

July 2026

The Messenger

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SARATOGA 14103 SARATOGA AVE.,
SARATOGA GA 95070 PH: 408-867-0822 WWW.ILCSARATOGA.ORG

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

Coming Events

July 4: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast@ Effie's in Campbell(1st Sat of the Month:
Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7)

July 18: 8:30 AM: Women's breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell

July 26, 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)

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"Volunteer to Serve on Sundays!"

Please sign up for weekly Altar Guild **



On Easter morning, no one was expecting what took place. Every person who made their way to the tomb – without exception – was expecting to find a dead body. No one was expecting to find an empty tomb. Even less did they expect to be confronted with the resurrected Jesus! So we easily forgive Mary for looking right past Jesus and thinking He was a stranger. But when He uttered her name... wow! That was all it took. She immediately recognized the name that was hers, as well as the Shepherd who uttered it.

That's when your faith comes alive, isn't it? When you hear the Good Shepherd call your name. When you recognize your place in the Story.

The biblical witness is just that: Jesus not only gave His life for the sins of the world – He gave his life for you. You have not been forgotten. You have not been excluded.

Today, some of our neighbors are fearful of having their names called out loud. That, if they turn and respond to the voice that is calling, they will be rounded up, arrested, and removed from their family and from the place they have called home.

But the Voice of the Good Shepherd never beckons us to harm us, but to welcome us in loving embrace with wondrous hospitality. For this is the heart of God.

For God so loved... you... that He gave His one and only Son. Trusting in Him will never prove to be foolish. For He is faithful, through and through. Jesus loves you, this I know... for the Bible tells me so.

I encourage you to spend time in the Holy Scriptures. Listen to the Voice of Good Shepherd, as He calls your name. The Resurrected One will bring you refreshment and renewal. And when He calls your name, it will be with unmistakable recognition and with a welcome of belonging.

In the resurrected Jesus, you will find much more than you expect: You will discover the very fulfillment of your deepest hope.

Serving in Your midst with Gratitude,

Pastor Derek



THE MESSENGER

People Helping People !

An experience by a congregation member – 1. Man on the Median – Our member was driving and about to make a left-hand turn onto Saratoga from Prospect/West Campbell Ave when he saw a man holding 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 he could really use this, then added 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 Joe's 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 to get around and look for a job. Our member mentioned the food packages and that our Church ILC has always been trying to help people. The young man said that it 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 discussed positivity and the use of all available government services. The young man took the two bags and 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."

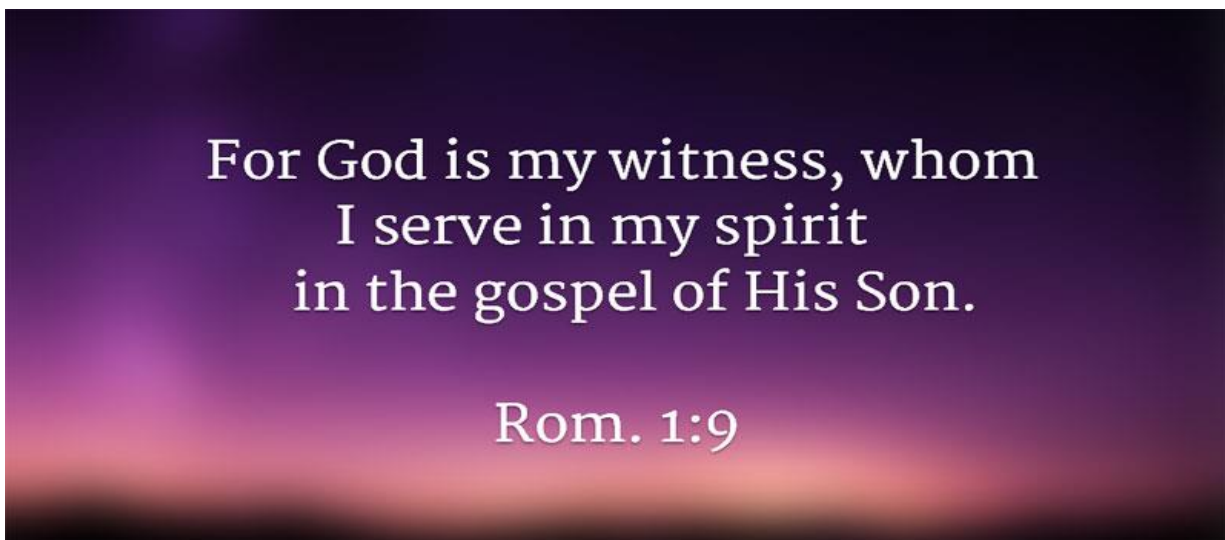
Sunday school provides a structure for teaching God's Word. Preaching isn't enough. A systematic teaching of the Scriptures – not just preaching (Acts 5:42) needs to occur through all age levels. Children, youth, and adults need opportunities for discovery, review, and interaction as they study God's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

