little hand into hers, and asked, "Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be when you grew up?" "Mommy, I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up." Mom smiled back and said, "Let's see if we can make that happen now." Later that day she went to her local fire department where she met Fireman Bob. She explained her six-year-old son's wish and asked if it might be possible to give him a ride around the block on a fire engine.

Fireman Bob said, "Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls—the whole nine yards! And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat—not a toy one, but one with the emblem of the Phoenix Fire Department on it—a yellow slicker like we wear, and rubber boots. They're all manufactured right here in Phoenix, so we can get them fast."

Three days later Fireman Bob escorted Billy, dressed in his fire uniform, from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck. Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was thrilled! There were three fire calls in Phoenix that day, and Billy got to go out on all three calls. He rode in the different fire engines, in the paramedic's van, and even in the fire chief's car. He was also videotaped for the local news program.

One night, several weeks later, all of Billy's vital signs began to drop dramatically, and the head nurse, who believed that no one should die alone, began to call the family members to the hospital. Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a fireman, so she called the fire chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he died.

The chief replied, "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes. Will you please do me a favor? When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, announce over the PA system that there is no fire, it's just the fire department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?" About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window. Sixteen firefighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room. With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they loved him.

With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and asked, "Chief, am I really a fireman now?" "Billy, you are," the chief said.

I believe that friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when we have trouble. We can be that kind of friend. Even though you might be young, you can do a good deed for someone. Put your arm around a friend who feels bad, and let them know that you love them.

In God's law there are ten commands. The first four commands tell us how to love and worship God, but the last six tell us how to love and care for each other.

It is very important to Jesus that we be kind to each other and love each other—then, He says, people will really know that we are His children.

THE MESSENGER

Men's Breakfast



Men's Breakfast is held the first Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:00am in the bar, share breakfast, fellowship, and engage in a free-wheeling, bible topic discussion. We conclude by 9:30 am.

All men of the congregation – members and visitors – are welcome

ILC Men enjoying a relaxing Saturday morning breakfast (photo credit: Jack Moorman)



Women's Breakfast

The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Holder's Country Inn Restaurant at 998 South De Anza Boulevard, San Jose. 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.



Our ILC ladies enjoying a relaxed morning visiting with each other. (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



Sunday School Activities



THE MESSENGER



Here's
What's
Happening!

ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS



WEDDINGS AT ILC

Judy Onton is our ILC wedding coordinator.

To find out more, take a brochure from the pew rack, check out our website: www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings and follow us on Instagram: ILCsaratogaweddings. Tell your friends!

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



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.

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Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Saratoga. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1744019> and support ILC every time you shop.



Flower Chart on Kiosk – Sign Up for Altar Flowers



Building & Grounds: Feel like swinging a hammer, turning a wrench, repairing a sprinkler line, or laying down a coat of fresh paint? Help maintain the appearance of our campus and sanctuary.

Contact: Ken Campbell 408-691-5694; Reed Canerday reedcan2@gmail.com; or Clark Canham, 408-605-3955, cfcam@pacbell.net

Magnification Team: Meets monthly to discuss the worship service plans; reviewing and discussing pastor's thoughts and plans for liturgy, special services, prayer services, frequency of communion, Advent services, choir music plans, etc. and addressing any of his concerns. We also discuss volunteer signups for liturgists, lectors, communion assistants, ushers, etc. This is a way to be engaged in a very important aspect of our church. "The team meets on an as needed basis. If you have a concern, comment or suggestion, please contact Pastor, Clark or Carol."

Contact: Clark Canham 408-605-3955, Carol Flint 408-781-3168, or Pastor Derek.

Mission Team: We communicate using infrequent formal meetings, supplemented by email/conversations. Our aim: spread the Jesus story to the unchurched (Evangelism). Efforts needed: urge & train our members to become disciples, follow up on names on the prayer list, and participate in Pastor's neighborhood walks, and support ILC website upgrades. Currently working with the Magnification Team to make ILC a truly welcoming congregation. Mission team also recognizes and celebrates the evangelism efforts of other Lutherans (e.g., overseas missionaries).

Maturity – promotes the education of children and adults at ILC. Volunteers are needed to assist educating youth during the second service Sunday School hour. In preschool, fun activities with the 3-5 year-olds; in elementary, from 1st to 5th grade, two volunteers to instruct the kids with Bible stories, crafts and games.

