

August 2026

# The Messenger

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

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

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

## Coming Events

**Aug 1: 8.00 AM Men's Breakfast@ Effie's in Campbell(1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the Month:  
Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5)**

**Aug 15: 8:30 AM: Women's breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell**

**Aug 30, 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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**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\*\*\***



## Pastor Derek Writes...



*By Pastor Derek Engfelt*



## Pastor Derek Writes...

“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’”  
 She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic,  
 ‘Rabboni!’ (which means teacher).  
 John 20:16

## This page will resume in September!

I’ve had it happen just a few times in my life. “Dave!!!” The name is cast above the heads of the crowds. But there is nothing familiar or odd in the voice, so I continue on my way, without even a glance behind me.

“Dave!” the voice shouts again, nearer than the last time. And when I do turn around, I’m surprised to see that the speaker has bridged the gap between us and is now standing right in front of me. And yet, I am not as surprised as he is, as he looks into my face without recognition and embarrassingly stutters, “I’m sorry... I thought you were someone else.”

Yeah: Dave.

And then, of course, there have been numerous times when I have heard from an even greater distance,

“Derek!” And whether I recognized the voice or not, I do recognize my name – and respond immediately.

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!***



# THE MESSENGER

## Volunteer to Serve on Sundays



Thank you for  
Serving!

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

Rom. 1:9

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

Service Opportunities include:

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

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

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

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

**Communion:** Help distribute communion during service

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

**Lector:** Read lessons in church

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

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



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



**Worship + Love + Serve**

## Children's Story



## Stone Soup



Stone soup



Once upon a time, a traveler came walking down the long road to a little village. He had walked all day, and the day before that, and the day before that. His coat was patched, his boots were dusty, and his belly was as empty as his pockets. But he whistled a merry tune as he walked, for he carried something wonderful: a big black cooking pot, and tucked inside it, wrapped in a red handkerchief, a smooth gray stone.

Now, the people of that village were not bad. But it had been a worrisome year, and worry makes folks hold tight to what they have. When they saw a stranger coming down the road, they hurried into their houses. They hid their bread in the cupboards. They pushed their potato sacks under the beds. They slid the bolts on their doors and peeked out through the curtains. The traveler knocked at the first house. "Good evening," he said, tipping his hat. "Might you spare a bit of supper for a hungry man?" "I'm sorry," said the man at the door. "We haven't a thing to eat ourselves." And he shut the door. The traveler knocked at the second house. "Could you spare a crust of bread?" he asked. "Bread!" cried the woman at the door. "There's been no bread here for weeks." And she shut the door. He knocked at the third house, and the fourth, and the fifth. Everywhere the answer was the same: no soup, no bread, no supper — no, no, no. Another man might have grumbled. Another man might have shaken his fist and marched away down the road. But this traveler only smiled, for he had been to villages like this before, and he knew exactly what to do.

He walked to the very middle of the village square. He gathered sticks and built a small, crackling fire. He filled his big black pot with water from the well and set it over the flames. And then, very slowly and very grandly, he unwrapped the red handkerchief and held the smooth gray stone up to the evening light. Behind the curtains, the villagers watched. A stranger, a fire, a pot — and a stone?

A little girl came out first and asked: "What are you doing, mister?" "Why, I'm making stone soup," said the traveler, and he dropped the stone into the water with a plop. "Soup? From a stone?" "The finest soup in the world," said the traveler. "Kings have begged for the recipe. Wait till it bubbles, and you'll see." Well, word of a thing like that travels fast. One by one, the doors creaked open. One by one, the villagers drifted into the square — the baker and the butcher, the miller and the shoemaker, the farmer, and his round-cheeked wife — until the whole village stood in a circle around the traveler and his pot, watching the water bubble around one smooth gray stone.