Sunday School meets needs!



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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



The three little pigs



Once upon a time, in a charming countryside, there lived three little pigs named Porky, Petunia, and Percy. They were siblings and loved to play together all day long. But one day, their mother knew it was time for them to build their own homes and be independent.

"Remember, my little ones," their mother said, "the world can be tricky, so build your houses strong and sturdy to keep you safe from harm." With hugs and kisses, the three little pigs bid farewell to their mother and set off on their journey to find the perfect spot to build their homes.

Porky, being the laziest of the bunch, quickly found a pile of straw nearby and decided it was the perfect place to build his house. With little effort, he constructed a cozy straw house and declared, "I'm done! Now I can relax and play all day."

Petunia was more hardworking. She found a bunch of sticks and twigs and began building her house. It took a bit longer, but she managed to create a charming little house.

Percy, the wisest of the three, knew that hard work pays off. He searched for the sturdiest materials he could find and finally decided on bricks. He carefully stacked and cemented the bricks, creating a strong, reliable house.

One evening, as the sun was setting, a big bad wolf happened upon the three little pigs. He was hungry and had his eyes set on the tasty pigs. The wolf first came across Porky's straw house.

"Little pig, little pig, let me in!" the wolf huffed and puffed. But Porky, being lazy, replied, "Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin!" With a mighty huff and puff, the wolf blew down Porky's straw house. Frightened, Porky ran to Petunia's house for safety.



The wolf followed and arrived at Petunia's house, made of sticks. "Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!" the wolf roared. But Petunia, being a little braver, replied, "Not by the hair of our chinny-chin-chins!" The wolf huffed and puffed with all his might, and down came Petunia's house, too. Now, the two frightened pigs rushed to Percy's strong brick house.

The wolf, determined to have a delicious meal, stood before Percy's house. "Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!" the wolf growled. But Percy, feeling safe in his sturdy home, replied, "Not by the hair of our chinny-chin-chins!"

The wolf huffed and puffed with all his strength, but no matter how hard he tried, he could not blow down Percy's brick house. The wolf gave up and slinked away into the forest, realizing that he could not catch the clever pigs.

Porky, Petunia, and Percy learned an important lesson that day. Porky realized the value of hard work, and Petunia understood the significance of determination. Percy knew that strength and wisdom could keep them safe.

From that day on, the three little pigs lived happily in their strong brick house, enjoying their days filled with play and laughter. And whenever they saw the big bad wolf lurking nearby, they knew they were safe inside their sturdy home.

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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

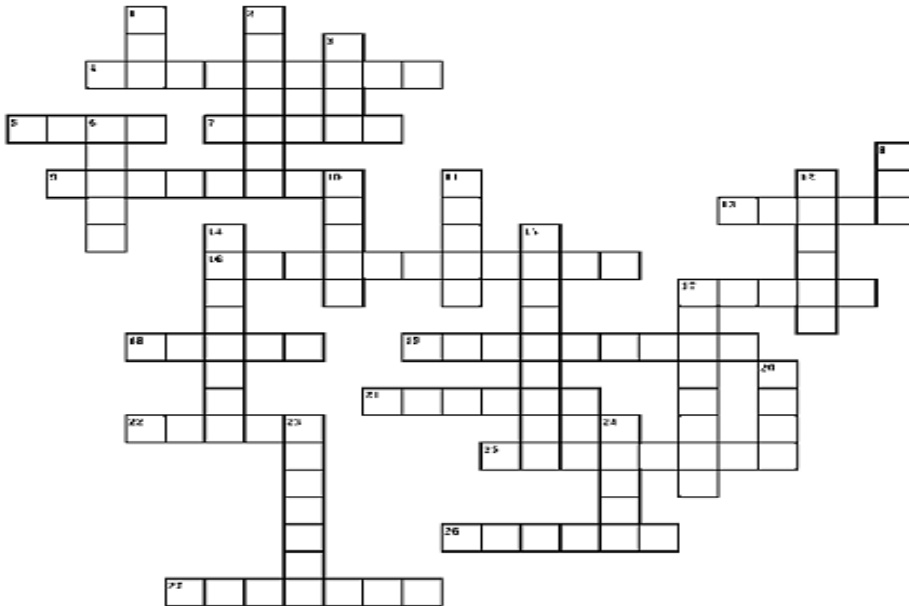
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