Volunteers are also needed to teach the 6th through 8th graders in a rotating schedule with the Youth Ministry Leader, Alyssa McCoy. Meetings are minimal. Bible study materials for the elementary grades are distributed via email. Contact Mitzie Eddy 408-656-7025 or mitzeddy@gmail.com

Church Council: Church council is bicameral, functioning as two teams: Council A and Council B. Council A, led by Congregational President Nathan Sarkisian, addresses administrative components, including church finances, facilities and staff. Council B, led by Pastor Derek, addresses the ministry and mission of the Church, including worship, membership, education, service (within the church and beyond its walls), evangelism and outreach, and website and social media. Each council component meets bimonthly, sometimes jointly.

Contact: Nathan Sarkisian 408-591-4976 or Pastor Derek

ILC Annual Events

EASTER

LADIES RETREAT



Habitat for Humanity



Summer Concerts In the Park



Thanksgiving Interfaith Service



Christmas Buffet Decorating



Christmas Concert

Children's Christmas Play



On The Horizon... (mark your calendars)

God's River of Life...

Pastor Derek teaches a Bible Study **each Wednesday morning** at church, from 10:00 – 11:30. All are welcome to attend. We're presently aboard God's Ship *Grace* cruising down God's River of Life. Our journey takes us from the river in Genesis to the river in Revelation. We're stopping at several ports of call, where we set up camp, take a look around, and come to better know our God, ourselves and each other. Your presence is welcome... For more information, call or email Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com or 408-499-4866.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is, February 26, and with it comes the beginning of the season of Lent – forty days (not including Sundays), leading up to Easter. We gather in the sanctuary for a somber service, remembering that “we are dust, and to dust we shall return.” We will also share in the Sacrament of our Lord, and hear that His body and His blood were poured out, for us. The service begins at 7:30 PM.

Then, on the following five Wednesdays, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Meal & Meditation, as we consider and contemplate our Lord Jesus. Pursuing our 2020 vision of seeing Him more clearly and growing in our ability to direct others to Him so that they can see Him, too, we will embark on a study written by teaching pastor Max Lucado called Jesus – the God Who Knows Your Name.

As Pastor Lucado reveals in this video Bible study, “Because Jesus became human, it is now possible for us to see God and hear his voice. If we want to know what matters to God, all we need to do is look in the Bible to see what matters to Jesus. If we want to know what God is doing in our world, we need only ponder the words of Jesus. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we come to understand more clearly the people we were created to be.”

We'll explore several characteristics of Jesus. We'll contemplate His incarnation – that He is God with us. We'll see Him as the friend of sinners, the compassionate physician, the great teacher, a miracle worker and our victorious sacrifice.

We gather each Wednesday at 6:30 and conclude by 7:30 PM. Plan to join us, and bring someone with you.

“Jesus inspires us to spend time at the foot of the cross and search the heart of the one who would rather die for us than live without us.”

An Introduction to Lutheranism

Want to learn more about the founder of our denomination? Want to know what was going down in his day? What was amiss in the Church? What Luther discovered? What caused such a divide that brought about the Reformation, a divide that still exists to this day? What's unique about Lutherans? What's most important to us? And what is our distinctive voice in the Christian choir?

Mark your calendars and come join me on Sunday, February 9, at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room to learn the basics of Lutheranism in this one hour class. Questions? Email me at pastord63@gmail.com.

THE MESSENGER

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

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

Calero County Park has many hiking possibilities for all ages and fitness levels. We'll return to two spots in February. See details below.

Fun for the whole family, these will be "no one left behind" hikes. Invite your friends!



Feb. 8: Calero County Park: Main Entrance 23205 McKean Rd., San Jose, CA 95120

Getting There: Heading south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 5 miles (until it T's at Harry Road). Turn RIGHT. Then, in about 100 yards, turn LEFT on McKean Rd. Go 4.8 miles, and make a sharp right turn into the park. There's plenty of free parking available.

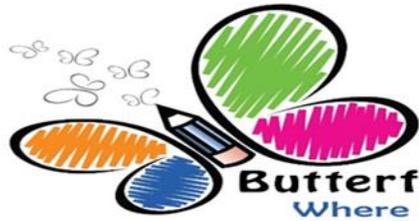
Feb. 22: Calero County Park: Casa Loma Entrance (4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037)

Getting There: Heading south on Highway 85, exit Almaden Expressway. Head south and continue on Almaden Expressway for about 5 miles (until it T's at Harry Road). Turn RIGHT. Then, in about 100 yards, turn LEFT on McKean Rd. Go 6.6 miles, and turn right on Casa Loma Rd. Proceed 1.7 miles. The parking lot will be on your left. 4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 Free parking available – and an overflow lot, as well.