The traveler stirred with a long wooden spoon. He dipped it in and tasted, closing his eyes as if tasting sunshine itself. "Mmm," he said. "Lovely. Simply lovely. Of course—" and here he sighed a small sigh, "—stone soup is always better with a pinch of salt and pepper. But where would we find such a thing?" "I have salt and pepper," said the baker's wife, surprising even herself. And she ran home and fetched them. The traveler put them in and stirred. He tasted again. "Marvelous," he said. "Truly marvelous. Though..." He shook his head sadly. "A bit of cabbage would make it richer. A soup like this deserves a cabbage. Ah, well." "I might have a cabbage," said the farmer slowly. "Just a small one." And off he went to fetch it. Into the pot went the cabbage. The traveler tasted again, and this time he smacked his lips. "Ah! Splendid. You know, in the king's kitchen they always add a few carrots. Gives the soup its golden color. But of course—" "We have carrots!" shouted the little girl, already running.

And so it went. A soup like this deserved a few potatoes — and the shoemaker found six. It deserved a handful of barley — and the miller fetched a whole bag. It deserved a soup bone with a bit of good beef on it — and the butcher himself carried one out, "for the pot." And last of all came a swirl of sweet cream from the dairyman's wife, because by then nobody in the village wanted to be the only one who hadn't added a little something. The soup bubbled and steamed, and the smell of it drifted across the square and into every open window, and it smelled like the best soup ever cooked anywhere in the world because it was. "It's ready," said the traveler at last.

Someone brought out bowls. Someone else carried a table into the square, and then another, and another. The baker, blushing, appeared with three warm loaves of bread that had somehow been in his cupboard all along. The farmer's wife brought butter and cheese. Someone lit the lanterns, and someone else fetched a fiddle. That night the whole village ate together under the stars — bowl after bowl of thick, rich, golden soup, with bread and butter and cheese and songs. Everyone agreed they had never tasted anything so fine. And everyone agreed, most of all, that it was astonishing what could be made from a plain gray stone.

In the morning, the whole village gathered to see the traveler off. He rinsed the smooth gray stone, dried it on his sleeve, and then — to everyone's surprise — he pressed it into the little girl's hands. "For me?" she said. "But — it's your magic stone!" "I can always find another," said the traveler with a wink. "Take good care of it. And remember: it only works when everyone adds a little something."

And off he went down the long road, whistling his merry tune.

They say the village kept that stone for a hundred years, on a shelf of honor in the village hall. And on cold winter evenings, the whole village would gather in the square to make stone soup together — and no one ever went hungry there again.

Because the magic, of course, was never in the stone.

**Working Together (Romans 8:28):** "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God".

**The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27):** "All of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it".



# 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

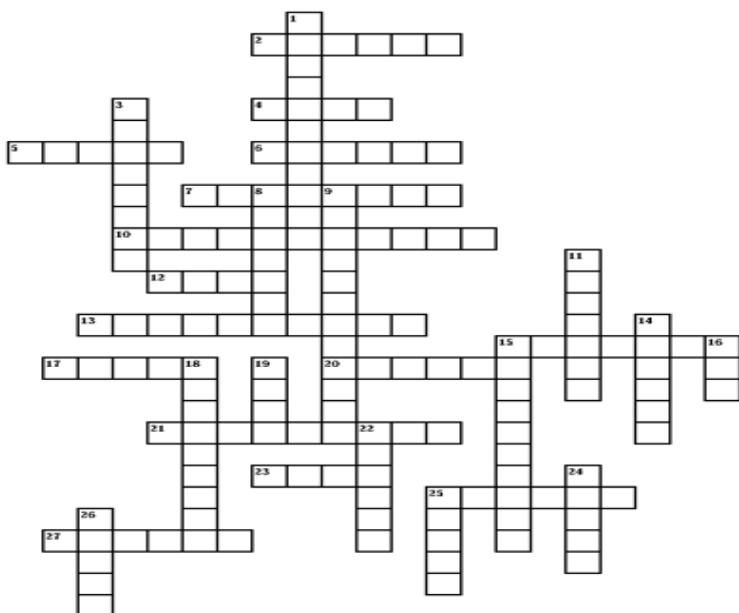
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



