

September 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

**Sept 5: 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast@ Effie's in Campbell(1st Sat of the Month:
Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 2)**

Sept 19: 8:30 AM: Women's breakfast @ Effie's in Campbell

Sept 27, 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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SEPT 2026 Safe Car Park at Immanuel Lutheran Church Saratoga- Pg 23

**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
Family Supportive Housing: will be Sep. 20 - Pg 23**



Pastor Derek Writes...

By Pastor Derek Engfelt



Pastor Derek Writes...

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,
But with humility of mind let each of you
Regard one another as more important than yourselves;
Do not merely look out for your own personal interests,
But also for the interests of others.”
Philippians 2:4

I recently shared a meal with local faith and community leaders. It had been a few months since we had last met, and it was good to catch up and share stories of what had transpired for us over the summer.

Our look back soon turned to a discussion about plans for the future – and what we might do as leaders to work together for the good of the whole and gain ground higher than we might attain in our individual, singular ministries. On the discussion table: voting (in general) and the midterm elections (in particular).

Of course, there are many things to consider on this subject, including the following: What values do we hold in common, by which we can assess, together, the issues set forth? What is faith’s place in the public square? What is meant by the separation of church & state? How can we promote non-partisan discussion that will

result in all of us being better informed and all of us being spurred on toward greater involvement?

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.

After leaving the meeting, my head was swimming with these questions. When I came up for air, I asked myself what are perhaps even bigger and more important questions: How important is my vote – and how should I cast it? Is the gift of democracy the opportunity to vote in a way that results in what is best for each individual voter? That, when all the voices are heard, the results are made known, and all ought to move forward together based on the decisions made by all those who voted? It sounds right.

However, when I thought about those in the minority, I wondered if this view of democracy was a bit lacking. Perhaps at its best, democracy means that I ought not vote not for what is right for me, but rather that I ought to vote for what I think is right for as many people as possible. And that if, in my deliberations, I think of those in the minority and consider how an outcome might be more detrimental to them than it would bring blessing to me, I might (even should) adjust my vote.

The goal, perhaps, is that any outcome would be a blessing to all and neglect none. Of course, this may be an unrealistic and ideal scenario that will never be fully realized. Still, should it not be something toward which we should all aspire? After all, Jesus came to lay down His life in sacrifice for all people, and His character and actions were both polar opposites of egocentrism.

As American citizens, we have the right and the responsibility to cast our votes in elections. May the faith that instructs us and moves us to show up to the voting booth (as good citizens) also inform the votes we cast. And may it all be done not simply for our own personal interests, but in a way that considers the interest of others and brings blessing and benefit to all.

Serving in your midst with gratitude and joy,

Pastor Derek J. Engfelt



PHILIPPIANS 2:4
"LET EACH OF YOU LOOK OUT NOT ONLY
FOR HIS OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR
THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS."

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



Worship + Love + Serve

Children's Story



The Wolf and The Lamb



An astray Lamb stood drinking early one morning on the bank of a woodland stream. That very same morning a hungry Wolf came by farther up the stream, hunting for something to eat. He soon spotted the Lamb. Normally the Wolf would have snapped up such a delicious morsel without a second thought, but this Lamb looked so helpless and innocent that the Wolf felt he ought to have some kind of excuse for taking its life.

"How dare you paddle around in my stream and stir up all the mud!" he shouted fiercely. "You deserve to be severely punished for your rudeness!"

"But, your highness," replied the trembling Lamb, "do not be angry! I cannot possibly muddy the water you are drinking up there. Remember, you are upstream and I am downstream."

"You do muddy it!" retorted the Wolf savagely. "And besides, I have heard that you told lies about me last year!"

"How could I have done so?" pleaded the Lamb. "I wasn't born until this year."

"If it wasn't you, it was your brother!"

"I have no brothers."

"Well, then," snarled the Wolf, "it was someone in your family anyway. But no matter who it was, I do not intend to be talked out of my breakfast."

And without another word the Wolf seized the poor Lamb and carried her off to the forest.

The tyrants can always find an excuse for their tyranny.

The unjust will not listen to the reasoning of the innocent.



Copyright: Internet article.

