



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



Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

Coming Events

Mar 7: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast@ Effie's in Campbell(1st Sat of the Month: Apr 4, May 2, Jun)

Mar 21: 8:30 AM: Women's breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell

Mar 29, 10:15: One Congregational Service

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

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

Inside this Issue

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

Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026

****ILC Trust Fund Scholarship Application Guidelines -Pg 26**

Pastoral Sabbatical Plans – Pg 22

Inspirational Christian Story – Page 17; Bible Crossword Puzzle–Pg 8

Bible Wordoku–Pg 12; Bible Coloring for Therapy–Pg 19

Bible Word search puzzle–Pg 20; Bible Trivia Questions–Pg 21

Sign-up for Sunday Service Altar Flowers  –Pg 9

"Volunteer to Serve on Sundays!"

Please sign up for weekly Altar Guild **

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



expectation are that when pastor and congregation are reunited after sabbatical ends, both parties – pastor and congregation – will be healthier. I look forward to the sharing of our respective stories of how we have seen the hand of God at work in our different experiences.

Immanuel will have pastoral support on Sunday mornings, to lead the congregation in worship and proclaim the Word of God. Rev. Peggy White, Rev. Nathan Winterhof, Rev. John Freeseemann and Stu Richardson will each take turns leading on Sunday mornings. Pastoral coverage will also be given during the week for emergent pastoral needs. Rev. Peggy White, Rev. Erik Swanson and Rev. John Freeseeman will fill this role. Other than that, the sabbatical team (Aart Bik, Mitzie Eddy, Bill Flint, Cheryl Sheehan & Lee Wheeler) will be leading the congregational effort to organize teams to lead Bible studies, produce devotional writings, offer member care, provide hospitality to visitors, and maintain our extended prayer ministry. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for opportunities to participate in any of these teams.

We are in the midst of our Lenten pilgrimage with Jesus, and as we learn from Him His ways of loving service and follow Him to the cross, we will see Him make the ultimate sacrifice, as He lays down His life to bestow life upon us all. We journey humbly and with joy, all the while glorifying the One who is our righteousness and who teaches us how to conduct ourselves in ways that are consistent with His character, that we might serve our neighbors in need and glorify our Father in heaven.

God, to whom our church belongs, is ever-faithful. Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God. And may all that we say and do serve to honor Him, who alone is worthy of praise.

Serving in Your Midst with Gratitude and Joy,

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."

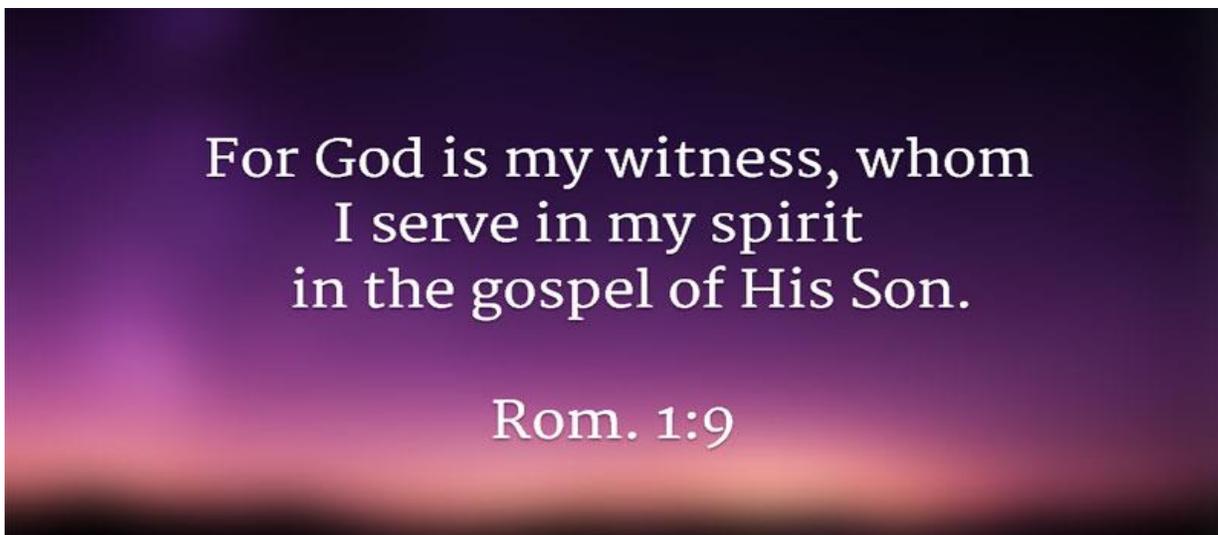
Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's Word. Preaching isn't enough. A systematic teaching of the Scriptures – not just preaching (Acts 5:42) needs to occur through all age levels. Children, youth, and adults need opportunities for discovery, review, and interaction as they study God's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

Sunday School meets needs!