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



### Crossword Puzzle: Jesus Feeds Five Thousand



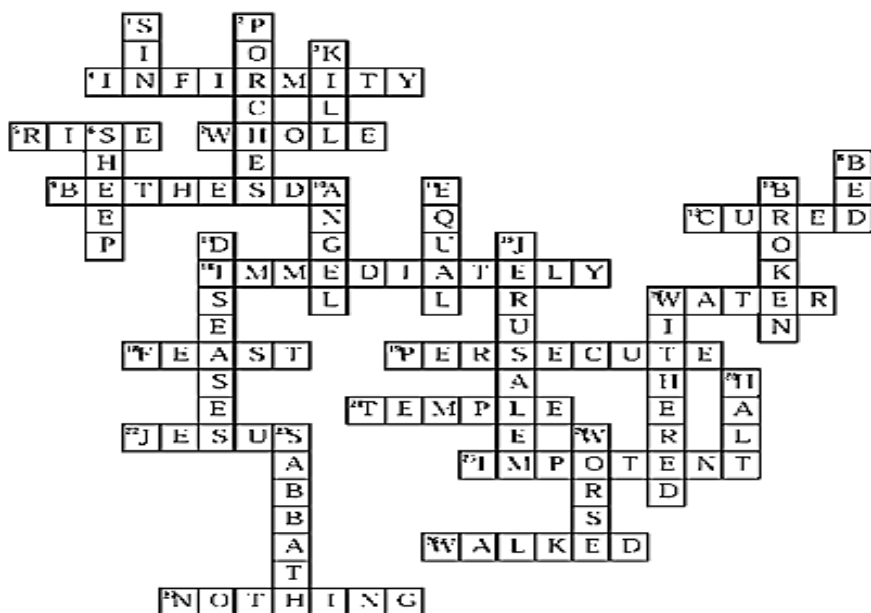
### Across

- 2 What those who eat the Bread of Heaven never do?
- 4 What some wanted to make Jesus after seeing this miracle.
- 5 What men must eat to have eternal life.
- 6 To complain or grumble.
- 7 Another name for the Sea of Galilee.
- 10 "Labor for that meat which endureth unto life."
- 12 Number of loaves found.
- 13 To make alive.
- 15 Who the people believed Jesus to be (John 6:14).
- 17 There was much of this where Jesus did the miracle.
- 20 Number of baskets of scraps.
- 21 Where Jesus went afterward.
- 23 Difficult to understand and accept.
- 25 Grain out of which bread is made.
- 27 Jesus did this on the sea.

### Down

- 1 Thousands of people.
- 3 A feast of the Jews.
- 8 The work of God.
- 9 What the Lord will do in the last day.
- 11 A unit of measuring length.
- 14 The disciple Jesus asked to feed the multitude.
- 15 It would take more than 200 of these to feed the people.
- 16 Number of fish found.
- 18 Where Jesus taught in Capernaum.
- 19 What the Bread of Heaven gives.
- 22 This disciple found a boy with food.
- 24 The true bread from heaven.
- 25 What men must drink to have eternal life.
- 26 What Israel ate in the wilderness?

### July Answers



**\*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.**

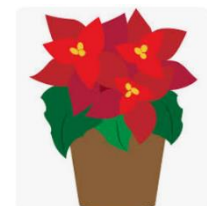


## ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto:office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com) or Pastor Derek at [pastord63@gmail.com](mailto: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 ParkThanksgiving  
Interfaith Service

Tree Decorating



Christmas Concert

Children's Christmas Play



## Worship Offerings

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

## Wednesday Bible Study: Parable of the Sower

Join us Wednesday mornings in at 10:00 AM as we take a deeper dive into the second reading appoiner 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=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNlQkto>

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)

## 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](mailto:laura.gloner@gmail.com)), and she'll be happy to arrange a pickup or drop-off. (Website: <https://www.lionsinsight.net/>)



