



January 2026

# The Messenger

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

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

## Inside this Issue

Pastor Derek Writes.....	2	Sunday services-Traditional – 9.00 AM *Contemporary Service - 10.45 AM
People Helping People.....	4	Online Service - <a href="https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php">https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php</a> (Live stream)
Children's Story.....	6	<b>Inspirational Christian Story – Page 17; Bible Crossword Puzzle-Pg 8</b> <b>Bible Wordoku-Pg 12; Bible Coloring for Therapy-Pg 19</b> <b>Bible Word search puzzle-Pg 20; Bible Trivia Questions-Pg 21</b>
Women's Breakfast.....	7	<b>Bible Word search puzzle-Pg 20; Bible Trivia Questions-Pg 21</b> <b>Sign-up for Sunday Service Altar Flowers</b>  –Pg 9
Men's Breakfast.....	7	<b>"Volunteer to Serve on Sundays!"</b>
Crossword Puzzle.....	8	*Please sign up for weekly Altar Guild ***
Mark Your Calendar.....	9	<b>*Shelter Meals Schedule: Please Sign up to cook or serve***</b>
Memories at ILC.....	10	<b>Jan 18 -Family Supportive Housing</b> -Contact Linda Jacks @ <a href="mailto:lindaloubob5@yahoo.com">lindaloubob5@yahoo.com</a>
Upcoming Events.....	11	
ILC Wedding.....	15	
Editor's Desk.....	16	
Vaccination information.....	23	
Come Worship With Us!.....	24	
About the Messenger.....	24	



## Pastor Derek Writes...

By Pastor Derek Engfelt



### Pastor Derek Writes...

“And renew a right spirit within me...”

Psalm 51:10

“What is it that will make your heart sing?” That was one of the prompts shared in a grant application I recently completed, in the hope of receiving assistance for a pastoral sabbatical. Although I was not awarded the grant, the question did make me think hard about what would bring me joy and renewal in my life and ministry, and it served to help me plan a three-month sabbatical I will be taking in 2026.

I began serving the Immanuel faith community on September 1, 2008. I had hoped to complete six years of service (never having served in any prior congregation for more than four years). Now I find myself on the brink of tripling my initial hope. And how blessed the journey has been for me and my family! How I treasure our faith community! It has brought me great joy to have accompanied you on your journey of faith and in the service of our Lord.

I'm excited about this coming year. Not only for the refreshment I expect to receive during my time away. I'm also excited about what God will do in the Immanuel faith community in my absence. I'm looking forward to hearing how the congregation will come together to honor God by doing the work of His Church – in familiar ways we have learned well and in new ways that will surprise us all. God is faithful, and I trust that He will continue to bless our community, even as we continue to be a blessing to others.

You will be hearing more about the sabbatical in the coming months – especially the plans we're putting in place (which include both outside pastoral support and inside opportunities for each congregation member). But here in this space, let me tell you about some of my plans and how I trust it will bring me refreshment.

Early on in my faith journey, I was encouraged to memorize key Bible passages. Year by year, I've continued to add to my stack of 3x5 index cards, until I accumulated well over 1,000. In addition to gaining familiarity with the Good Book, participating in this practice has served to feed my soul and grow my faith. It has made my heart sing.

Each day of my time away, I plan to do three things: spend one hour reading the Bible; spend an additional hour reviewing Scripture verses/passages I've learned over the past years; and journaling. The journal will include reflections on my day's reading/review, as well as reflecting on how I saw the hand of God at work in my life and in the world that day. Walking, hiking and cycling will also be part of my daily routine, as this, too, serves to keep my body healthy and refreshes my soul.

I would like to thank the congregation for granting me this time off. I look forward to sharing the results with you upon my return – even as I will look forward to hearing how God has worked in the ILC faith community while I've been away.

Trusting in The Lord of the Church and Serving Alongside You with Joy,

Pastor Derek J Engfelt

P.S. The sabbatical timeframe will be post-Easter: April 27 – July 26.