THE MESSENGER

Volunteer to Serve on Sundays



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

Service Opportunities include:

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

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

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

Coffee: Provide treats for fellowship time after service

Communion: Help distribute communion during service

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

Lector: Read lessons in church

Liturgist: Assistant leader in worship, chant the opening liturgy

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

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



Worship + Love + Serve

Children's Story



The Red Rose



In a sunny garden full of colors, many flowers grew side by side. Birds sang in the trees, and butterflies danced in the air. In the middle of this beautiful place stood a tall red rose named Rosie. She had soft petals, a sweet smell, and a bright red color that made her easy to see. Rosie stood taller than all the other flowers, and she liked to show off.

Every morning, Rosie smiled at the sun and said, "I am the most beautiful flower in this garden. No one is as lovely as me!" Next to Rosie grew some cheerful daisies with yellow faces. A shy violet with purple petals sat quietly under a leaf. Not far from them, a small green cactus grew. The Cactus had thick skin and tiny thorns, but it didn't say much. It just listened and watched.

One morning, the Cactus looked at Rosie and kindly said, "Good morning, Rosie. What a nice day!" Rosie turned her face away and wrinkled her petals. "Don't talk to me, Cactus," she said. "You are not pretty like me. You are too prickly and plain." The Cactus felt sad, but he didn't say anything back. The daisies looked down, and the violet hid behind a leaf. They didn't like how Rosie spoke to the Cactus, but Rosie didn't notice.

Many days passed, and the weather began to change. The sun became hotter. The rain ceased to fall. The ground turned dry and cracked. Bees stopped visiting. Flowers began to droop. Their leaves turned brown, and their petals looked tired. Rosie was feeling weak. Her bright red petals had faded. Her head bent under the heat, and her voice was quiet. "Oh... I need water," she whispered. But Rosie's roots were short and close to the surface. She could not find water deep in the soil. The daisies were also thirsty. The violet didn't speak. But the Cactus still looked green and strong.



One morning, Rosie saw a little bird flying toward the Cactus. The bird sat beside the Cactus and drank a small drop of water that had come from its thick green stem. The bird chirped, "Thank you, Cactus. You are kind and smart. You store water inside yourself, and now you are sharing it."

Rosie watched quietly. She felt surprised. All this time, she thought the Cactus was not special. But now, when all the other flowers were weak, the Cactus stayed healthy and even helped others. Rosie felt a new feeling inside. She looked at the Cactus and apologized, "I'm sorry for the way I spoke to you. I was rude and proud. I didn't know how kind and helpful you are." The Cactus smiled gently. "It's okay, Rosie. We all have something good inside. You can have some water too. After all, what are friends for!"

The Cactus's kindness took aback Rosie. She thanked him and took a small sip of water. It felt cool and sweet. Slowly, her petals started to lift again, and she felt better.

From that day on, Rosie changed. She stopped saying she was the most beautiful flower. Instead, she smiled at the other flowers and spoke kindly. She greeted the Cactus every morning and shared stories with the daisies and the violet. The garden became happier as the flowers laughed together in the sun, and the birds and the bees returned.

This story, *The Proud Red Rose*, teaches us many valuable lessons about kindness, respect, and understanding. It shows that we should not judge others based on their appearance. True beauty is in how we treat others, not just in our appearance. Someone who may seem different or quiet, like the Cactus, can have a big heart and be a great friend.

Rosie learned that being proud and rude can push others away and leave us feeling alone. We build strong friendships, though, when we care about others, listen to them, and lend a hand when we can. We all possess different skills, and we all grow when we work together and support one another.

THE MESSENGER

Men's Breakfast



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

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

ILC Men enjoying a relaxing Saturday morning breakfast (photo credit: Tom Lowdermilk)



Women's Breakfast

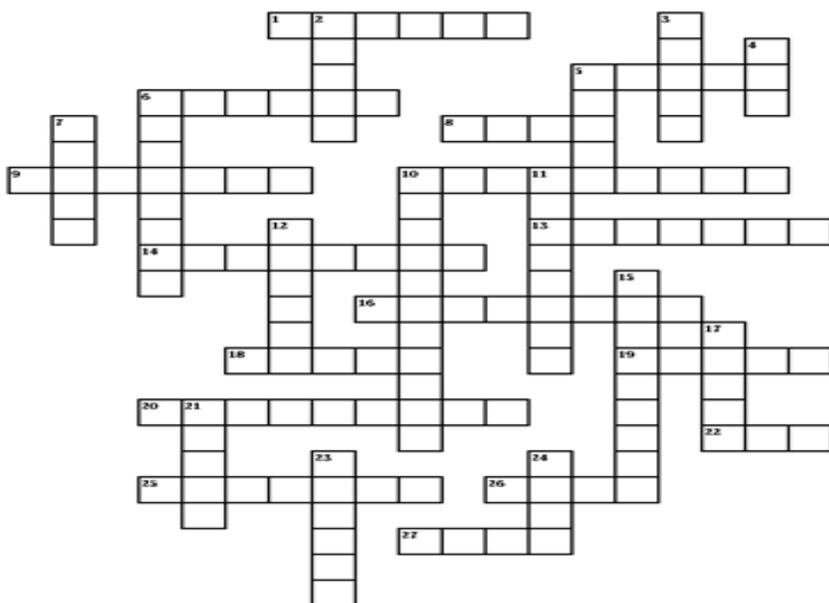
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



