



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



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

## Coming Events

**Dec 6: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast@ Effie's in Campbell(1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the Month: Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7)**

**Dec 20: 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)**

**"Dec 7", "Dec 28" & "Jan 4, 2026" @ 10:15 AM: One Congregational Service!**

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**December 5 @ 7:30 pm Velocity Handbell Concert** 🎵

**December 6 @ 6:00 pm Celebration of Light \*Blaney Plaza** 🏠

**December 14 @ 7.00 PM: Elisabeth Pintar's Organ Concert** 🎹

**December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** 🕯️

**5:00 (Family: Hymns with Organ & Children's Story Time)**

**10:00 PM (Traditional: Hymns & Choir)**

**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 🌸 & Christmas Poinsettias 🌺 –Pg 9**

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

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

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



**Our Savior is Born!**



None of us knows the specifics of what will happen for us in 2026. But we do well to take careful consideration of how we will spend the days that come to us. We think things through; we make our plans. And as we do, let us keep in mind that time and life are precious gifts of God. Let us make our plans in light of God's purposes and will. And let us be sure not to overschedule ourselves, lest there be no room available for the serendipities God will surely send our way. Often, they are some of the best times of life.

Of course, there are no guarantees that you and I will live all 365 days of the coming year. But God has given us the gift of this day. So let us rejoice in it, give thanks to God, and know that this day - and all of our days – are in God's good and gracious hands. Most of all, let us take comfort in the promise of our Lord: that where He is (in heaven), there we shall be also, for all eternity.

Until then, we've got things to do – so let's get to it! And may all of our endeavors be done to the glory of God and for the good of His people.

Serving in Your midst with Joy & Thanksgiving,

Pastor Derek J. Engfelt



# THE MESSENGER

## People Helping People !

**An experience by congregation member** – 1. Man on the Median – Our member was driving and was about to make a left-hand turn at Saratoga and Prospect/West Campbell Ave when he saw a man with a sign asking for food or money. Our member rolled down his window and showed him the People Helping People clear bag so he could see what was inside. He then told the man "Our Church, ILC, made the bags to help people. The man said that he could really use this and then that he and others lived under the bridge on Prospect Ave. near Lawrence and that he was also collecting food and money for them. Our member gave him two bags and he thanked him profusely and said God Bless.

2. Young man sagging by the Store: Our member was shopping at Trader Joes and on his way out saw a young man looking very dejected with a sign asking for food. He sat next to the young man and asked him what was wrong. He answered that he had been living at the shelter and that the other day all his belongings were stolen from the shelter, including his cheap cell phone. He said he needed this in order to get around and look for a job. Our member mentioned about the food packages and that our Church ILC was always trying to help people. The young man said that was very special. Before saying goodbye, our member told the young man to try to keep his spirits up and to go back to the shelter. He said he was but was trying to get some food and money to get another phone. They talked about positivity and using all the gov't services available. The young took the two bags and he thanked our member profusely.

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

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

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

***Sunday School meets needs!***





# THE MESSENGER

## Volunteer to Serve on Sundays



Thank you for  
Serving!

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

Rom. 1:9

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

Service Opportunities include:

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

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

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

**Coffee:** Provide treats for fellowship time after service

**Communion:** Help distribute communion during service

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

**Lector:** Read lessons in church

**Liturgist:** Assistant leader in worship, chant the opening liturgy

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



If you have questions about any of these Sunday Morning Activities, please email Alyssa Morgan [alyssamccoy@comcast.net](mailto:alyssamccoy@comcast.net)



**Worship + Love + Serve**

## Children's Story



The Christmas Wish Journal



In a cozy little town blanketed by snow, a girl named Mia eagerly awaited Christmas. She loved everything about the season—twinkling lights, frosty mornings, and the scent of pine trees. But what Mia loved most was the Christmas Wish Journal—a magical book passed down through generations in her family.

Legend said that anyone who wrote a wish in the journal and truly believed in its magic would see their wish come true on Christmas Eve. Mia had never used it before, but this year, she had a special wish.

Mia's best friend, Jack, had moved away in the summer. She missed him dearly, especially during Christmas. They used to build snow forts, bake cookies, and sing carols together. The holidays just did not feel the same without him.

On December 1st, Mia carefully opened the journal. Its pages shimmered like frost in the morning sun. With her favorite red pen, she wrote, "I wish Jack could visit me this Christmas." She closed the journal and whispered, "Please let it come true".