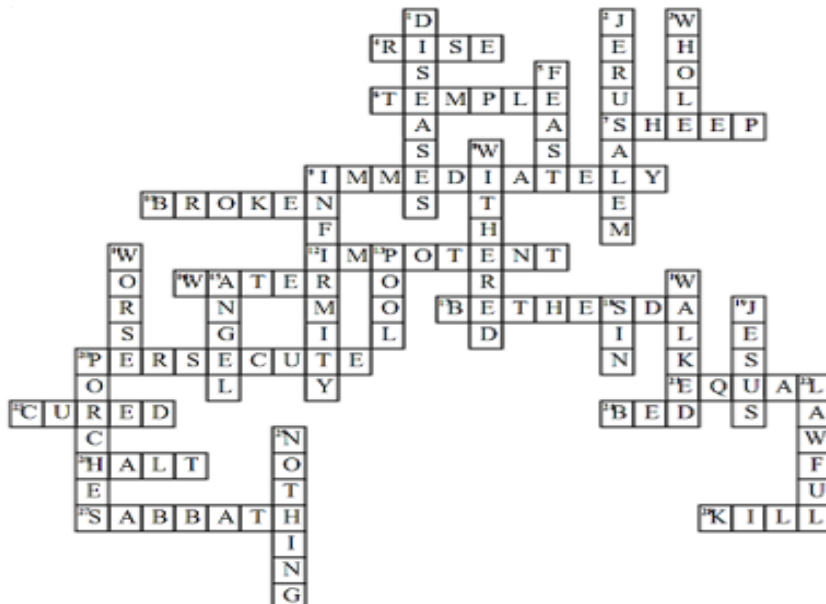
ILC ladies at the women's group meeting (photo credit: Cheryl Moorman)



Crossword Puzzle: Jesus Heals at Bethesda



June Answers



Across

- 4 A certain man had this for 38 years
- 5 The commandment Jesus gave the impotent man
- 7 What those that entered the pool first were made
- 9 This word means "House of Grace"
- 13 Healed or made whole (5:10)
- 16 How long after Jesus spoke was this man healed?
- 17 What one stepped into to be healed
- 18 Jesus was attending this in Jerusalem
- 19 The Jews did this to Jesus
- 21 Place where Jesus found the man he had healed
- 22 Who healed the impotent man?
- 25 This word means "weak, powerless, lacking strength"
- 26 What the man did after Jesus healed him
- 27 What the Son could do "of Himself" (5:19)

Down

- 1 The man told not to do this any more
- 2 There were five of these at Bethesda
- 3 What the Jews wanted to do to Jesus
- 6 This market was near Bethesda
- 8 What the man healed was told to carry
- 10 To whom was the water's movement attributed?
- 11 Jesus made Himself this in relation to God
- 12 The Jews accused Jesus of having _____ the Sabbath
- 14 All of these were healed in the waters of Bethesda
- 15 Bethesda located here
- 17 This word is used to describe a deformed arm or leg
- 20 This word means "to limp or hobble"
- 23 Day of the week on which Jesus healed this man
- 24 This could happen to the man Jesus healed (cf. 5:14)

***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 Livelily 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 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!



Wonderful 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: Parable of the Sower

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>

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 *Malachi*. 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

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...