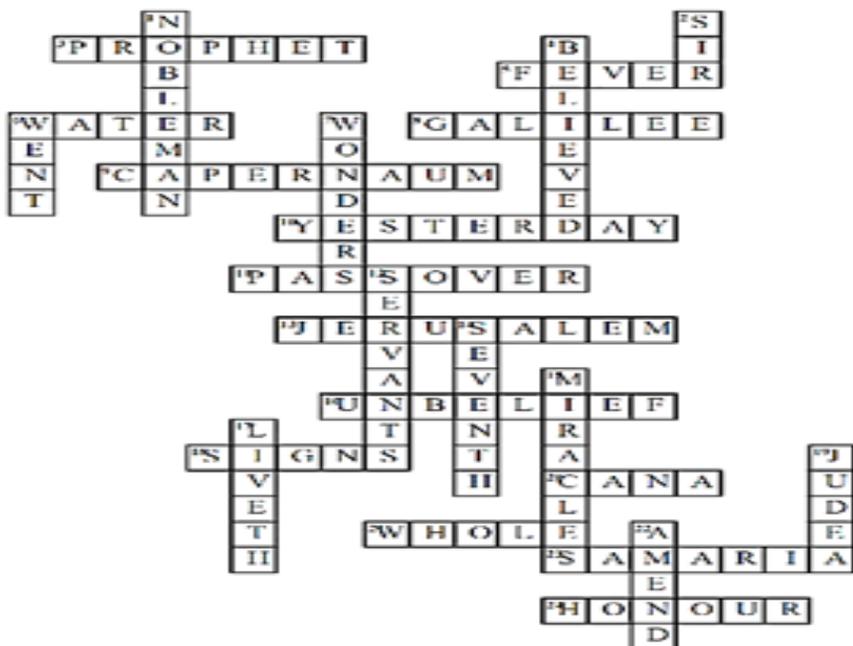
ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



Crossword Puzzle: Jesus Heals at Bethesda



February Answers



Across

- 1 What the man did after Jesus healed him
- 5 This could happen to the man Jesus healed (cf 5:14)
- 6 The Jews accused Jesus of having _____ the Sabbath
- 8 This word means "to limp or hobble"
- 9 What the Son could do "of Himself" (5:19)
- 10 A certain man had this for 38 years
- 13 There were five of these at Bethesda
- 14 All of these were healed in the waters of Bethesda
- 16 This word is used to describe a deformed arm or leg
- 18 Jesus was attending this in Jerusalem
- 19 This market was near Bethesda
- 20 Bethesda located here
- 22 The man told not to do this any more
- 25 Day of the week on which Jesus healed this man
- 26 The commandment Jesus gave the impotent man
- 27 Bethesda was one of these

Down

- 2 To whom was the water's movement attributed?
- 3 Healed or made whole (5:10)
- 4 What the man healed was told to carry
- 5 What one stepped into to be healed
- 6 This word means "House of Grace"
- 7 What those that entered the pool first were made
- 10 How long after Jesus spoke was this man healed?
- 11 This word means "weak, powerless, lacking strength"
- 12 Place where Jesus found the man he had healed
- 15 The Jews did this to Jesus
- 17 Who healed the impotent man?
- 21 Jesus made Himself this in relation to God
- 23 "It is not _____ for thee to carry thy bed."
- 24 What the Jews wanted to do to Jesus

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

THE MESSENGER



ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FOOD CART - Please consider adding a package or two of food to the cart whenever you shop. The hunger problem seems always to be with us, and all donations help. Thank you for keeping this in mind when you shop! The Community Service Committee

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

If you would like to make an E-Donation to ILC, then either download the Givelify App on your smartphone, or go online to <http://ilcsaratoga.org/give>. Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy-giving experience using your smartphone, tablet, or PC. There are no frustrating web forms or text-to-give codes to memorize. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure, and for tax time, you have one-tap access to your complete donation records. Please consider making a contribution the old fashioned way, by cash or check, or electronically, via Givelify, PayPal. or Zeffy.