Each day, Mia waited for something magical to happen. She shoveled the driveway with her dad, hoping Jack would suddenly appear. She decorated cookies with her mom, wishing Jack would walk through the door. But as Christmas Eve approached, there was no sign of her friend.

By the afternoon of Christmas Eve, Mia felt discouraged. Maybe the journal was not magical after all. She decided to distract herself by helping her neighbors, the Thompsons, who were hosting a community Christmas dinner. Mia spent hours setting up tables, decorating the hall with garlands, and hanging ornaments on the giant Christmas tree.

As the hall filled with laughter and the smell of gingerbread, Mia smiled, feeling a little better. She loved seeing people happy, even if her wish had not come true.

Suddenly, she heard a familiar voice behind her. "Mia?" She spun around, her heart racing. There was Jack, holding a tray of cookies! "Jack! How...? When...?" she stammered, her eyes wide with surprise.

"My mom got a last-minute work trip here, so we drove in last night. I wanted to surprise you!" Jack said with a grin.

Mia's heart swelled with joy. The Christmas Wish Journal was magical! But as she looked around the hall, she realized something even more important.

Her wish had come true not just because of the journal but because of the love and kindness she had shared with others. Christmas was not just about wishes; it was about giving, sharing, and being with the people who mattered most.

That night, as the first snowflakes of Christmas fell, Mia and Jack laughed and played, their friendship shining bright.





# 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.

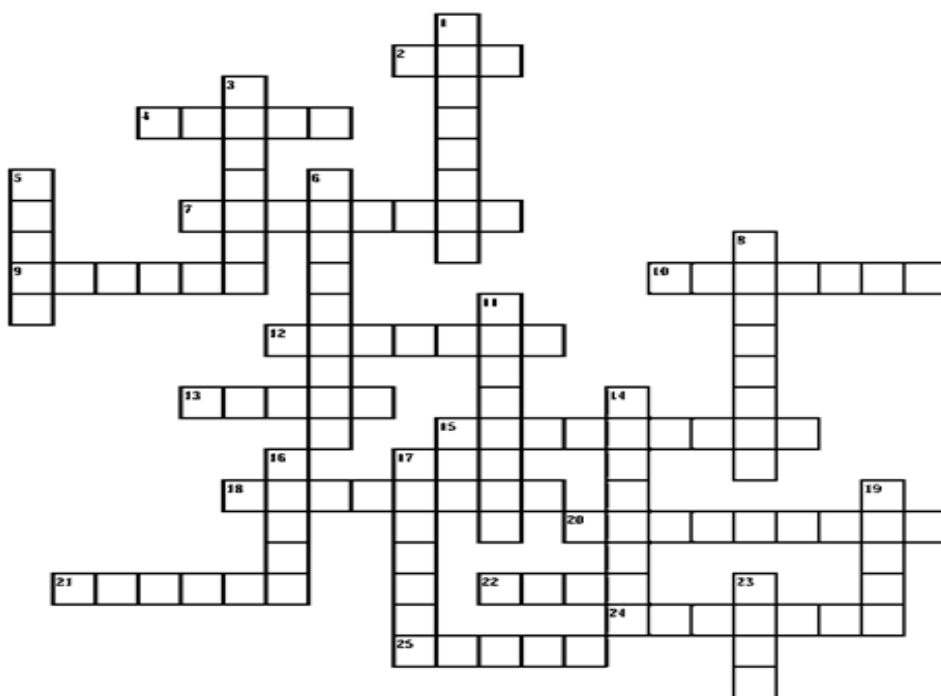


ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)