**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**

## THE MESSENGER

## Children's Story



A Flower a day



Once upon a time there were two friends who lived in a palace with their families, who worked in service of the King. One of these boys knew a girl he liked so much that he wanted to give her a present.

One day, he was walking with his friend in the main palace hall, and he saw a big vase filled with the loveliest flowers you could imagine. He decided to take one to give to the girl, thinking that no one would see him do so. He did the same thing the next day, and the next, and the next... until, one day, the King noticed how few flowers were left in the vase. He was so angry that he called everyone in the palace to assemble.

When they were all before the King, the boy thought he should say it had been him who took the flowers. However, his friend told him to be quiet, because the King would be terribly angry with him. The boy was paralyzed with fear, but when the King came near he decided to confess.

As soon as the boy said that he had done it, the King went red with anger, but on hearing what the boy had done with the flowers, a smile appeared on the King's face, and he said,

"I couldn't have thought of a better use for my flowers."

And, from that day, the boy and the King became great friends. They went to the vase and took two of those wonderful flowers, one for the girl, and the other for the Queen.

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

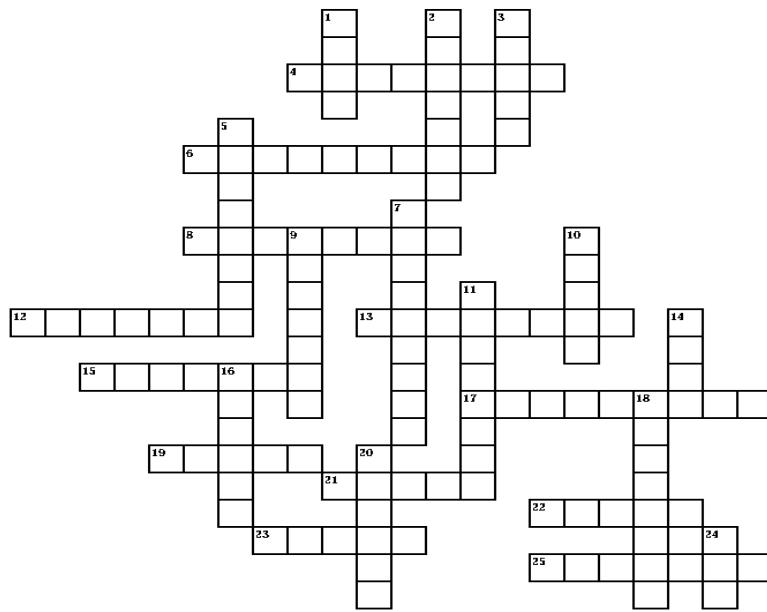
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



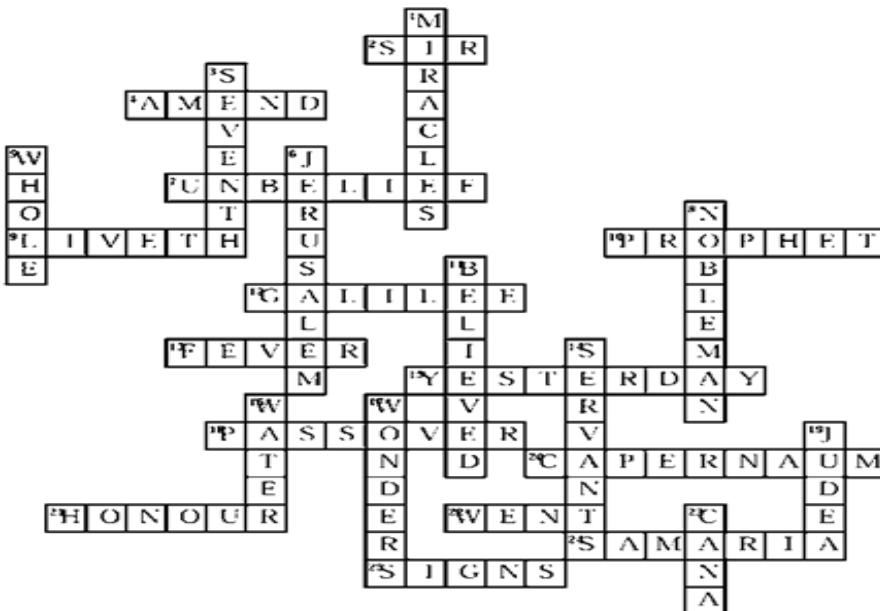
ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