## Echo, Echo...

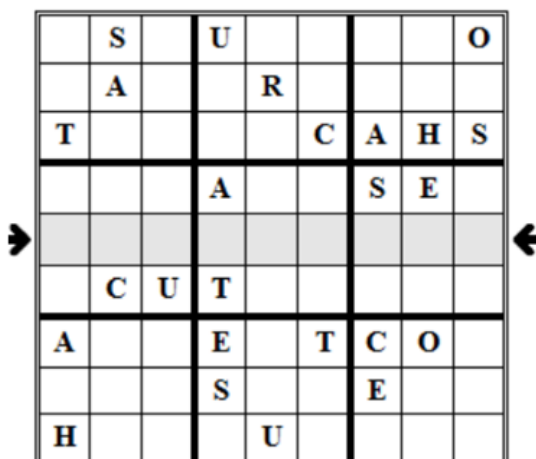
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high- end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities,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



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

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

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



### Hint

Jesus Christ is the Light

### The 9 letters to use :

A C E H O R S T U

### July Answer

KING CYRUS

### Did You Know ?

Cyrus, king of Persia and conqueror of Babylon, was foretold by Isaiah (Isa. 44:28; 45:1-7), as the deliverer and restorer of Judah (Ezra 1:1-4). He was a type of Jesus, Redeemer of His people from mystical Babylon (Rev. 16:12).



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**Please Call us at above number to schedule a tour**

[www.ButterfliesAcademy.com](http://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](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 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 \(mentalhealthsf.org\)](https://www.mentalhealthsf.org)

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

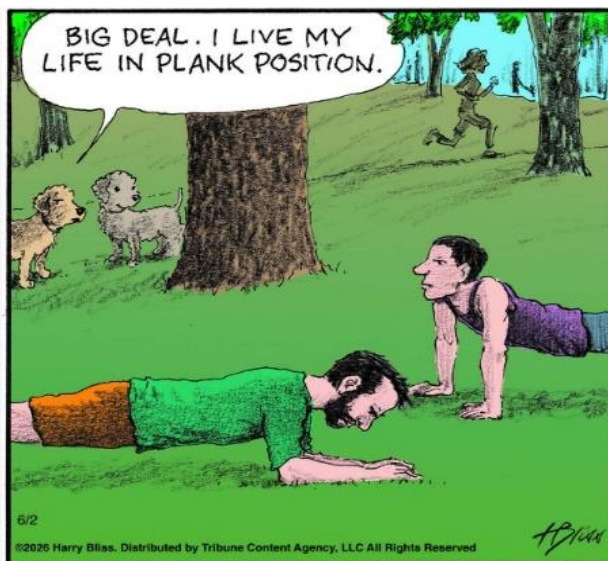
Santa Clara County (SSC) Update on Coronavirus – [www.sccphd.org/coronavirus](http://www.sccphd.org/coronavirus).

<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 for services & help for older Californians: **1-833-544-2374**.

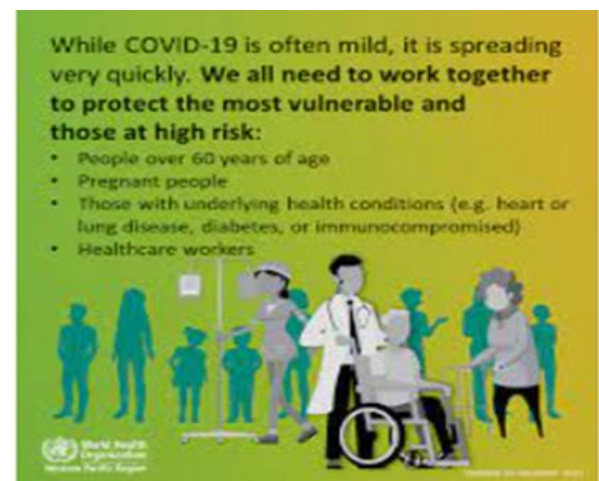
For more info, please go to the following website. 1. <https://covid19.ca.gov/>



**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



## Inspirational Christian Article - The Office Whisperer

Julian was a senior project manager at a tech firm. He was highly respected, never raised his voice, and consistently received high scores for "collaboration" on his reviews. But when a talented new hire, Kara, joined the team, Julian felt his authority threatened. Kara was sharp and efficient, quickly catching the department director's attention.

