Immanuel Lutheran Church of Saratoga

***** BUILDING PEOPLE, SERVING GOD *****

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Coming Events

Men's breakfast- July 4. (1st Sat of the Month: Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 3)
To join via Zoom, click here: https://zoom.us/j/515623639
Special Note – Page 2
NOTE: During this time of Shelter In-Place, all the dates for the scheduled newsletter events (except where specified) are only placeholders. That is, we will NOT be meeting unless the Shelter In-Place restrictions are lifted. If you are uncertain about whether or not something is going to happen, please email (pastord63@gmail.com) or call (408-499-4866) Pastor Derek to confirm.

****Meet Our Contemporary Worship Team Leader - Page 21****

God's River of Life can be accessed by Zoom here
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618161830

Pl sign up for Altar Guild
Shelter Meals Schedule: Sign up to cook or serve

Special Note!

During these unprecedented days of Shelter-in-Place and Social Distancing, we are (as a member of our faith community answers me whenever I ask how he's doing, even before COVID-19) "still alive!"

But until Shelter-In-Place restrictions are lifted, Immanuel Lutheran Church has "gone virtual."

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE DAILY for fresh servings of Daily Bread and more… It's just one click away: http://ilcsaratoga.org/special.php

Sunday services have been condensed to about 30 minutes and posted online by 9:00 AM each Sunday morning. You can "tune in" at the time you're used to attending services and participate in the community gathering. You are also invited to join us for a time of live online fellowship in our post-service Zoom gathering, which begins at 9:45. Click here to join:

https://zoom.us/j/91149950073?pwd=dzByVXkyVGVsd3lFTUt4Z256K3pMZz09

Wednesday morning Bible Study (10:00 – 11:30) is LIVE via Zoom. All are welcome. Click here to participate: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618161830

Thursday morning Bible Study (Yokefellows) also continues to meet virtually LIVE via Zoom at 6:30 AM. You have to provide your own refreshments, but you can stay in your pajamas! There's room for you at the table. Click here to join: https://zoom.us/j/669784581

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO DO SOME GROCERY SHOPPING OR PICK UP PRESCRIPTIONS FOR YOU. WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

God is with you all in these days. Let's make the best of them, as we continue to love and care for each other and reach out with God's love to our neighbors in need.

Pastor Derek Writes…

By Pastor Derek Engfelt

Pastor Derek Writes…

"How long, O Lord?"
Psalm 13:1; Isaiah 6:11; Habakkuk 1:2; Revelation 6:10

For more than a hundred days now we've been "sheltering in place" here in Santa Clara County. We've endured the restrictions placed upon us much longer than any of us expected. And we're not done yet. We don't know how long this will last – and whether the recently relaxed measures will continue in a positive direction or if restrictions will be tightened up and imposed upon us yet again. Some states are already fearing they're headed back to square one. That's not something you want to have happen to you in the game of Monopoly or when playing Red Light / Green Light, let alone in real life. In the end, what else can we do? We look to God and entrust ourselves and our future into His faithful care.

God has heard the "How Long?" question in every generation. Four examples are given above, expressing angst (that one has been forgotten and rejected by God), inquiry (about the extent of the prophetical task), wonder (about why God refuses to answer one's cry for help) and impatience (how long it will be before God's judgment falls on those who have persecuted His people). In each case, God's people struggle to patiently bear through tough times, and they long for them to end. It's simply hard to wait. And as we do so, questions fill our minds about the presence (or absence) and activity (or inactivity) of God. We don't know the answer to our own contemporary predicament – how long it will

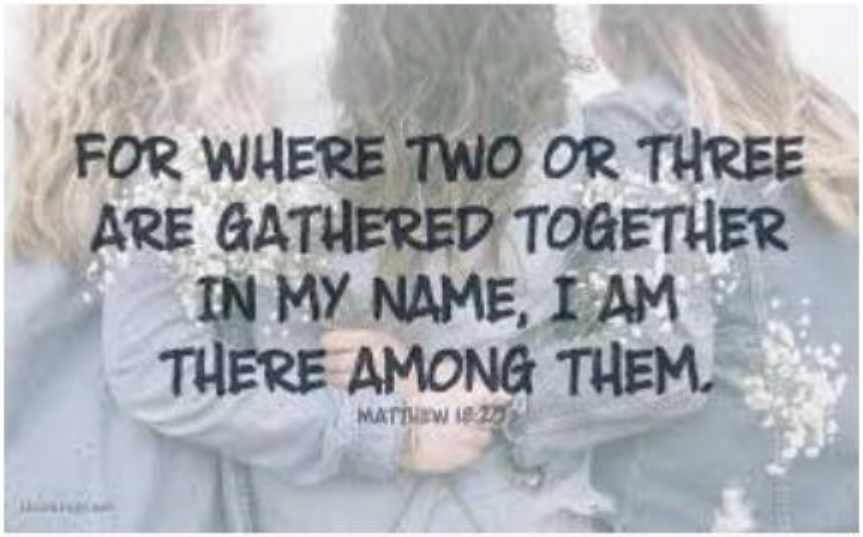
Although we've been granted permission to hold outdoor services for up to 25 people at a time, we've come to the conclusion that for our church community it would be best not to do so quite yet. We don't want to put anyone at risk; instead, we want – to the best of our ability – to ensure the safety of all in our fellowship of faith. We have little to gain by taking the lead in re-gathering physically, and much to lose. We've decided to stay the course, remain ever vigilant, and regather our community when we're confident this is the faithful and responsible thing for us to do.