### Crossword Puzzle: The Noble Man



### December Answers



### Across

- 4 The reason why Jesus worked miracles (cf. Mk. 9:24; Jn. 20:30-31)
- 6 City where Temple of the Jews located
- 8 Feast at which Jews had seen Jesus work miracles (cf. Jn. 2:23)
- 12 A miracle
- 13 Why the nobleman left Jesus in Cana
- 15 This man is without honor in his own country
- 17 City where the nobleman lived
- 19 "And himself believed and his \_\_\_\_\_ house."
- 21 "Except ye see \_\_\_\_\_ and wonders, ye will not believe."
- 22 What Jesus turned to wine
- 23 Province in which Jerusalem was located
- 25 Where Jesus had been before returning to Galilee

### Down

- 1 Proof that the nobleman believed (Jn. 4:50)
- 2 Province in which Cana is found
- 3 To get better
- 5 Met the nobleman with good news
- 7 When the boy was healed
- 9 Hour in which the boy was healed (What time of day is this?)
- 10 Affliction of the nobleman's son
- 11 What Jesus did in Jerusalem at Passover
- 14 Where Jesus worked His second miracle in Galilee
- 16 To esteem
- 18 A Jew who served Herod the King (cf. Lk. 8:3; Ax. 13:1)
- 20 "Thy son \_\_\_\_\_."
- 24 Address of the nobleman to Jesus (in KJV).

\*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.

# THE MESSENGER



Here's  
What's  
Happening!

## 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

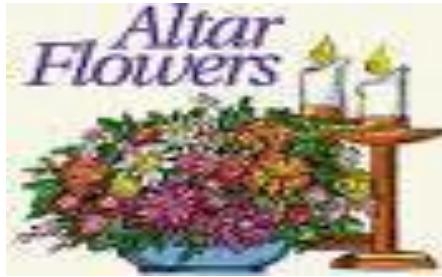
**Community Support:** Thank you for your continued donations of clothes (placed in bags), food, and children's books. The collection bins are located alongside the church office parking lot, and you can drop items (non-perishables) in the bins at any time. Your generosity is appreciated!

**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.

**Givelify**  
Tap. Give. Done.

[PayPal](#)

[Zeffy](#)



**Each Sunday, we adorn our altar in the sanctuary with flowers.** If you would like to purchase flowers in honor of a special birthday or anniversary, please email our Office Administrator, Sheila Wallace at [office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com](mailto:office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com) or Pastor Derek at [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com)

Also are available for sign-up in honor or memory of someone for:

Easter Lily plants for Easter  and Poinsettia plants for Christmas! 

\*These flowers adorn the sanctuary for these special services!

**Memories at ILC****EASTER****LADIES RETREAT****Habitat for Humanity****Summer Concerts  
In the Park****Thanksgiving  
Interfaith Service****Tree Decorating****Christmas Concert****Children's Christmas Play**

## Worship Offerings

We offer three worship experiences – traditional, contemporary and livestream. <https://ilcsaratoga.org/live.php>. Please check website for each week's Livestream start time.

### Wednesday Bible Study: Expanding Our Vision

Join us Wednesday mornings in at 10:00 AM as we take a deeper dive into the second reading appointer for the coming Sunday. The class is entitled *Expanding Our Vision*. Because Sunday's sermon is almost always centered on the gospel selection, we don't often explore the second reading in any depth. This class gives us the opportunity to do so. In addition to taking a closer look at the second reading itself, we'll also consider any connections it has to the gospel reading for that Sunday.