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

Also 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 appoiter for the coming Sunday. The class is entitled *Expanding Our Vision*. Because Sunday's sermon is almost always centered on the gospel selection, we don't often explore the second reading in any depth. This class gives us the opportunity to do so. In addition to taking a closer look at the second reading itself, we'll also consider any connections it has to the gospel reading for that Sunday.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83250020639>

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

Thursday Morning Study

Thursday morning Bible study (Yokefellows) continues to meet each Thursday morning at 6:30 AM in the church Fireside Room. Refreshments are served. We are continuing our study on the minor prophets, now considering the witness of *Zephaniah, Haggai & Zechariah*. If you're unable to join us in person, you can participate from the comfort of your own home by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87581100281?pwd=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNlQTo9>

We meet every Thursday at 6:30 AM, in person in the church Fireside Room and via livestream ([Thursday AM Bible Study](#)). (If in person, you will also be able to partake of morning refreshments – coffee & pastries.) All are welcome! For any questions, please contact Jack Moorman jack.moorman@gmail.com or Pastor Derek pastord63@gmail.com.

Diving Deeper: Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome to attend a Wednesday evening one-hour gathering, at which we will read and study the Scriptures that will be read in church the following Sunday. Not only will this event prepare you for a more meaningful experience on Sunday, it will also give you a chance to provide sermon input. And, of course, it's always meaningful to share in fellowship with others around the Word. Can't join us in person? Participate from the comfort of your home by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353776510>

Enter the Bible

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

Lions in Sight

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



Echo, Echo...

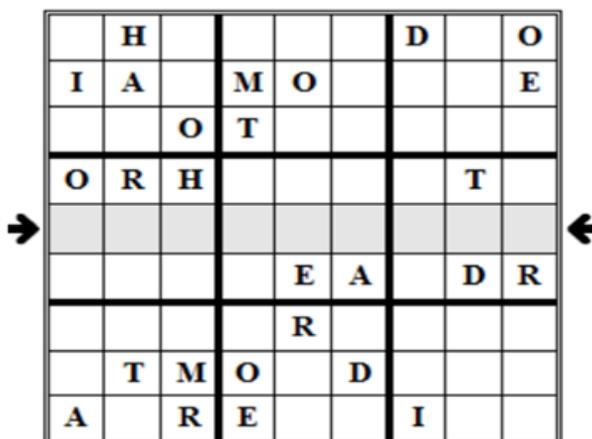
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high-end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities,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



Wordoku has the same rules as regular Sudoku, but uses letters instead of numbers:

- Each of the nine rows is nine cells wide, and must contain the 9 letters used in the puzzle. So, each letter must appear once and only once in each row.
- The same is true with the nine columns. So, each letter must appear once and only once in each column. The third unit, the region, is a « 3 x 3 » square bordered by a thick line, and it must also contain the 9 letters used in the puzzle. So, each letter must appear once and only once in each « 3 x 3 » square.

When the grid is completed, the grey squares will reveal a nine-letter word or sentence at the center of the puzzle, between the two arrows.



Hint

The centurion's servant

The 9 letters to use :

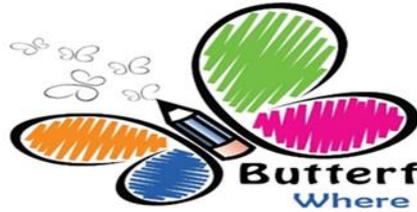
A D E H I M O R T

February Answer

DEAR TO HIM

Did You Know ?

«A certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.» (Luke 7:2). The centurion knew nothing of the Messiah, but he recognised in Jesus the power of God. It was faith; there was no such faith in Israel.



Butterflies Academy
Where Learning Is Fun

Preschool from 2 years old to entry to 1st grade

License# 434414738

**NOW
ENROLLING**

Immanuel Lutheran Church
14103 Saratoga Ave, Lower Fellowship Hall, Saratoga, CA 95070
Tel: 408.781.7874, info@ButterfliesAcademy.com

Please Call us at above number to schedule a tour

www.ButterfliesAcademy.com





THE MESSENGER

Weddings at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga



Judy Onton is our ILC wedding coordinator.

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



Many couples have joined hands 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 \(mentalhealthsf.org\)](http://www.mentalhealthsf.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more info, please go to the following website. 1. <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

Three Engineers

There are three engineers in a car; an electrical engineer, a chemical engineer and a Microsoft engineer.

Suddenly the car just stops by the side of the road, and the three engineers look at each other wondering what could be wrong.

The electrical engineer suggests the electronics of the car be removed down to its parts and then try to trace where a fault might have occurred.

The chemical engineer, not knowing much about cars, suggests that maybe the fuel is becoming emulsified and getting blocked somewhere.

Then, the Microsoft engineer, not knowing much about anything, comes up with a suggestion, "Why don't we close all the windows, get out, get back in, open the windows again? Maybe it'll work!?"