Julian never criticized Kara openly. Instead, he began a passive-aggressive campaign to dismantle her reputation while appearing to be her biggest supporter. He started during weekly team status updates. When the director asked how Kara's portion of the project was going, Julian would smile warmly and say, *"Kara has so much creative energy. I'm just working closely with her to make sure her enthusiasm doesn't cause her to miss our strict compliance standards. We're keeping a close eye on it, but she's trying so hard."* With one comment, he planted the idea that Kara was reckless and sloppy. When Kara proposed an automated workflow to save the team five hours a week, Julian didn't reject it. Instead, he used strategic corporate positioning to stall it. He emailed the team, copying the director: *"Thank you for the visionary thinking, Kara! Since the rest of the team is stretched thin, I'll take ownership of vetting this so you don't get overwhelmed. Focus on your core tasks for now."* Julian then quietly archived the proposal, ensuring her innovation never saw the light of day.

If Kara made a minor typo in a presentation deck, Julian wouldn't tell her directly. He would fix it himself right before the meeting, then mention it casually to the director over coffee: *"I stayed a bit late last night to polish up the client deck for Kara. She's still getting used to our quality benchmarks, but I'm happy to put in the extra hours to support her onboarding."*

**The Isolation:** Within a quarter, the office dynamics changed completely. Julian never said a single negative word about Kara, yet she became entirely isolated. Her peers stopped inviting her to brainstorm sessions because Julian had successfully framed her as "overly complex and difficult to align with." When key assignments came up, the director bypassed Kara, primed by Julian to believe she was "not quite ready for high-stakes pressure."

Kara felt the sudden, professional freeze but could not pinpoint the cause. Because Julian always smiled, praised her publicly in group emails, and brought her coffee, she actually viewed him as her mentor. She even sat down with him to ask why she was being left out of major projects. Julian sighed sympathetically and said, *"Well, Kara, corporate culture takes time to navigate. Some people find your fast pace intimidating. Just keep your head down, and let me handle the politics for you."* Julian had completely poisoned her professional standing, turning the entire department against her, all while appearing to be the most supportive mentor in the building.

**The Exposure:** The turning point occurred during a cross-departmental alignment meeting. Julian, true to form, began subtly undermining Kara's capabilities while speaking with a senior operations manager named Sarah. *"I'm just so concerned about Kara's workload balance,"* Julian said, lowering his voice. *"I see her logging in late at night, and I worry she's burning out. It's starting to impact her team communication."*

Sarah, however, had worked closely with Kara on a joint task force and knew Kara's deliverables were flawless and always on time. Sarah looked directly at Julian and asked, *"Interesting. Which specific deliverables has she missed? I've found her communication to be the most responsive on the team."* Julian hesitated, his polished corporate mask slipping for a second. *"Oh, it's nothing specific. Just a general trend I'm managing internally. I just want to ensure she succeeds."*

Sarah recognized the manipulation immediately. Julian wasn't protecting the team; he was using the language of "employee wellness" as a weapon to suppress a colleague. She brought the objective data to the department director. Together, they looked back at the timeline of Kara's ideas, her actual performance metrics, and the trail of Julian's "helpful" interventions. Every roadblock Kara faced traced directly back to Julian's protective emails and concerned feedback. When Kara found out, she was completely blindsided by Julian's deception, having trusted and confided in him, believing he was her mentor.

**Scriptural Reflection on a person's conduct:** Even in a secular office, the biblical principles regarding deceptive speech and hidden motives apply directly to personal and professional conduct: **Proverbs 10:18** – "The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool." (Julian hid his jealousy behind a mask of mentorship). **Psalms 28:3** – "...who speak peace with their neighbors, while evil is in their hearts." (Publicly praising a person while privately undermining their reputation and career). **Proverbs 26:27** – "Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back upon him who starts it rolling." (The deceptive manipulation eventually backfires on the one who started it).

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

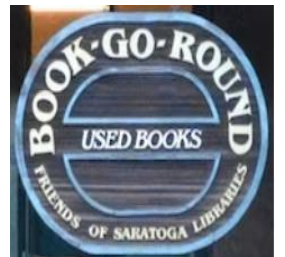
Come join us, as we explore part of the wonderful nature that surrounds our neighborhoods.