Until then, please regularly make use of our virtual worship presentations. It's never been easier or more convenient for you to do so. You can even sleep in – and still not miss the service! And if your Sunday happens to be packed with other things, you can still participate by viewing another day during the week. You can access all of our services on the church website, and all of June's services on our Immanuel YouTube channel. A simple search online will land you where you'd like to be. In addition, Daily Bread devotions are posted each morning by 9:00 AM. I hope they serve to start your day off well, remind you of God's presence, instill you with His grace, and challenge you to commit your life to His will and His ways.

Before we know it, we'll be worshiping together again. It is my confident hope that we will be more grateful than ever before for the community with which God has blessed us and that we will enjoy one another's company with deeper appreciation. Until then, know that God is faithful and that God is with you each and every day. You will encounter Him in His Word, in prayer, and in His faithful community.

Grateful for you all, and eager to share physical fellowship with you soon,

Pastor Derek J Engfelt



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.

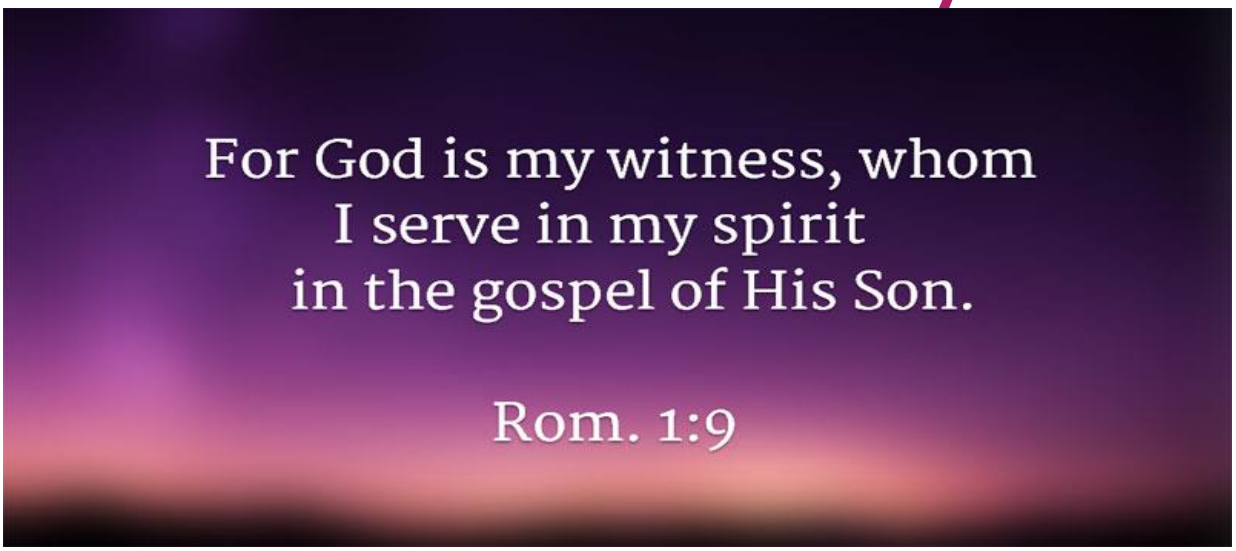
Helping anyone even if it is just a little means so much to people who literally have nothing. God's grace.

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

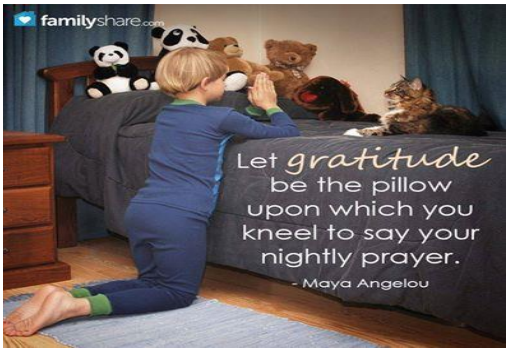
Thank you for Serving!