We meet in person in the Fireside Room. Treats are served at the conclusion of the class (11:30). If you're unable to meet with us in person, you can join via Zoom by clicking here:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83250020639>

If you would like to participate or for more information regarding the material we are using, please contact Pastor Derek at [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto:pastord63@gmail.com)

### Thursday Morning Study

**Thursday morning Bible study** (Yokefellows) continues to meet each Thursday morning at 6:30 AM in the church Fireside Room. Refreshments are served. We are continuing our study on the minor prophets, now considering the witness of *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://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87581100281?pwd=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWINIQT09>

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 holding class 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://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87353776510>

### Enter the Bible

Luther Seminary has created a powerful, free resource to break down each book of Scripture to give you an in-depth overview of its background and context, its author and setting, the issues and themes you can find in it, and so much more. Click here to get access now: <https://enterthebible.org/free-account-registration/>

## Lions in Sight

Got Glasses? Just a reminder that we have a donation box church office to collect used prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses (prescription or non-prescription), printer/toner cartridges, hearing aids and cell phones in partnership with the Lions Club. Your donation of these unused items will help those locally who cannot afford prescription glasses; the other items are used to fund the program. If you can't drop the items in the box, please email Laura Gloner ([laura.gloner@gmail.com](mailto:laura.gloner@gmail.com)), and she'll be happy to arrange a pickup or drop-off. (Website: <https://www.lionsinsight.net/>)



## Echo, Echo...

Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high- end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities, including Santa Maria Urban Ministries, as well as houseless, women's, and children's causes. High-end items can be donated directly to the shop's red back door during business hours or by making an appointment. Our Children's Book Ministry flows through the shop, as well. Several women from ILC regularly volunteer and have a great time pricing, sorting, and stocking merchandise, while making new friends. If you have any questions about volunteering or donating, please contact Myra Sternlieb ([msmyrabeth@yahoo.com](mailto:msmyrabeth@yahoo.com)) or Margit Chapman ([margitc@aol.com](mailto:margitc@aol.com)). (website: [The Echo Shop](#))



## Wordoku

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.

		N		U	D		H	
D	R				E		U	
		E						
A	O	H				R		
E		U			O	D		
N			T		E	R		
		O				U		
R					N	T		

<b>Hint</b>
Jesus asserts His Messiahship
<b>The 9 letters to use :</b>
A D E H N O R T U

# THE MESSENGER



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](mailto:info@ButterfliesAcademy.com)

Please Call us at above number to schedule a tour

[www.ButterfliesAcademy.com](http://www.ButterfliesAcademy.com)





## Weddings at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga



**Judy Onton is our ILC wedding coordinator.**

To find out more, take a brochure from the pew rack, or check out our website: [www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org/weddings). Follow us on Instagram:ILCSaratogaweddings. Share with family and friends of this beautiful and charming sanctuary to hold their matrimony.



Many couples have joined hands to their lives at quaint church and its tranquil surroundings



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Coronavirus: I have put together hotline numbers and some useful and informative websites!



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

Emotional Listening Support Contact 24/7 Helpline: **1-800-932-4616** (Toll Free)  
[Warm Line - Mental Health Association of San Francisco](https://www.warmline.org/)  
[\(mentalhealthsf.org\)](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/>



### Fertilizer

 A farmer was driving along the road with a load of fertilizer. A little boy, playing in front of his house, saw him and called, "What've you got in your truck?"

"Fertilizer," the farmer replied.

"What are you going to do with it?" asked the little boy.

"Put it on strawberries," answered the farmer.

"You ought to live here," the little boy advised him. "We put sugar and cream on ours."