THE MESSENGER

Men's Breakfast



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

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

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



Women's Breakfast

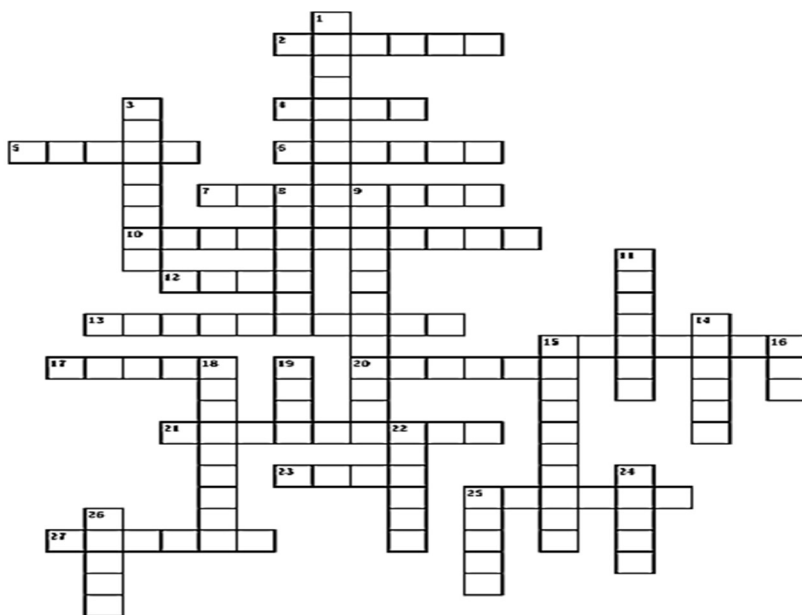
The Women's Breakfast is held the third Saturday of each month at Effie's Restaurant in Campbell (331 W. Hacienda Ave). We meet at 8:30am for a short devotion, after which we share breakfast and fellowship. We conclude by 10:00. All women of the congregation – members and friends – are welcome.



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



Crossword Puzzle: Jesus Feeds Five Thousand



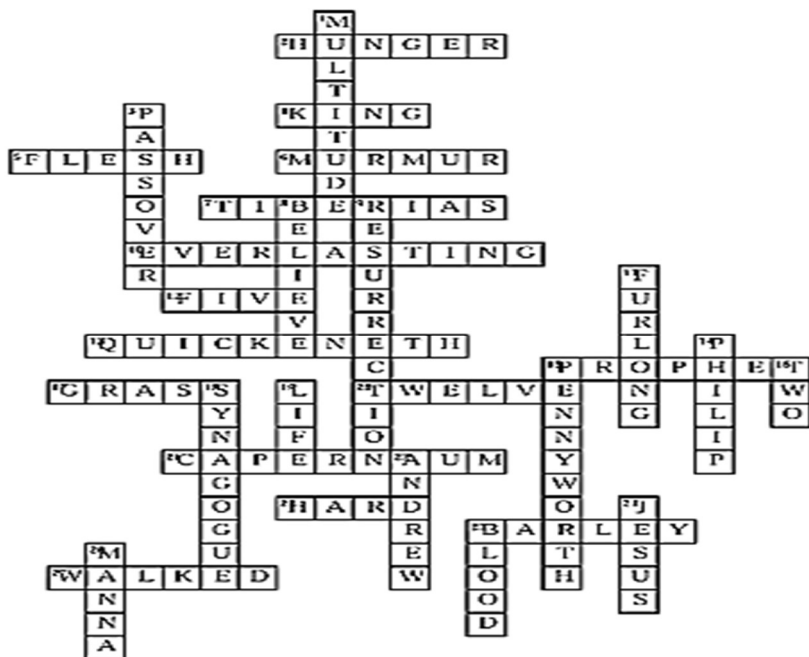
Across

- 1 What men must eat to have eternal life.
- 4 Grain out of which bread is made.
- 8 To complain or grumble.
- 9 There was much of this where Jesus did the miracle.
- 12 Another name for the Sea of Galilee.
- 15 What those who eat the Bread of Heaven never do?
- 16 Who the people believed Jesus to be (John 6:14).
- 17 Number of fish found.
- 19 Number of baskets of scraps.
- 20 "Labor for that meat which endureth unto _____ life."
- 23 To make alive.
- 24 The true bread from heaven.
- 25 Where Jesus went afterward.
- 28 What the Bread of Heaven gives

Down

- 2 Where Jesus taught in Capernaum.
- 3 Number of loaves found.
- 5 Jesus did this on the sea.
- 6 Thousands of people.
- 7 A feast of the Jews.
- 10 It would take more than 200 of these to feed the people.
- 11 Difficult to understand and accept.
- 13 The work of God.
- 14 What the Lord will do in the last day.
- 18 What some wanted to make Jesus after seeing this miracle.
- 21 This disciple found a boy with food.
- 22 A unit of measuring length.
- 26 The disciple Jesus asked to feed the multitude.
- 27 What Israel ate in the wilderness?

August 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.

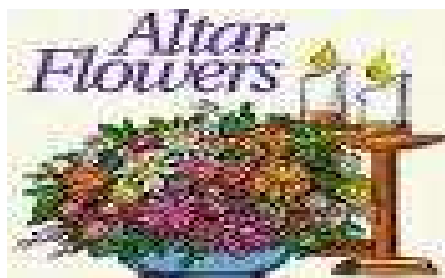


ILC EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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 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>

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 concluding our study on the parables of the Bible and are considering what will be our next subject of study. If you're unable to join us in person, you can participate from the comfort of your own home by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87581100281?pwd=dEgrblEwUFZlaU5NQy91RE9sWlNIQT09>

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

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...