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

Be empathetic to those still susceptible to Covid-19. Some have multiple high-risk factors, making them vulnerable to COVID-19 and new subvariants. Feeling more isolated and unable to partake in most human interactions, these people can do with a smile, a compassionate glance, or a kind nod that gives comfort, support, and encouragement!

God Bless, and Stay Safe!
Vaskie Turner



THE MESSENGER

Inspirational Christian Article – The Ant the Contact Lens

Brenda, a young woman was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff.

Despite her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope, and started up the face of that rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Well, here she is on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. Here she was, far from home, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and from throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom, there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lost a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it.

Brenda told me that her father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will." God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

-Author Unknown

"Cast your **burden** on the **Lord**, and He will sustain you."

Psalm 55:22

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.

March 14: Zinfandel Trail: An out-and-back hike along tree-covered, rolling hills with some nice views. Approximately 4 miles.

Getting There: From the church, turn left, heading northeast on Saratoga Ave. toward Herriman Ave. In ¼ mile, turn left. Process 1 mile, then turn right on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd. In ¼ mile, turn left on Verda Vista Lane. In ¼ mile, keep right at Sarahills Dr. and continue 1 mile to Pierce Rd. Turn left. In ½ mile, turn right on Mt. Eden Rd.

Proceed 2-½ miles to stop sign at the bottom of the hill. Turn left onto Steven's Canyon Rd. and immediately enter Canyon Picnic Area parking lot. Or Google here: [37°16'46.5"N 122°04'23.8"W](https://www.google.com/maps?q=37°16'46.5)

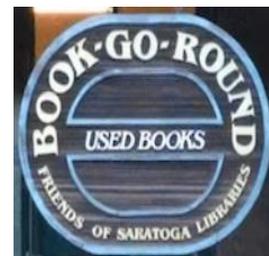


Plan to arrive by 7:45 PM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 8:00 and plan to return to our cars by 10:00.

Please RSVP so I know you'll be coming. In case of bad weather, I'll send a cancellation note to all who RSVP by 9:00 PM the evening before. Dress in layers, bring a water bottle, and wear comfortable and sturdy shoes/boots. You can RSVP by emailing me at pastord63@gmail.com or calling 408-499-4866.

Book-Go-Round

For a treat, visit Book-Go-Round (BGR) at 14410 Oak Street in Saratoga. BGR is a secondhand bookstore operated by volunteers of the Friends of the Library and the National Charity League, Inc (NCL). The store opens at 12:00 PM every day (Saturdays at 10:00 AM). BGR has supported the Saratoga Library for 50 years and is packed with a wide range of books, as inexpensive as \$.25. Newer paperbacks are usually \$1 to \$3. Also available are 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.