**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



# THE MESSENGER

## Inspirational Christian Article – Rich Man

There was a man who was the richest farmer in the valley. He was not a God-fearing man but was instead a “self-made” man who worshipped His creator (himself!). He had in his employ a humble gardener who loved the Lord.

One day the richest man in the valley opened the door to his godly servant who stood outside on the doorstep holding his hat awkwardly in his hands.

“What is it?” his master asked him.

“Sir,” the man replied awkwardly, “I had a dream that tonight at midnight the richest man in the valley would die.”

“Why, my man,” the richest man in the valley replied, “I’m in excellent health—don’t you worry about me!” Then gently, “It’s all that religion you go in for—makes you think morbid thoughts.”

The man shuffled away and the master went inside the house again. However, he couldn’t get over the man’s words and he decided to stay up late and ask his friend’s doctor to come over and play bridge with him—just in case! The doctor complied and the evening passed with the richest man in the valley glancing at the clock every half hour or so and insisting the doctor stay and play just “one more game.”

At half past midnight the doctor left and the richest man in the valley chided himself for being so foolish. As he turned off the lights and started to go up the winding staircase to bed, the doorbell rang. Thinking the doctor had forgotten something, the rich man returned to the front door and opened it. A young girl stood weeping on the doorstep.

“Whatever is the matter?” the man inquired, not unkindly.

“Sir,” the girl replied, “tonight at midnight my father died.”

“Who is your father?” the richest man in the valley asked.

“Your gardener, sir,” she said.

The richest man in the valley! And indeed he was, for those who know and love the Lord are rich beyond measure—in this world and the next.

We can be as poor as this world’s goods are concerned, but wealthy in “God things.” There are spiritual riches, the Bible says, that surpass anything the world can offer. Jesus asks in Mark 8:36, “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”

## The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

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

**Jan. 10: Calero Reservoir: Main Entrance, 23205 McKean Rd., San Jose, CA 95120.** This is a rolling hills loop hike, with some nice views.

**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.

**Time:** 8:00 AM

**Jan. 24: Sierra Azul Preserve: Woods Trail (North). Jacques Ridge Parking Lot.** (This will be an out-and-back hike, mostly level with some "rolling hills.")



**Getting There:** Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From Southbound 85 turn left on Camden Avenue. From northbound 85 turn left on Branham Avenue, then left on Camden Avenue.) Travel on Camden Avenue about 1.6 miles. Travel on Hicks Road about 6.3 miles. At the stop sign (at the top of the road and the junction of Mt. Umunhum Rd., **turn left**). Go about 50 yards and park in the parking lot. (Hike will begin across the street (Hicks), but the parking lot on the other side can accompany more cars).

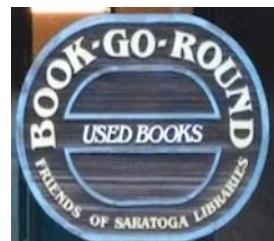
**Time:** Arrival: 7:45 AM; Departure: 8:00 AM

**Plan to arrive for both hikes by 7:45 AM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 8:00 and plan to return to our cars by 10:00.** (or right around 10:00).

Please RSVP so I know you'll be coming. In case of bad weather, I'll send a cancelation 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...