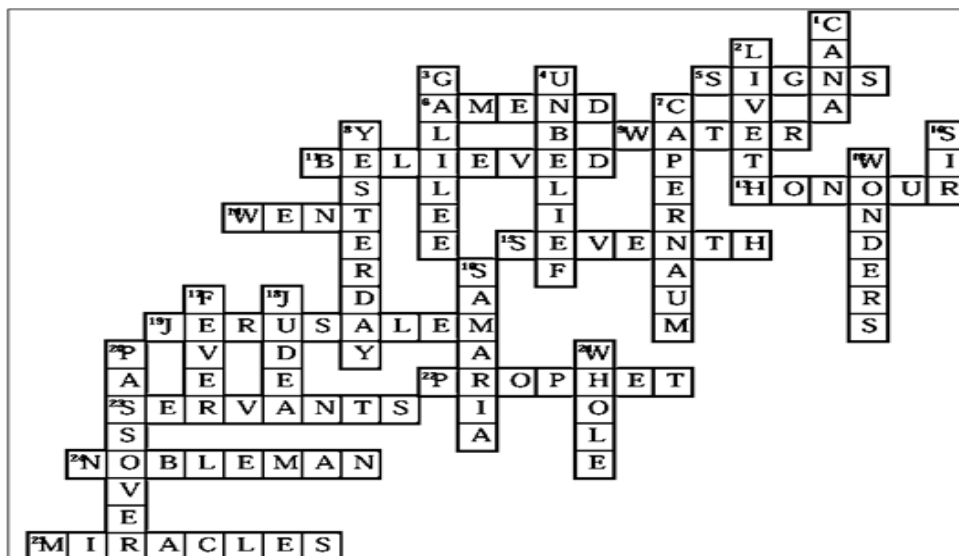




### Crossword Puzzle: The Noble Man



### November Answers



### Across

- 2 Address of the nobleman to Jesus (in KJV).
- 4 To get better
- 7 The reason why Jesus worked miracles (cf. Mk. 9:24; Jn. 20:30-31)
- 9 "Thy son \_\_\_\_\_."
- 10 This man is without honor in his own country
- 12 Province in which Cana is found
- 13 Affliction of the nobleman's son
- 15 When the boy was healed
- 18 Feast at which Jews had seen Jesus work miracles (cf. Jn. 2:23)
- 20 City where the nobleman lived
- 21 To esteem
- 22 Proof that the nobleman believed (Jn. 4:50)
- 24 Where Jesus had been before returning to Galilee
- 25 "Except ye see \_\_\_\_\_ and wonders, ye will not believe."

### Down

- 1 What Jesus did in Jerusalem at Passover
- 3 Hour in which the boy was healed (What time of day is this?)
- 5 "And himself believed and his \_\_\_\_\_ house."
- 6 City where Temple of the Jews located
- 8 A Jew who served Herod the King (cf. Lk. 8:3; Ax. 13:1)
- 11 Why the nobleman left Jesus in Cana
- 14 Met the nobleman with good news
- 16 What Jesus turned to wine
- 17 A miracle
- 19 Province in which Jerusalem was located
- 23 Where Jesus worked His second miracle in Galilee

**\*To view the on numbers the crossword puzzle, please use the '-' minus and '+' plus sign on top of the pdf page to enlarge this page.**





## 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](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 ParkThanksgiving  
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)

**NOTE: We will not be having class on 12/24 or on 12/31.**

## 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 *Obadiah, Jonah & Micah*. 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=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNIQT09>

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).

**NOTE: We will not be having class on 12/25 or on 1/1.**

## 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>

**NOTE: We will not be having class on 12/24 or on 12/31.**

## 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...

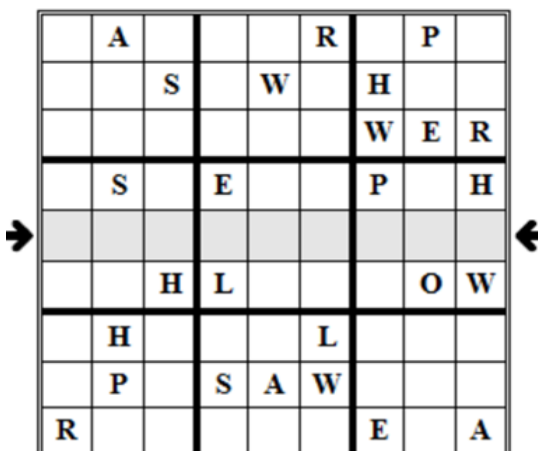
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high-end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities,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



| Hint                   |
|------------------------|
| The end of all wars    |
| The 9 letters to use : |
| A E H L O P R S W      |

### November Answer

| PLOWSHARE  |
|--|
| Did You Know ?   |
| In the New World, men «will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.» (Isaiah 2:4). That's excellent news, since history shows that war is better at abolishing nations than nations are at abolishing war. |



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## 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](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings). Follow us on Instagram: ILC Saratoga weddings. 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>

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

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

<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 website. 1. <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

### Computer down



Our new office computer system was down as much as it was working. My co-worker Cathy decided to stay late one evening to catch up on the work that had accumulated. On her way home, a police officer stopped her for speeding.