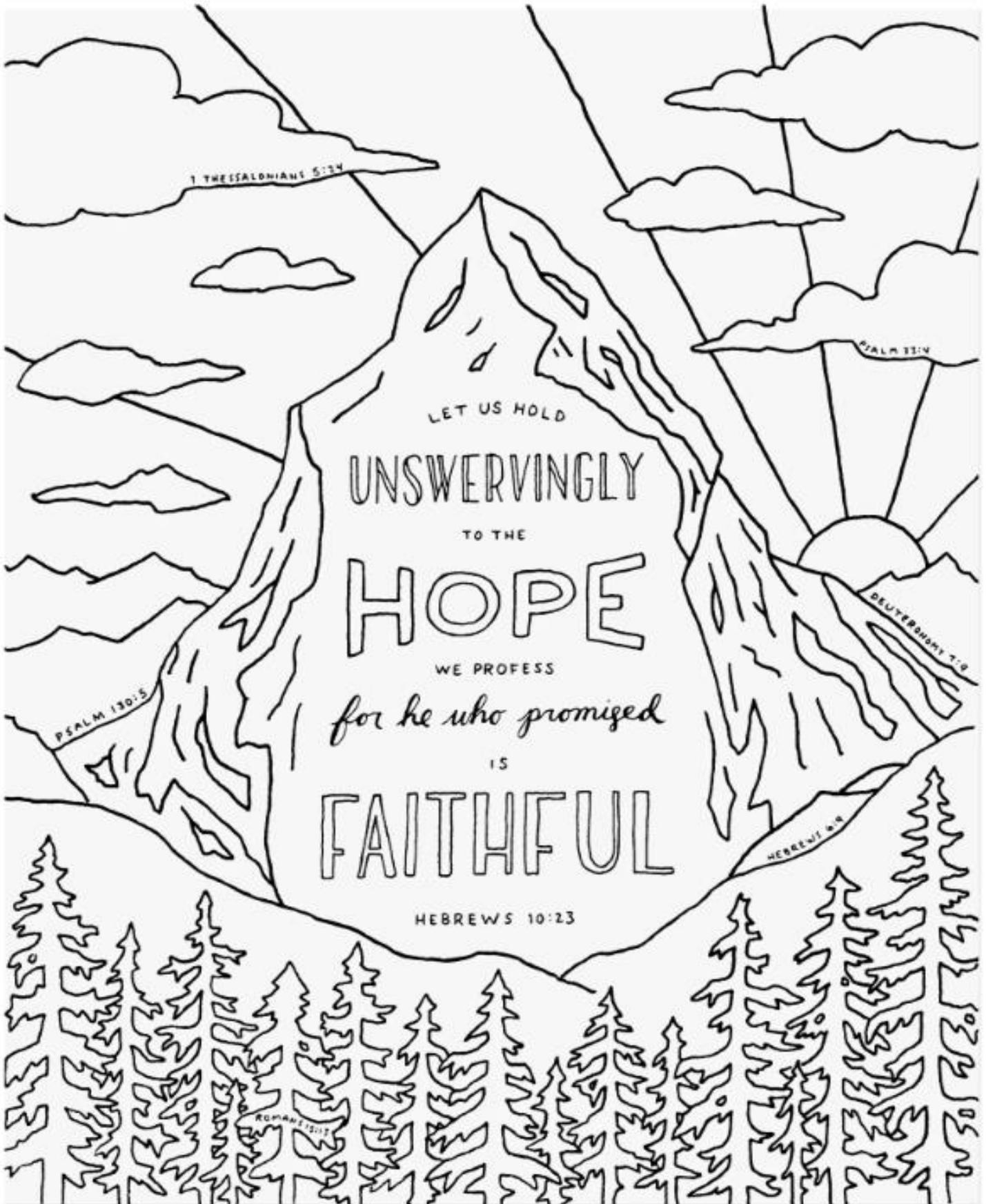


Children's Books Ministry



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...

Bible Verse Coloring



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

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS WORD SEARCH

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

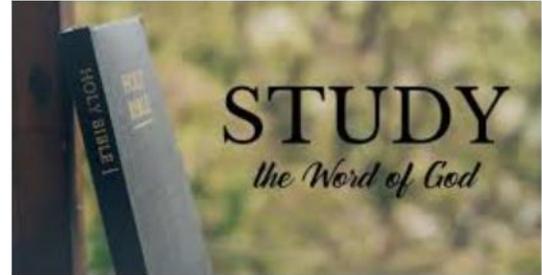
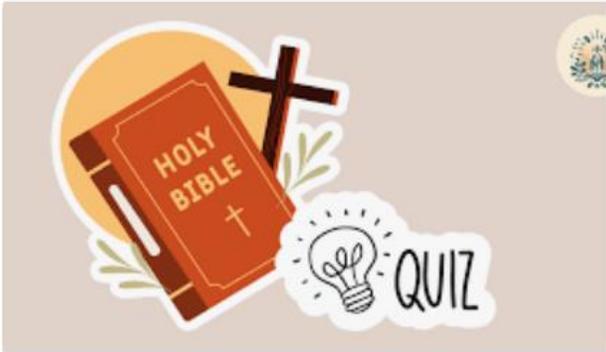
- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ALIVE | DEATH | MISSING | TALKING |
| ANGELS | DISCIPLES | OPENED | THIRD DAY |
| BLESSED | EMMAUS | PROPHET | TOMB |
| BREAD | EYES | RECOGNIZED | TWO |
| CHRIST | JERUSALEM | RISEN | UNRECOGNIZED |
| CLEOPAS | JESUS | ROAD | VANISHED |
| CONVERSATION | LORD | STAYED | VILLAGE |
| CRUCIFIED | MILES | TABLE | WALKING |