Time:

Plan to arrive by 8:45 AM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 9:00 and plan to return to the parking lot by 11:00.

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 pastorderek@ilcsaratoga.org or calling 408-499-4866.



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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



Youth Handbell Choir

Hopefully you had a chance to see and hear the Youth Handbell Choir perform in church. For our 1st year we had 6-7 ringers and performed in church on 4 Sundays. Based on feedback from you youth and the congregation, our inaugural year was a success!

We are continuing with the Youth Handbell Choir this year and are hoping to grow in numbers. With more ringers, we will have more options in the music that we can play. The Youth Handbell Choir rehearses on Sundays in between 2nd service and Confirmation classes – from 11:45 to 12:30. All youth 10 years and older are welcome to join us.

Don't know much about music? Well, Handbells are a great vehicle for teaching music. Individuals can very quickly learn the technique for ringing bells compared to other instruments that require a lot of practice to master the technique. With Handbells, we can quickly demonstrate so many elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, meter, ...)



Another very important reason to join the Youth Handbell Choir is for the teamwork and comradery. In a Handbell Choir, ALL are needed. The music struggles if even one part is missing. This is a place where all individuals can feel needed and be a part of a team to make music and praise God. The Handbell Choir mirrors the body of Christ. Roman 12:5 says: *"so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* In the Handbell Choir, we are all

separate ringers doing our own thing and yet we're interconnected and need each other to come together to make a joyful noise to God. It reinforces the idea that you need to work together to achieve something great. In a Handbell team, success comes by including everyone and building up the individuals that struggle.

Please contact Carol Flint or Elisabeth Pintar if you are interested in joining us

Also, Handbells are not just for kids. We could use a few more ringers in the adult Handbell Choir too. Those rehearsals are on Thursday evenings 6:00 – 7:00.

Carol Flint
cflint8891@gmail.com
 408-781-3168

Elisabeth Pintar
elisabethpintar@yahoo.com
 408-857-8519

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





ILC YOUTH PRESENTS:



Fireside Room

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY

12



4:30PM to 7PM

**\$15 Per child
Dinner & Activities!
RSVP By 2/9/2019
to Alyssa McCoy
4087680224**

Alyssa@ilcsaratoga.org



ILC YOUTH EVENT

PANCAKE & PAJAMAS
P A R T Y

Fireside Room

SATURDAY FEB 29
9-10:30AM



All Ages Event!

Children under 12 must have a parent/guardian present.

RSVP to Alyssa McCoy

Alyssa@ilcsaratoga.org

4087680224

ILC YOUTH EVENT

PAINT POURING PARTY

12p-2p
March 14

ALL AGES EVENT!
Children under 12 must have
parent/guardian.

All supplies included.
\$10 suggested donation

For more info contact Alyssa McCoy:
alysa@ilcsaratoga.org 4087680224



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH PRESENTS

SPRING CLEANING

CLOTHING SWAP

**9AM TO NOON
MARCH 28**

HOW IT WORKS:

Bring **WASHED, GENTLY WORN** clothing (women's, men's, kid's) in your own bag or box between 9 - 9:30.

Receive 1 credit per piece.

Pay \$2 participation fee to shop for new-to-you clothing 9:30-12pm and checkout with your credits.

Please **DO NOT** bring torn/stained clothing, underwear, or non-clothing items.

Contact info:

Alyssa McCoy

PH: 408.768.0224

Email: Alyssa@ilcsaratoga.org

FELLOWSHIP HALL

14103 SARATOGA AVE. SARATOGA



THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!



14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

Tel: 408-867-0822
Fax: 408-867-0824
Office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

Traditional Service 9:00a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30a.m.

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

Communion is served each Sunday as part of the liturgy.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Feed your soul!

Visitors are always welcome!

Features a more contemporary worship. Sing praises to the Lord with the Mikey Day Band. The music is uplifting and enjoyable for all ages. What a great way to start the week? Communion is served by intinction every Sunday.

Kids' Place- *Infant and Preschool Care during Worship Services*

About the Messenger

Please submit articles by the **15th** of the month, typed (preferably a 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, Vaskie Turner
Email: vskt@att.net

Editor: Vaskie Turner
Webmaster: Aart Bik

Publisher: Ann Wallace

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070



Happy Valentine!