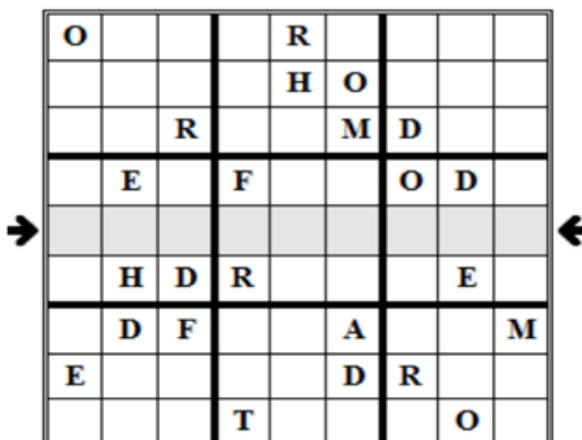
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high-end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities,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

The 9 letters to use :

A D E F H M O R T

June Answer

FROM DEATH

Did You Know ?

«Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.» (Pr.11:4). Money can do many things, but can't purchase the remission of sins: «How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?» (Heb.2:3).



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Tel: 408.781.7874, info@ButterfliesAcademy.com

Please Call us at above number to schedule a tour

www.ButterfliesAcademy.com





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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 in their lives at a quaint church and its tranquil surroundings



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Coronavirus Hotline for Seniors: **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.warmline.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 for services & help for older Californians: **1-833-544-2374**.

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

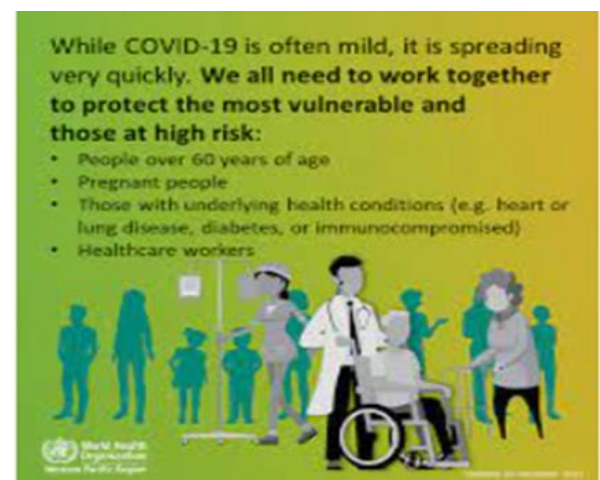


"I'm going to miss our beachfront access.
Are we sure we want to evolve?"

"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 – Take a Knee, Then Make It Two

"Old Glory" bears holes from wars across the seas, burned, torn into shreds, and trampled underfoot. By God's grace, it still stands, stars and stripes shining bright, waving in the breeze.

Sons and daughters of this great land still answer the call, like those who have gone before. Let us all take a stand, and may our pledge be true. Then take a knee, make it two, give thanks to God in heaven above for the Red, White, and Blue.

Along the parade route sat three war vets, each 92, from Caucasian, African American, and Global Majority/ethnic minority backgrounds; each rose to their feet when our flag came into view. With misty eyes and shoulders held high, they gave a smart salute.

Then, to everyone's surprise, they took a knee, then made it two, bowed their heads thanking God for the freedom for which they fought, and for the flag they love, the Red, White, and Blue.

The national anthem rings out, "The rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there" – America's quest for greatness once again lies within the words, from the last refrain.

And this be our motto, "In God be our trust." We take a stand in tribute to our flag. Then we take a knee, make it two, giving thanks to God in Heaven above for the Red, White, and Blue and the freedom for which it stands, with liberty and justice for all. We join in prayer together for America's greatness once again! And lest we forget, we never stand as tall as when we are on our knees before God!



The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

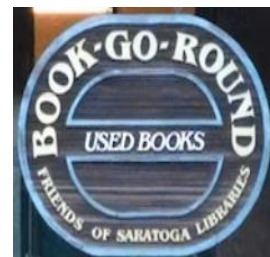
Come join us, as we explore part of the wonderful nature that surrounds our neighborhoods.

Hikes should probably resume in August!



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 a number of children's books, as well as CDs, DVDs, VHS, audiobooks, sheet music, and records – all at good rates. Additionally, there is comfortable seating where visitors can 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, supports unhoused individuals, and provides school-age tutoring. Please donate new and used books that are just waiting to be the source of new adventure for young minds...