"What a perfect end to an awful day!" she exclaimed. "Our computer was down for a long time, and I stayed late to catch up, and now this!"

The officer was unaffected by Cathy's griping, and he went to his car to prepare a citation. After what seemed an eternity, he returned with her license and registration. As he handed them to her, he smiled and said, "Our computer is down."

**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>

Show empathy 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 – Blessed Giving

A friend of mine named Paul received a new car from his brother as a pre-Christmas present. On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a poor lad was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it.

"Is this your car, mister?" he asked. Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy looked astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything? Gosh, I wish....."

He hesitated, and Paul knew what he was going to wish. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels.

"I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that."

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively added, "Would you like a ride in my new car?"

"Oh, yes, I'd love that!"

After a short ride, the poor lad turned and, with his eyes aglow, said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop right where those steps are?" the boy asked. He ran up the steps. Then, a little while later, Paul heard him coming back, but it took him time to return. He was carrying his little polio-crippled brother. He sat down on the bottom step, then stood close to him and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas, and it didn't cost him a cent, and someday I'm going to give you one just like it; then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the little lad into the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him, and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride.

That Christmas Eve, Paul learned what Jesus meant when He said, "It is more blessed to give....."

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!

**Dec. 13: 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.



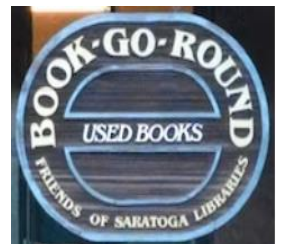
**Getting There:** From the church, turn right, heading southwest toward the Village of Saratoga. Saratoga Road becomes Big Basin at the light. Continue straight, through the Village of Saratoga. You will pass Hakone Gardens on your left. Entrance to the park will be on your left, about 1/2 mile down the road (1.6 miles from church). **Beware of oncoming traffic**, as you turn left to get into parking lot.

**Time: 8:00 AM.** 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 the parking lot right around 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

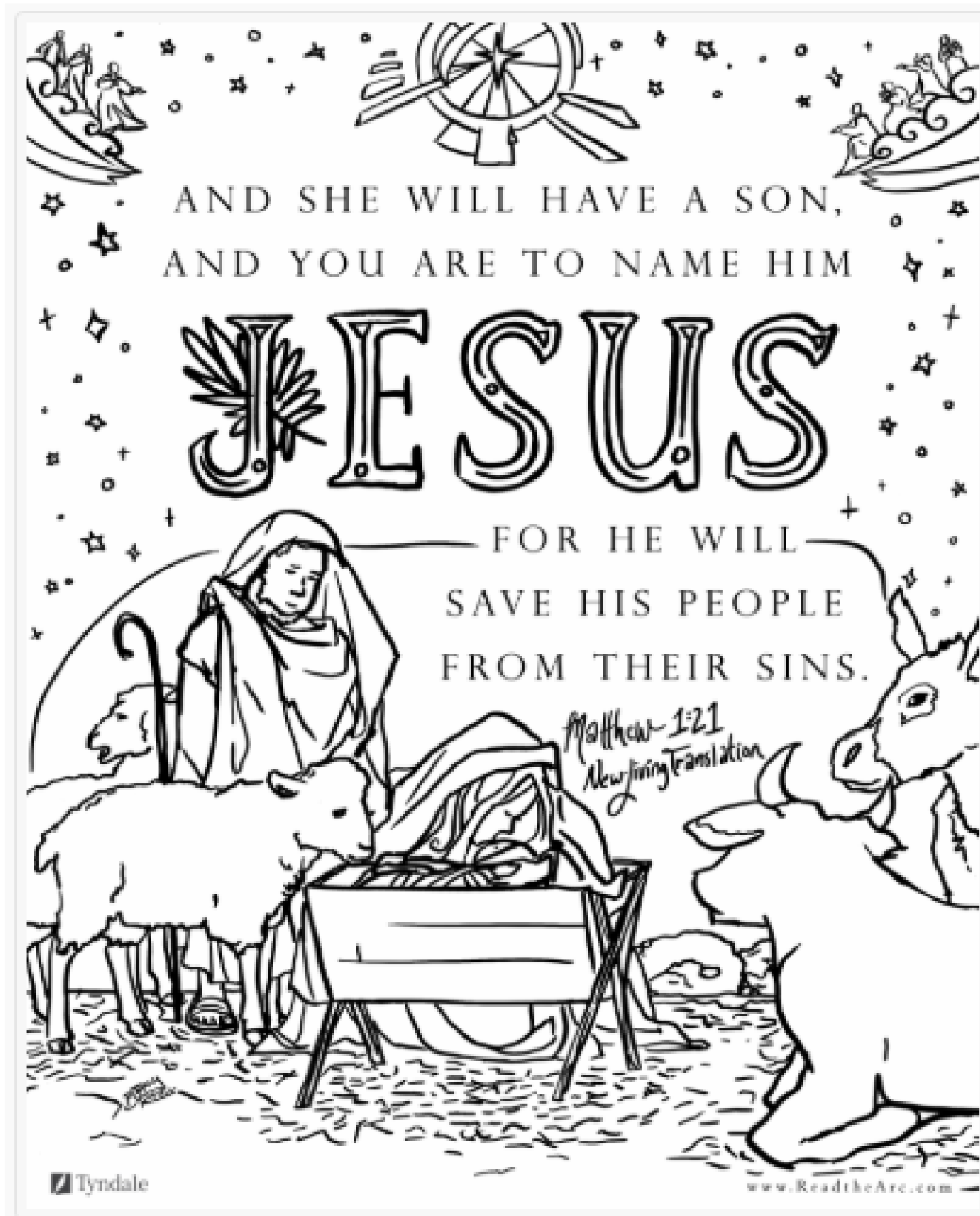
For a treat, visit Book-Go-Round (BGR) at 14410 Oak Street in Saratoga. BGR is a secondhand bookstore operated by volunteers of the Friends of the Library and the National Charity League, Inc (NCL). The store opens at 12:00 PM every day (Saturdays at 10:00 AM). BGR has supported the Saratoga Library 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...