TBA on upcoming Hikes!



## 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.

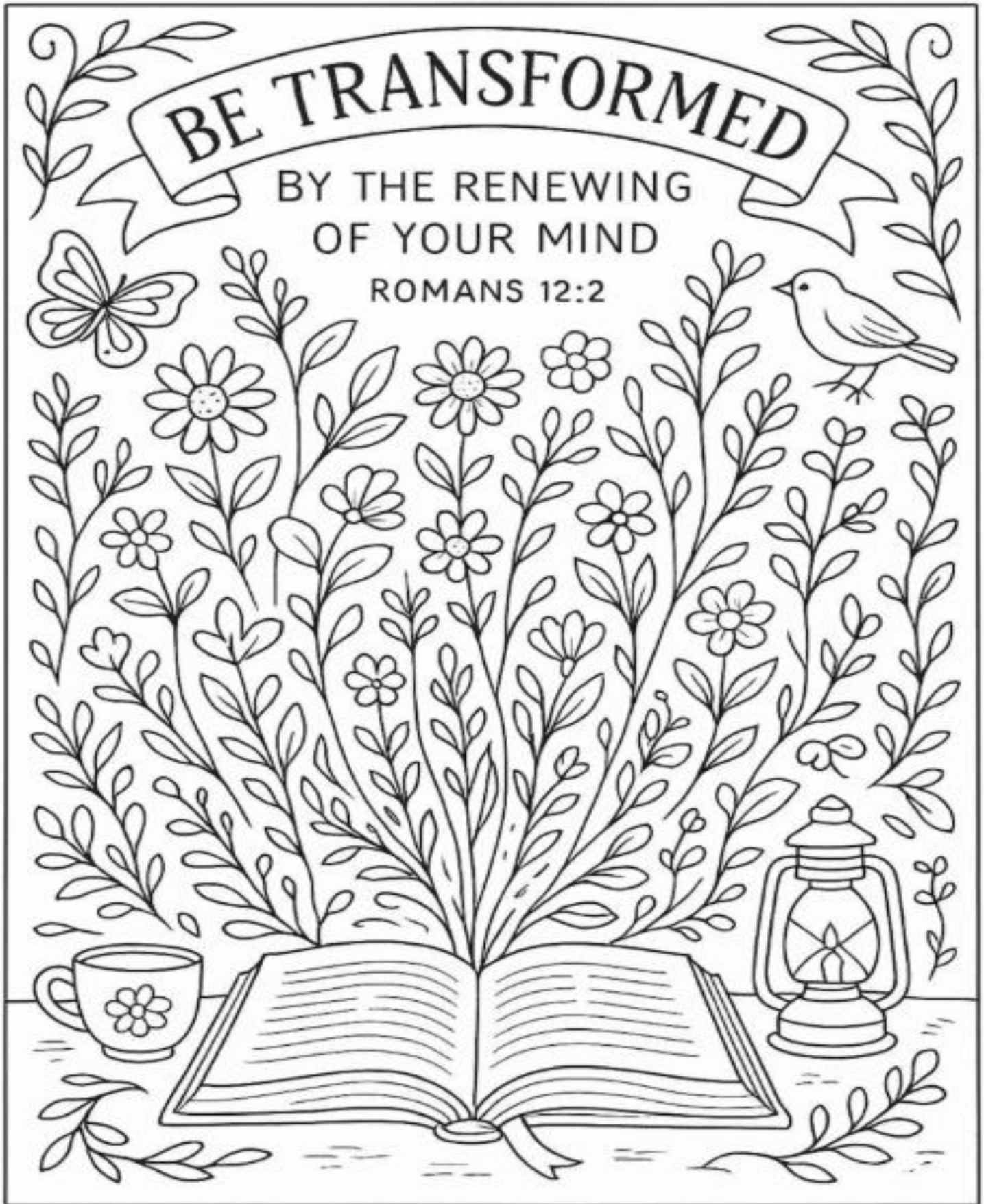


## Children's Books Ministry



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



[\\*\\*Send in and share your creations and make our Newsletter "The Messenger" vibrant!](#)