February Answers

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

THE MESSENGER

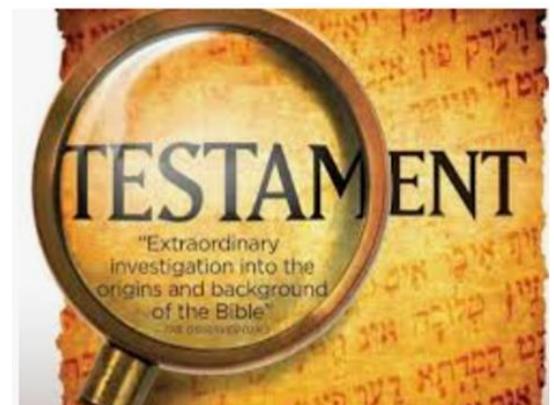
Bible Trivia Questions: Character Bible



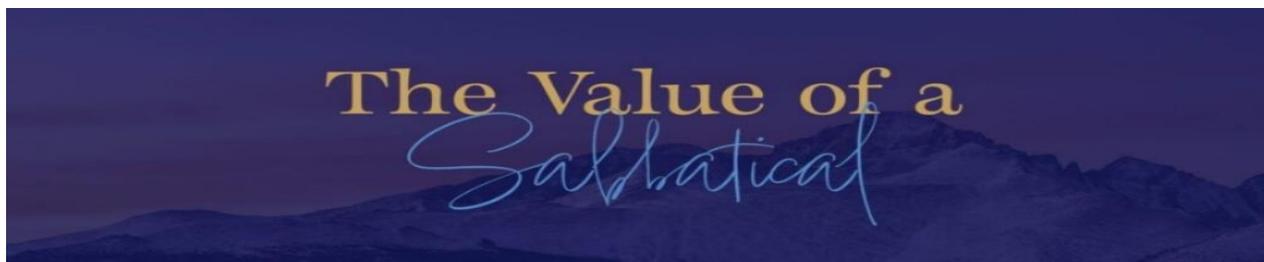
1. What type of tree did Zacchaeus sit in so that he could see Jesus on Easter Sunday?
2. Who did Delilah seduce to obtain information about the source of his strength?
3. Who built a giant boat called the Ark?
4. How many people were on the Ark?
5. Who did God transport to Nineveh using a giant fish?
6. Who was forced into the lion's den?
7. Which prophet did God take up to heaven in a fiery chariot?
8. Who took over Elijah's ministry after he was taken to heaven?
9. What did God give to Moses when he was on Mount Sinai?
10. How many sets of the commandments did God make for Moses?

February Answers

1. Ground
2. The moon stood still until morning..
3. Psalm 119
4. Abraham
5. The Messiah is Jesus.
6. Herod
7. Saul
8. Magi
9. Pontius Pilate
10. Samaritan, was the only one.



When the Pastor Rests: The Congregation's Sabbatical Story



Many ministries are learning the true value of offering their church workers a ministry sabbatical. This is an extended time away with the sole purpose of finding rest and renewal, not only physically, but also mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The often-demanding work of ministry can take a toll on a church worker, frequently without them being fully aware until the damage is done. We see this regularly with parish pastors in their passion to serve.

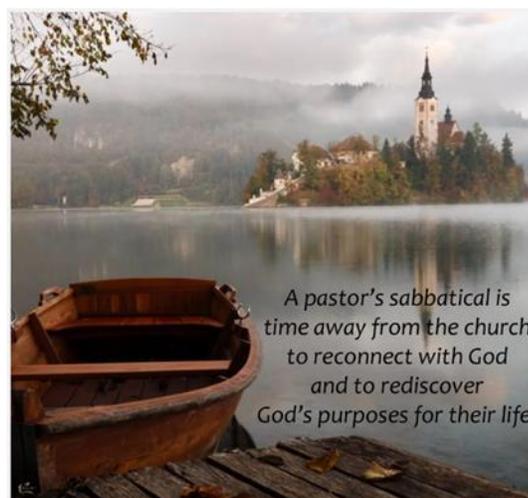
In Leviticus 25, we find instruction to allow the land to rest in the seventh year. The ground was to lay fallow so that in the following years, it would be more productive. This is the goal of a ministry sabbatical, allowing the church worker a time of rest so their work can become more productive; and where well-planned sabbaticals have happened, we see the fruit borne by what may seem like a risky decision by the congregation.

The impact of a ministry sabbatical for a pastor also benefits the congregation. Consider the summary of comments from a congregational leader reflecting on the impact of their pastor's ministry sabbatical. The most common thought shared was how energized their pastor was when he returned. "He was full of renewed vision, and we can hardly keep up with him", said one enthusiastic leader. He was elated to see how excited his pastor was, with new ideas and "tons of energy".

While it is not uncommon to hear comments like, "Why should he get a sabbatical; I don't get one with my job..." Or, "That is too long a vacation. Is he looking for a new job?" Or, "How will we manage without the pastor being here?" Educating a congregation about a ministry sabbatical and helping them understand its value is essential to success.

Another leader shared how the congregation was initially indifferent to allowing their pastor to take a sabbatical. The leader shared that while people came onboard in supporting the sabbatical at different times, some not until he returned, the agreement to support this blessed their ministry. Leaders stepped into new roles, discovered new gifts in God's people, and learned how to be more adaptive in ministry. Congregation members became more aware of the multitude of things the pastor did to keep the ministry moving forward, and there was an increase in voluntarism and a renewed ownership of the ministry.

A ministry sabbatical not only offers church workers much needed rest and renewal, but it also offers congregations the chance to rediscover their values and God-given strengths as they sacrificially step into new roles for the sake of their church worker and, more importantly, for the sake of God's kingdom.



A pastor's sabbatical is time away from the church to reconnect with God and to rediscover God's purposes for their life.