**CHRISTMAS! WORD SEARCH**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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**ADVENT**  
**ANGELS**  
**BAUBLES**  
**BELLS**  
**BIRTH OF JESUS**  
**BOXING DAY**  
**CAROL SINGING**  
**CHIMNEY**  
**CHRISTMAS CAKE**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**PUDDING**

**CHRISTMAS TREE**  
**CRACKERS**  
**ELVES**  
**FAMILY**  
**FOOD**  
**HOLIDAYS**  
**HOLLY**  
**IVY**  
**MINCE PIES**

**MISTLETOE**  
**MULLED WINE**  
**PARTY**  
**PRESENTS**  
**QUEEN'S SPEECH**  
**REINDEER**  
**ROBIN**  
**RUDOLPH**  
**SANTA CLAUS**

**SCROOGE**  
**SHEPHERDS**  
**SNOWMAN**  
**STAR**  
**TINSEL**  
**TURKEY**  
**WISEMEN**  
**WRAPPING**  
**PAPER**  
**YULELOG**

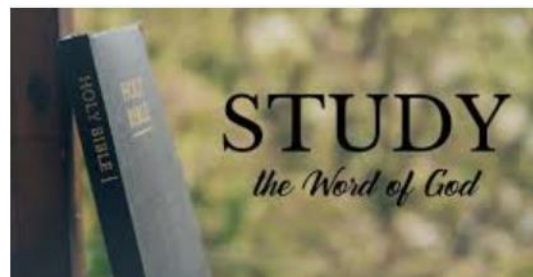
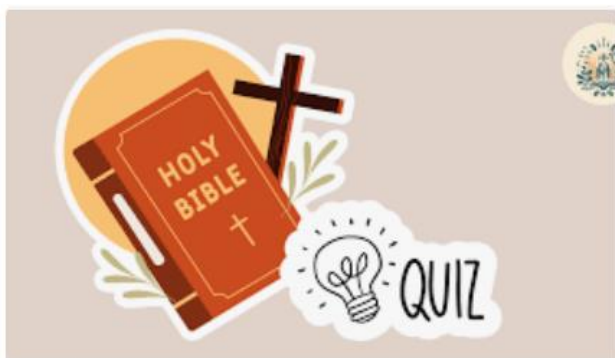
**November Answers**