**HEALING LEGION WORD SEARCH**

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**CHAINS**  
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**COMPASSION**  
**DELIVERANCE**  
**DEMONS**  
**EXORCISM**  
**FAITH**  
**FEAR**  
**GADARENES**

**GALILEE**  
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**HEALING**  
**HERD**  
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**LEGION**  
**MIRACLE**  
**PIGS**

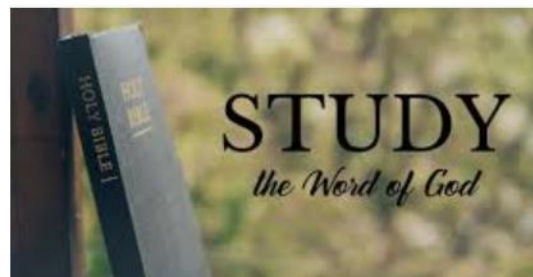
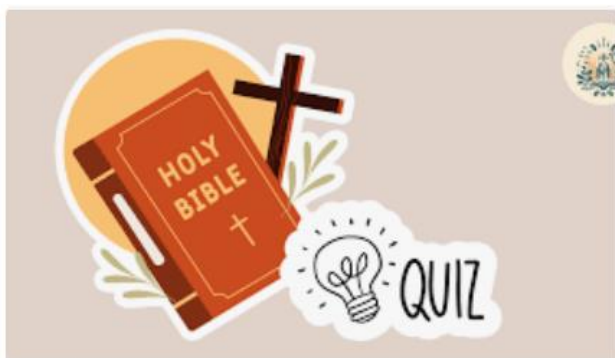
**PRAYER**  
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**TOMB**  
**TOWN**  
**WITNESS**

**July Answers**

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# THE MESSENGER

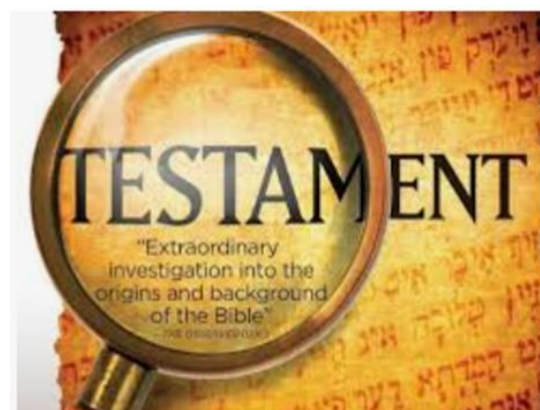
## Bible Trivia Questions: Bible Character



1. Who slew 1,000 Philistines using the jawbone of a donkey?
2. Who built a giant boat called the Ark?
3. How many people were on the Ark?
4. Who did God transport to Nineveh using a giant sea creature?
5. Who was forced into the lion's den?
6. Which prophet did God take up to heaven in a fiery chariot?
7. Who took over Elijah's ministry after he was taken to heaven?
8. What did God present to Moses when he was on Mount Sinai?
9. How many sets of the Ten Commandment slates did God etch out for Moses?
10. How did Aaron explain to Moses about the golden calf?

### July Answers

1. God
2. Thirty years old
3. Noah and his family
4. Peter and Andrew
5. Aaron
6. Herod Antipas
7. Jesus and Peter
8. Saul of Tarsus
9. Make more wine
10. Samson



## The Echo Shop of Saratoga

By Margit Chapman

As many of you know, the Echo Shop on Big Basin in Saratoga is a thriving up-scale thrift shop that services our community. The shop is 65 years old and over the years has significantly contributed to our many local charities. Our focus is accepting generous donations from our neighbors and then processing each item via a very rigorous quality assurance process to price and display the items for sale in the shop. Many wonderful and well-priced treasures are for sale. And *ALL* proceeds go to local charities.



We have many loyal customers who know our inventory moves rapidly, so they shop often for treasures. We get many wonderful reviews detailing our great and ever-changing inventory and our terrific staff. Our staff are all volunteers, many from ILC. I am very appreciative for the volunteer time Myra, Cheryl and Gail give to the shop. Their volunteering is a great contribution to the community and a great reflection of ILC being a service-oriented congregation.