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.

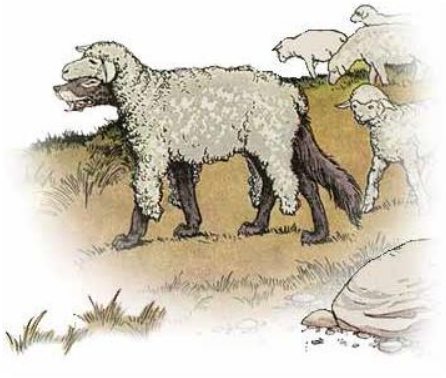


Children's Story

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

A certain Wolf could not get enough to eat because of the watchfulness of the Shepherds. But one night he found a sheep skin that had been cast aside and forgotten. The next day, dressed in the skin, the Wolf strolled into the pasture with the Sheep. Soon a little Lamb was following him about and was quickly led away to slaughter.

That evening the Wolf entered the fold with the flock. But it happened that the Shepherd took a fancy for mutton broth that very evening, and, picking up a knife, went to the fold. There the first he laid hands on and killed was the Wolf.



The evil doer often comes to harm through his own deceit.

Confirmation

Confirmation Classes

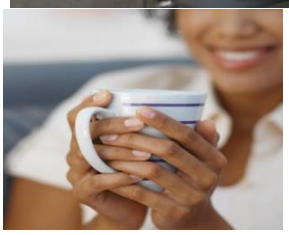
Confirmation is for youth in grades 6-8. We study the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Classes are taught by Pastor Derek & Youth Ministry Leader Alyssa McCoy, held on Sundays at 12:30 PM and take place in the Trust Fund Room. We are currently on summer break and will start up again in September.

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)

THE MESSENGER

Sunday School Activities

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.

Givelify
Tap. Give. Done.

SHOP AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM

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, cfcan@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** from 10:00 – 11:30. All are welcome to attend. We're currently meeting virtually, using Zoom. If you'd like to participate, click here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618161830

We're presently aboard God's Ship *Grace* cruising down God's River of Life. 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. We're presently listening to the message of the prophets. Their words are more relevant to our contemporary situation than you might expect. For more information, call or email Pastor Derek at pastord63@gmail.com or 408-499-4866.

Memorial Service

A memorial service is scheduled to celebrate the life of Catherina "Tine" Ude as well as her heavenly homecoming in Christ Jesus our Lord. Saturday, August 29, Chapel of the Roses at Oak Hill Funeral Home & Memorial Park, 300 Curtner Ave. in San Jose at 10:00 AM. All are welcome.

Car problems? Don't want to leave your home?

Contact Jim & Vaskie Turner who have had a good experience with a company that provides pickup service from your home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

THE MESSENGER

Weddings at Immaunel 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 santuary 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 websites that are useful and informative!

Coronavirus Hotline for Seniors - The hotline number is **1-833-544-2374.**
https://www.kcra.com/article/gov-newsom-coronavirus-update-march-31/31983378
Call **2-1-1** in 150 languages. 24/7
Text **211211** to receive texts on updates.
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)
http://www.contacthelpline.org/emotional-listening-support

Santa Clara County (SSC) Update on Coronavirus – www.sccphd.org/coronavirus.
https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/home.aspx

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

State of California hotline to deliver services & help for older Californians - **1-833-544-2374**.

CDC's corona virus household check list.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html

Pack your own groceries: http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/spendingandborrowing/during-coronavirus-pandemic-youll-have-to-pack-your-own-groceries-if-you-have-a-reusable-bag/ar-BB11YLZ5?ocid=ientp

Data on social distancing scorecard in states and counties -
https://www.unacast.com/covid19/social-distancing-scoreboard

County of Santa Clara COVID-19 Data Dashboard -
https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/dashboard.aspx

Anyone interested in reporting a possible violation - Can email pubhealthreferral@dao.sccgov.org or call 408-792-2300 to leave a voicemail.

**There may be a surge in mail-order prescriptions due to the shelter-in-place. Receiving the orders may take a little longer than usual. It may be helpful to place your critical medicine mail-orders, preferably a week ahead to avoid last-minute requests. Again, not hoarding implies that all other patients will receive their vital prescriptions on time!

Just for laughs – Let's all giggle and laugh for nothing at 10 am, 3 pm and 8 pm each day! And this website helps 😊 http://jokes.christiansunite.com/ Here is a preview!