Bible Verse Coloring



PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD WORKERS WORD SEARCH

N E V A E H F O M O D G N I K E Q
 U M A S T E R C N C N I E W W Z H
 Y S V W T S E O I U R K D B P B N
 Q S O R E R L H N D O U R K D E W
 E D W K F L A S T F R O U X E O Y
 C E C X U N Q H H H A A B R R R U
 A L V S E H K L M N C B Y K I U X
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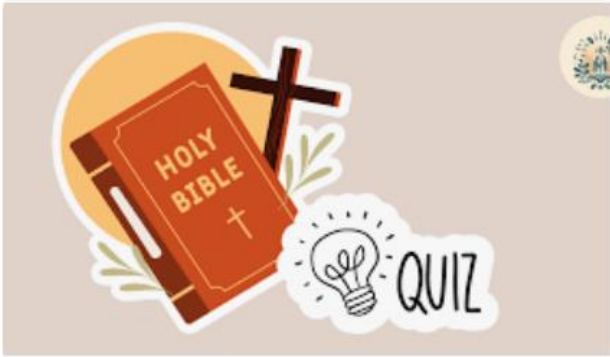
BURDEN	HOUSE	PARABLE
DAY	IDLE	PENNY
ELEVENTH	KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	SIXTH
FIRST	LAST	THIRD
GRUMBLED	MARKETPLACE	VINEYARD
HEAT	MASTER	WAGES
HIRED	MORNING	WORKERS
HOUR	NINTH	

June Answers

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

THE MESSENGER

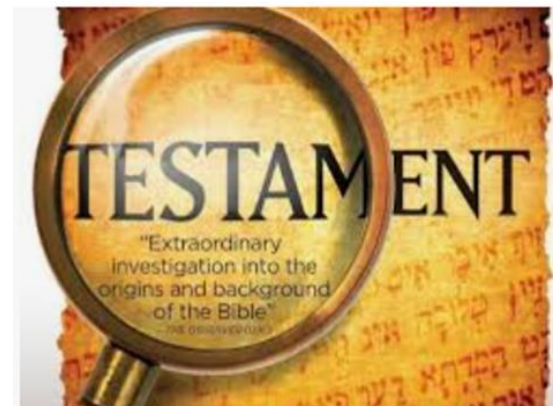
Bible Trivia Questions: Bible Character



1. Who is Yahweh in the Bible?
2. At what age did Jesus start his ministry?
3. Who were the people in the Bible that boarded the Ark and survived the catastrophic flood?
4. To whom did Jesus say these words: "I will make you fishers of men"?
5. Whose rod turned into a snake and ate the sorcerers' snakes in Egypt?
6. Who ordered the head of John the Baptist to be cut off and placed on a plate?
7. Who walked on water at the Sea of Galilee?
8. Which Bible person was responsible for the stoning of Stephen, the first martyr?
9. What did Jesus' mother ask him to do when they were at a wedding?
10. Whom did Delilah seduce for the Philistine army?

June Answers

1. The Lord's Prayer
2. Job
3. Paul
4. 13th or the 15th century
5. Forty days
6. He was lowered down the wall in a basket.
7. "Good News."
8. Turned the Nile to blood
9. Jesus
10. The Sun



Sabbatical Plans

I began serving the Immanuel faith community on September 1, 2008. How I treasure our congregation! How blessed the journey has been for me and my family! It has brought me great joy to accompany you on your journey of faith in the ministry of our Lord.

Now serving in my 18th year, I'm excited about this coming year. I'm grateful to the ILC community for granting me sabbatical leave (April 27 – July 26). I look forward to a time of personal refreshment and renewal. 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.

In my absence, ILC will receive pastoral support: a minister will preach and preside at our Sunday services and be available during the week for hospital visits and/or emergencies.

In addition, much of the work of the Church will be done by you – members of the ILC faith community. We have established a sabbatical team, and they are working with me to assemble congregational teams that will work on various aspects of the ministry. Please prayerfully consider the way(s) you would like to serve.