We rejoice  
in the hope  
of the glory  
of God

Romans 5:2



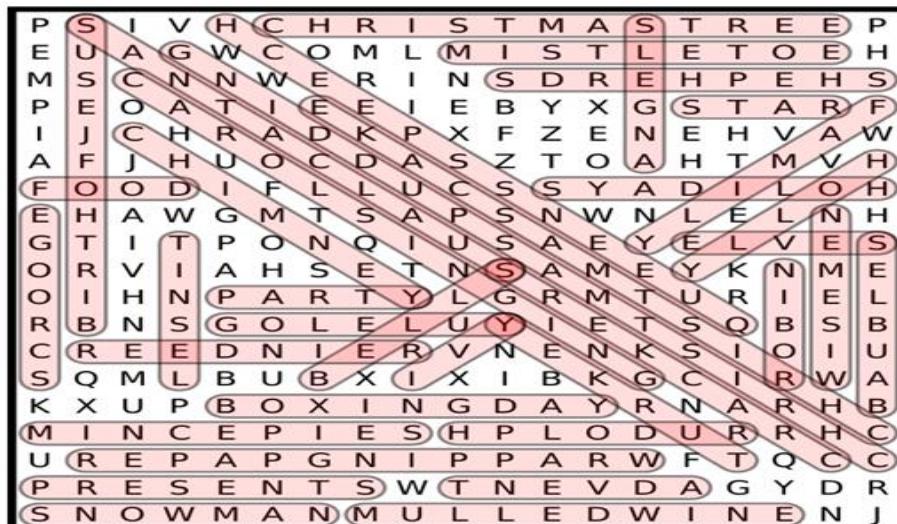
\*\*Send in and share your creations and make our Newsletter "The Messenger" vibrant!

## THE CHARACTER OF JESUS WORD SEARCH

Q	I	D	S	K	O	S	J	L	M	L	U	B	C	R	F	T	F	C
T	T	S	E	N	O	H	U	D	D	U	L	Y	J	G	K	X	A	G
W	Z	G	Q	I	H	S	W	D	C	F	O	G	C	U	A	L	M	C
O	S	E	L	F	L	E	S	S	D	I	L	N	T	N	Q	U	I	E
E	F	E	I	E	X	O	P	L	Q	C	Q	I	H	W	A	F	R	T
S	F	S	M	V	A	I	K	S	C	R	G	V	K	T	S	H	A	A
Y	K	P	E	P	T	D	E	X	S	E	K	O	H	E	U	T	C	N
T	N	E	I	T	A	P	E	G	R	M	T	L	R	M	C	I	L	O
Q	F	X	O	G	V	T	K	R	I	P	R	V	B	T	E	A	E	I
H	O	L	Y	R	D	F	H	I	G	V	A	L	Q	V	W	F	W	S
J	R	V	H	A	P	Q	E	E	H	N	E	U	A	G	P	U	O	S
W	G	R	H	C	E	R	R	R	T	E	K	R	Y	R	J	T	R	A
E	I	H	H	E	A	L	E	R	E	I	B	T	E	D	L	G	K	P
N	V	E	X	F	C	T	C	Q	O	H	C	K	E	H	Z	N	E	M
B	I	X	X	U	E	J	N	E	U	R	I	K	O	H	C	Q	R	O
R	N	D	W	L	F	O	I	X	S	N	R	Z	S	U	A	A	X	C
O	G	I	G	V	U	T	S	F	D	D	M	X	W	W	Q	F	E	G
P	S	F	K	J	L	P	Z	B	V	G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S	T
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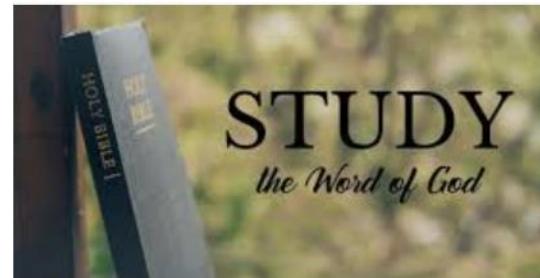
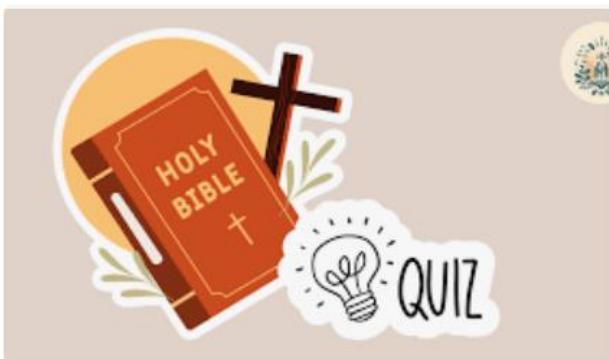
BRAVE	HEALER	LOVING	RIGHTEOUS
COMPASSIONATE	HOLY	MERCIFUL	SELFLESS
EMPATHETIC	HONEST	MIRACLE-WORKER	SERVANT
FAITHFUL	HUMBLE	NONJUDGMENTAL	SINCERE
FORGIVING	KIND	PATIENT	TEACHER
GENEROUS	LEADER	PEACEFUL	WISE
GRACEFUL			