No Breaks for Firemen

A fire started in the grasslands close to a farm. The county fire department rushed to the scene, but the fire was more than they could handle. Someone suggested calling the volunteer fire department. Despite some doubt that they would be of any assistance, they were called.

The volunteers arrived in a dilapidated old fire truck. They rumbled straight towards the fire, drove right into the middle of the flames and stopped! The firefighters jumped from the truck and frantically started spraying water in all directions. Soon they had snuffed out the center of the fire and leaving two parts which were easily put out.

As the farmer watched all this, he was impressed and grateful that his house and farm had been spared. He quickly got his cheque book and donated $1000 to the volunteer fire department.

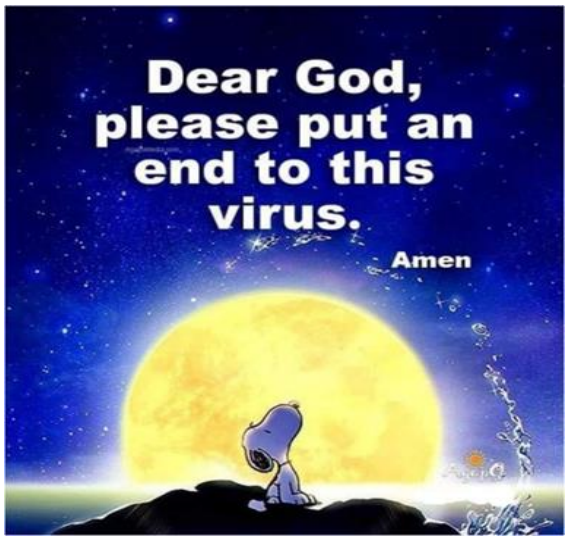
A local news reporter asked the volunteer fire captain how they planned to use the funds.

The captain replied, "The first thing we're goanna do is get the brakes on our fire truck fixed!"

We are all in this together!

God Bless and Stay Safe!

Vaskie Turner



A Word of Introduction by Anton Nel:

A man's heart plans his course, but Yahweh directs his steps. - Proverbs 16:9

This verse has become my favorite personal mantra. Would I have anticipated in December that a few months later I would be working at ILC? Could the world have predicated when thinking through our new year's resolutions, how our lives would forever be changed by COVID-19? Could I have anticipated touring the US as a music missionary for 7 months when I was 21 years old? So much that we plan for, sometimes turns out differently as God has a different plan for our lives. The unknown almost always is accompanied by fear. "Fear not!" is the most repeated command in the Bible. Even in this COVID season God wants us to hear His word of comfort, "Fear not!"

Being a musician, the psalmist David resonates with me. He puts his trust in God!

> When I am afraid, I will trust in You.
> In God, whose word I praise, o
> In God I trust, I will not be afraid.
> What can mortal man do to me?

My thoughts can easily be filled up with stress. I only find peace to overcome the anxiety and fear I'm feeling when I'm "marinating" in scripture and offering prayers telling God how I am feeling. It's a daily challenge. Singing along to theologically strong worship music helps me create the language I am not always able to express. Many of those lyrics become my prayers.

I have enjoyed listening to our ILC Zoom conversations after our streaming services on Sunday & reading the daily newsletters. It speaks of a congregation that is relational and caring. Offering to take residents groceries warms my heart. My Mother turns 94 in early September and I have noticed her mental state deteriorate the past 3 months of lock down in South Africa. How I wish she was connected to a community like ILC! The past few weeks I have had conversation with a musician friend in South Africa and was saddened to hear that she never wanted to put her foot in another church as long as she lives. I was further surprised to hear that she was a worship leader for many years. She expressed that the only thing she misses was the sense of community she felt in a church. As much as I enjoy preparing music, playing piano (I feel His pleasure); I would hope that my life speaks loudest to non-Christians. Love is a universal language.

In this new season it feels as if we have an unframed picture. None of us knows the future, but I am reminded of a very old song that speaks to me about putting my trust in God, not to fear but be at peace:

> Many things about tomorrow,
> I don't seem to understand
> But I know who holds tomorrow
> And I know who holds my hand
> - Music and Lyrics by Ira Stanphill (1950)

Let's continue to meditate and prepare our plans with utmost solicitude, but it rests with God whether He will carry them to completion or not, and whether, if they are to be accomplished, it be done with ease or with painful labor.

THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!

Immanuel
Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

Tel: 408-867-0822
Fax: 408-867-0824
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.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Feed your soul!

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 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
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Publisher: Ann Wallace

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

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