1. **Hymn Selection Team:** Contact: Mitzie Eddy (mitzeddy@gmail.com). This team is now fully assembled. However, if you would like to offer input, contact Mitzie. This team will be responsible for working together to choose hymns for the 9:00 service each Sunday and submit them to Sheila on Tuesday mornings each week.
2. **Prayer Team:** Contact: Bill Flint (bflint1926@gmail.com). This team is now full assembled and will work together to monitor our church prayer list. Work will include adding new names/needs and following up with names/needs to ensure all is current.
3. **Visitor Follow-Up Team:** Contact: Lee Wheeler (mrleewheeler50@gmail.com). This team is now full assembled and will work at following up with Sunday visitors via phone or email in an effort to extend hospitality and answer any questions.
4. **Member Care / Visitation Team:** Contact: Cheryl Sheehan (cherylshee@gmail.com). **This team is now fully assembled** and will work together to monitor church attendance and follow up with anyone who has missed two or more consecutive Sundays. If it is discovered that there is a need due to sickness, team will work together to provide food, visitation, transportation or other needed care.
5. **Devotional Offerings:** Contact: Mitzie Eddy (mitzeddy@gmail.com). **Thirteen people have signed up.** We look forward to reading their devotional submissions in the weekly communications emails sent to the ILC faith community.
6. **Bible Study Leaders:** Contact: Mitzie Eddy (mitzeddy@gmail.com). Bible study leaders will prepare and lead studies on Wednesday mornings (10:00 – 11:30 AM) or on Wednesday evenings (7:00 – 8:00 PM). Sign up for one or more weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to serve. This is what God's Church is all about! God will grant you strength and insight, as you work with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to carry on this important work.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to serve during this sabbatical. This is what God's Church is all about! God will grant you strength and insight, as you work with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to carry on this important work.

If you need additional assistance, please contact me at office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com or 408-867-0822.

In case of an emergency, you may reach out to:

6/15 - 7/25: Rev. John Freeseemann, (408) 807-2549

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)



Tips to handle Spam Emails.

Recently, we received an email that nearly mirrored the Pastor's email address, and not for the first time. The email's content used an emotive writing style that seemed convincing enough to suggest it may be from him. The following steps can help prevent clicking or responding to spam emails.

1. No matter how urgent or compelling the subject and email contents are, fight the urge to click links or respond. **Check the email address against the actual address, very, very carefully. Take your time!
2. Stop Spam Email: To report a violation of [Gmail Program Policies](#) by a Gmail account, go to <https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse?hl=en>
3. See the URL below for instructions on copying and pasting the header from the spam email to the report URL link above. It helps trace a spam email with its full header for various email domains:
https://support.google.com/mail/answer/29436?sjid=7752112953661399126-NC&visit_id=639175780884858493-381163906&rd=1
 **Entering the header details in the report is critical for email providers to trace the spammer's email.
4. Block the spammer's email address!

GC SARATOGA Ebenezer

Ebenezer is raising funds to send their youth to a Bible camp in August up in Sebastopol. Their fundraising activity will be luncheons, primarily for their members, held on our patio after their service. All proceeds from those luncheons will be used to fund scholarships for their youth to attend the Bible camp.

ILC Church leadership has decided to partner with Ebenezer in this worthwhile cause. You can contribute to Ebenezer's scholarship fund directly thru JULY 26th by making a check out to ILC and noting on the memo for "Ebenezer". We will forward those funds directly to Ebenezer in August.

Computer Chess Master Class at ILC


CHECKMATE ACADEMY

COMPUTER CHESS MASTERCLASS!

FRIDAYS FROM 6:00PM - 7:00PM

At Checkmate Academy, our programs emphasize that chess is more than just a game – it's an art of strategy and critical thinking. This computer chess course, designed and taught by Distinguished Software Engineer at NVIDIA Aart Bik, takes you inside the mind of a chess engine, teaching you how computers reason and how to use software to elevate your game.

- 7/3/26 - 8/28/26
- 8 Week Session
- Computer Chess Masterclass at Immanuel Lutheran Church
- \$25 per class (\$200 total)

ashley@checkmateacademy.org SIGN UP AT CHECKMATEACADEMY.ORG/COMPUTERCHESS

ILC in partnership with Checkmate Academy will be hosting a weekly computer chess master class in the Trust Fund Room on Fridays from 6-7 pm, on the following dates; 7/3, 7/10, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up at this link, which is also on ILC's website:

<https://www.checkmateacademy.org/computerchess> or please contact Aart Bik directly at: aartbik@gmail.com



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.

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 a 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_07.pdf

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga, CA 95070



Happy 4th of July!