Campus Hospitality

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

Serving at Family Supportive Housing: Info on next Service

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

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP:

March 29: PALM SUNDAY

10:15 Single Congregational Service

Apr. 2: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 PM (with communion)

Apr. 3: GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 PM

Apr. 5: EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM: Traditional

10:45 AM: Contemporary



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

Trust Fund Scholarship Application Guidelines

Dear Scholarship Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in our Trust Fund Scholarship Awards. Each year Immanuel Lutheran Church (ILC) awards scholarships to members of the congregation who are seeking to achieve degrees from institutions of higher learning. Membership requirements for those applying for the Shonk Scholarship at Saratoga High School do not apply.

For this coming year the following scholarships are available:

1. Shonk Memorial Scholarship, also available to a Saratoga High School Graduate
2. Joseph W. Doherty Memorial Business Scholarship
3. Amundson/Geri Memorial Scholarship
4. Lutheran School Scholarship/ILC Trust Fund Scholarship
5. Richard Johnson Memorial STEM Scholarship



Each Scholarship will be a single award. To be considered for an award, the applicant must submit a written application by Sunday, **MAY 17, 2026** to be emailed to: anna.popovici@gmail.com

One application can be submitted for all of the scholarships if the individual qualifies for that scholarship. For the Doherty Scholarship, the student's area of study must include either Business Management, Teaching, Audio, Lutheran Theological Education or Visual Arts. For the Johnson Scholarship, the student's area of study must include STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Your applications for the scholarship must include the following:

- A written summary of ILC, school and community involvement during the past four years.
- A written summary of projected educational goals and career plans.
- Transcript of grades to indicate scholarship ability. Also indicate schools applied to and/or Letters of Acceptance.
- A written summary of financial need including expected tuition and living expenses.
- One letter of recommendation from a non-family member, teacher or individual that you have had association with for a number of years. ILC staff members are not eligible.
- A listing of other scholarships applied for or received to date, and any other financial aid that you may receive.
- If available, please include your student ID, proof of enrollment, and an address where the funds are to be sent so that we can make payments. If you don't yet have this information available, please provide it to us as soon as you receive it.

Applications should not be voluminous and each written statement need not be longer than one typewritten page. The review committee is looking for quality and not quantity and our goal is to make the application process a pleasure and not a chore.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ILC ON OR BEFORE SUNDAY, May 17, 2026

General comments regarding the Tuition-only Scholarships and Award Process:

- A committee established by the ILC Trust Fund Board of Trustees shall administer the selection process for awards.
- The award(s) shall be presented at ILC during a service to be determined, but tentatively during the month of June.
- There are no restrictions on age, religion or race.
- Applicants should be planning on or attending a college or a technical school of higher learning.
- If the Scholarship Selection Committee determines that no applicant meets the minimum requirement for a scholarship, then no award shall be given.
- The Scholarship Selection Committee may request applicants to attend a scholarship interview with committee members.
- **If selected for an award, it is the student's responsibility to arrange for the school to provide to the ILC Trust fund proof of enrollment and an address where the funds are to be sent before payment can be made.**
- The Trust Fund Board of Trustees reserves the right to make final selection for each of the awards. The awards will be based upon the written application statements, specific and general guidelines established over the years, and each student's scholarship, financial need, and church, school and community involvement. All of these factors shall be considered in making the awards.

Please review the above information regarding our Trust Fund Scholarship Program. We look forward to all students who are eligible to submit applications by MAY 17, 2026. If the tuition funds need to be processed before the June Awards Ceremony please notify the Trust Fund Treasurer, Bill Burk.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact Anna Popovici at mobile 650-854-8051 or the church office at 408-867-0822. Thank you very much.

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



Vaccinations...

GOT YOUR SHOT? The latest updates on vaccine eligibility and how to schedule an appointment are available on the County's website at sccfreevax.org. In addition, residents without internet access or who need additional assistance can make appointments for the County Health

System vaccine sites through the Valley Connection Call Center at 408-970-2000. The Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 7 am to 9 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Assistance is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and other languages. If you have trouble making your appointment and need assistance, please let Pastor Derek know. We have people standing by ready to help. [Influenza \(Flu\) - Public Health - County of Santa Clara \(sccgov.org\)](#) **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.**

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

Resources

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

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

[Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

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

[COVID-19 Vaccine Basics](#)

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

[Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Vaccine Effectiveness](#)

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

THE MESSENGER

Come Worship With Us!



14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

Tel: 408-867-0822

Office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ilcsaratoga.org

Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.

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

Communion is served each Sunday as part of the liturgy.

Visitors are always welcome!

Contemporary Service 10:45 a.m.

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

About the Messenger

Please submit articles if possible by the **20th** of the month, typed (preferably text or word processing file, but a paper copy is okay too), and be about **150 words**. If you are interested in submitting an article for publication in our Newsletter, please contact our office.

Editor: Vaskie Turner

Webmaster: Aart Bik

https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter_2026_03.pdf

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070