## December Answers



# THE MESSENGER

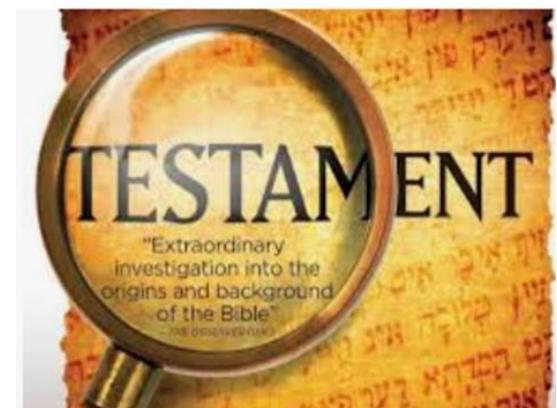
## Bible Trivia Questions: Physical Bible



1. Who fought over the dead body of Moses?
2. What did Jesus do on the Sabbath that upset the Pharisees?
3. What happened to Jesus after he killed the herd of pigs by sending devils into them and causing them to enter the water and drown?
4. What verse of the Bible was missing in the original manuscripts and added later by the printers?
5. Does the Bible state that the earth is round?
6. What Bible did Shakespeare use?
7. Who was the widow in Bethulia who seduced General Holofernes of the invading Persian army in his tent?
8. Which of the following animals does not appear in the Bible?
9. Where in the Bible is the word "Trinity" found?
10. What is the estimated number of ancient religious manuscripts that do not appear in the standard modern Christian Bible?

### December Answers

1. Cornelius Tacitus
2. Lucian of Samosata
3. They were captives for 430 years
4. Forty years
5. Goliath's height was 6 cubits and a span
6. Yes and no. It depends on the version
7. Jashobeam, King David's chief captain
8. Moses
9. Ahaziah
10. Adam



## 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 worshiping community in Christ's name.

## Serving at Family Supportive Housing: January 18

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 [lindaloubob5@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaloubob5@yahoo.com)

## THANK YOU!

The staff at Immanuel thanks you, dear congregational members, for your contributions to the special gift we each received this Christmas.

It is a joy to serve in the ministry of our Lord in our wonderful faith community.

With Heartfelt Gratitude,

Alyssa Morgan – Ministry Assistant

Anthony Fulgar - Contemporary Team

Anton Nel - Minister of Music - Contemporary Team

Elisabeth Pintar - Minister of Music - Organist & Bell Choir

Mike Day - Contemporary Team

Pam Grove – Chancel Choir Director

Sheila Wallace, Church Administrator

Stu Horton - Contemporary Team

**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)

# THE MESSENGER



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

# THE MESSENGER

## Come Worship With Us!



14103 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Tel: 408-867-0822

[Office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com](mailto:Office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.ilcsaratoga.org](http://www.ilcsaratoga.org)

### Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.

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

Communion is served each Sunday as part of the liturgy.

**Visitors are always welcome!**

### Contemporary Service 10:45 a.m.

Features a more contemporary worship. Sing praises to the Lord with our Contemporary Worship Team. The music is uplifting and enjoyable for all ages. What a great way to start the week? Communion is served every Sunday.

## About the Messenger

Please submit articles by the **15th** of the month, typed (preferably text or word processing file, but 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\\_2026\\_01.pdf](https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter_2026_01.pdf)**

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

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