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# THE MESSENGER

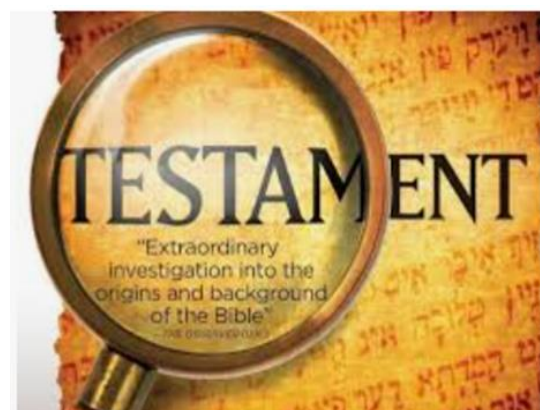
## Bible Trivia Questions: Physical Bible



1. Who wrote about the crucifixion of Jesus, his brother James, and the resurrection around 115 AD?
2. Who wrote these words in the second century?
3. For what duration did Egypt hold the Israelites (Hebrews) captive?
4. How long were the Israelites wandering in the desert?
5. How tall was Goliath?
6. Are unicorns mentioned in the King James Bible?
7. Name one of the two men who killed 300 men with his spear at one time.
8. Whom did God want to kill because his son had not undergone circumcision?
9. Who was two years older than his father, according to Bible math?
10. Who named every animal on the earth?

## November Answers

1. The Anointed One
2. Light Bringer
3. Revelation
4. Book of Job
5. By accepting the gift of God's grace
6. Holy Spirit-inspired writers
7. This is a story about a king of Uruk in Mesopotamia
8. A story of a war fought with Israel as described in the Bible
9. Josephus



## Sharing the Joy of Christmas: Adopt-A-Family

The Community Service Committee is leading the way to support the Adopt-a-Family program from Family Supportive Housing. We've been assigned a small family, consisting of a single father and two daughters. A Christmas Gift Board has been set up in the narthex, listing the names of the family and ideas gift ideas written on tags. All gifts should be UNWRAPPED and brought to church no later than Sunday, December 7, as delivery will be on the 8th. In the meantime, please keep these children and their parents in your prayers. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Jacks at linaloubob5@yahoo.com.

**Poinsettia Plants:** You can help add beauty and cheer to our church sanctuary with the purchase of poinsettia. Suggested donation \$12/plant. Reserve your plant in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ or in honor of \_\_\_\_\_. Email Sheila in the church office at office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com or submit flyer included in Sunday bulletins, by Dec 14.

**Special Gift, Special Appeal:** In response to God's blessing in our midst, a generous donor is offering a 2-1 match, of donations totaling up to \$25,000, in support of Midtown Family Services. (If we receive \$25K in total donations, the donor will add another \$50K to it.) Among other things, Midtown assists those who are in-between paychecks and are in danger of being evicted from their residence. They also work with recent parolees, to assist them as they re-establish themselves in the community to be productive members of society. They do their work in the name of Jesus for the glory of God. You can find more information here: <https://midtownfs.org/>

Would you like to contribute toward this special gift toward Midtown? You can send a check to the church office or bring it with you when you come to worship, payable to ILC and noting Midtown in the memo portion of your check. Donations must be received in the church office no later than Dec. 28. Thank you, in advance, for your generous contributions to those in need. "When you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40).

## Campus Hospitality

In December we welcome new renters on Sunday mornings. Ebenezer Church, a bilingual (Spanish/English) congregation of approximately 30 members, will be meeting in the nursery area (front part of the Fellowship Hall), each Sunday at 8:30. Let us extend our kindest hospitality to this worshiping community in Christ's name.

## Christmas Decorating

Many thanks to Judy & Aare Onton, Candy & Stu Campbell & to Margit Chapman for heading up the decorations again year. See below for a list of dates, duties and volunteers needed:

Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:00 AM – noon (all welcome): Decorate and hang fresh wreaths on window wall. Decorate artificial tree in Narthex.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10:00 AM – noon (all welcome): Decorate fresh tree in Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 20, 10:00 AM – noon (3-4 volunteers needed): Unbox and arrange poinsettias. Set up Nativity scene. Please contact Judy if you can help: judyonton@comcast.net

**A Night of Carols:** Our own Anton Nel will be at the piano leading A Night of Carols at Menlo Church on Friday, December 12, at 6:30 PM and 8:00 PM. This is yet another opportunity to add to the joy and celebration of the season, as we rejoice at our Savior's birth among us. Menlo is located at 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA, 94025.

**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)



### 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](http://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 \(sccgov.org\)](#) **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.**

[COVID-19 Vaccines](#) | [COVID-19](#) | [CDC](#) **JULY 30, 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.



## 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 a 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\\_12.pdf](https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter_2025_12.pdf)

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070