I joined the Echo Shop out of curiosity and discovered it provided great gratification for "giving to help others" and a serving the community. And might I point out the many new friends I have made while volunteering. The staff are fun and great to work with whether sorting through donations, pricing items or dealing with our terrific customers. We all feel good about what we do.... even when we "shop" as we know how we are supporting those in need in our community.

To learn more about the Echo Shop, review the information on our website: [echoshop.org](http://echoshop.org).

And if you have any interest in participation as a volunteer, please reach out to me. And for sure.... go shopping at the store. You will be delighted with what treasure you might find.

Serving our community is the best and we represent ILC's mission to serve.

Margit Chapman

Echo Shop Managing Board Member & Webmaster

And most important.... Grateful volunteer



## 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.

## 2026 Safe Car Park at Immanuel Lutheran Church Saratoga-SEPT.

Please contact Rick Jernberg at [rjern2@gmail.com](mailto:rjern2@gmail.com) or Junko Honda at [junko\\_allport@yahoo.com](mailto:junko_allport@yahoo.com) for question about the RSCP program.

For administrative questions about the SignUpGenuis website, please contact Sheila Wallace at [office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com](mailto:office.ilc.saratoga@gmail.com).

## 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)



### IT Tips

- 1. Restarting actually fixes a lot-** yes, it sounds too simple. But it works. Whether your Wi-Fi is acting up, your software's frozen, or your mouse starts dancing on its own — **try restarting first**. You'd be amazed how many issues reset themselves when you restart the computer/laptop.
- 2. Ctrl + Z is your best friend:** Made a mistake? Deleted the wrong thing? Typed something awful? Just hit Ctrl + Z (or Cmd + Z on a Mac). It undoes the last action. It works in Word, browsers, Photoshop, etc.
- 3. Keyboard shortcuts save hours over time. Here are a few to start with:**
  - a. Alt + Tab (switch between open windows)
  - b. Ctrl + Shift + T (reopen closed browser tab)
  - c. Windows + L (lock your screen instantly)
  - d. Snipping Tool or Windows + Shift + S (for screenshots)
- 4. Backup** your computer, e.g., to an external hard drive, so your important information is not lost.

**Computer Hope:** Offers massive troubleshooting databases, chat forums, and step-by-step fix guides for software and hardware. <https://www.computerhope.com/>

**How to use Google Hangouts:** A communication platform facilitating messaging, video chatting, and phone calls.

**Cyber-Seniors:** Free technology support and training for older adults.

## 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; 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](mailto:aartbik@gmail.com)



### Vaccinations...

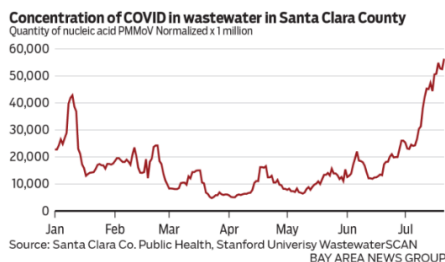
**GOT YOUR SHOT?** The latest updates on vaccine eligibility and how to schedule an appointment are available on the County's website at [sccfreevax.org](https://sccfreevax.org). In addition, residents without internet access or who need additional assistance can make appointments for the County Health

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

### COVID ON THE RISE

Monitoring the concentration of COVID in wastewater helps determine how much it has spread throughout the region. Since May, the concentration has been climbing – a sign of a possible summer bump in COVID that has been regularly occurring in years past.



### [Summertime COVID bump in Bay Area](#) Aug 10, 2026

## Resources

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

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

### [Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

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

### [COVID-19 Vaccine Basics](#)

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

### [Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### [Vaccine Effectiveness](#)

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

## Come Worship With Us!



14103 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Tel: 408-867-0822

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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

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

Communion is served each Sunday as part of the liturgy.

**Visitors are always welcome!**

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

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

## About the Messenger

Please submit articles, 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\\_08.pdf](https://ilcsaratoga.org/pdf/newsletter_2026_08.pdf)

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