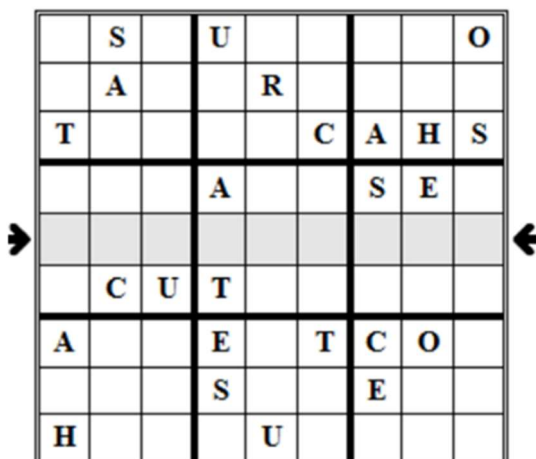
Yes, that's right, ILC supports the [Echo Shop](#) in downtown Saratoga with our time and donations! The Echo Shop is a high- end resale shop, run by our neighbors at St. Andrews Episcopal Church since 1961. It's staffed entirely by volunteers, so all of the money raised can go directly to local charities,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

Jesus Christ is the Light

The 9 letters to use :

A C E H O R S T U

August Answer

SEARCH OUT

Did You Know ?

«Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to God.» (Lam.3:40). We search out our ways most effectually when we compare ourselves with Jesus Christ, the Great Light, who leads the world to see itself (John 12:46).



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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 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.mentalhealthsf.org)

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

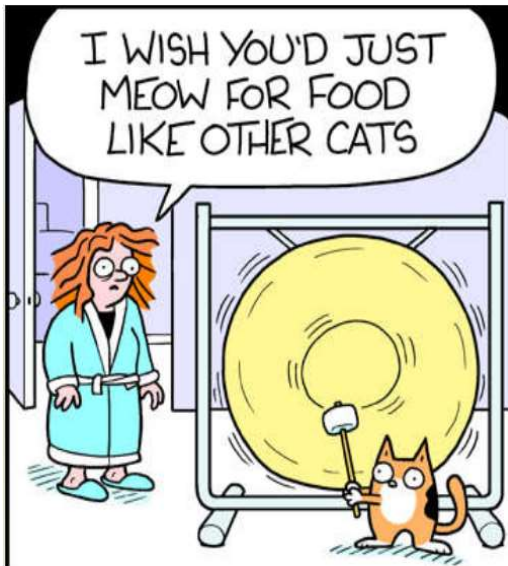
Santa Clara County (SSC) Update on Coronavirus – www.sccphd.org/coronavirus.

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

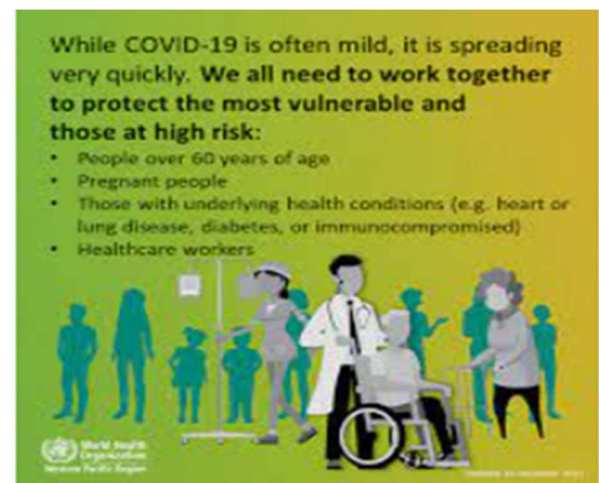
For more info, please go to the following website. 1. <https://covid19.ca.gov/>



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- Story of Kyle and True Friendship

I was a freshman in high school, and I saw a kid from my class walking home carrying all his books. His name was Kyle. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd."

I had a planned weekend of parties and a football game with my friends. Then I saw a bunch of kids running toward him, knocking his books out of his arms, and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying and landed in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up, and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him, and I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses with a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey, thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had attended a private school before. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before, but we talked all the way home, and I carried his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play football with my friends and me on Saturday. He said yes.

We hung out all weekend, and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him. And my friends thought the same of him. Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are going to really build some serious muscles with this pile of books every day!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a graduation speech. I was so glad it was not me who had to get up there and speak. On graduation day, Kyle looked great. He was one of those guys who really found himself during high school. He looked good in glasses and filled out well. He had more dates than me, and all the girls loved him! Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech, so I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.



As he started his speech, he cleared his throat and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach -- but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story." I just looked at my friend, disbelief on my face, as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked about how he had cleaned out his locker so his mom would not have to later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture, you can change a person's life. We can never know what burdens someone may be carrying inside, just trying to get through another day; making fun of them can be their breaking point- do not help escalate stress and mental health issues that impact others. Without judgment, treating everyone with dignity and sincere consideration should be a hallmark of Christians. Make your first reaction one of kindness and consideration, if not compassion!

"I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do". John 13:15
Jesus showed that true authority does not humiliate others. It serves them!

The Hills Are Alive... with ILC Hikers!

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

These hikes are planned to be fun for the whole family. We're planning to venture out on the second and Saturday of September. This will be a "no one left behind" hike. Invite your friends!

September 12: Steven's Creek / Coyote Ridge

From the valley floor, we will hike up and over into Fremont Older Preserve, affording us some nice views. Then downhill to Steven's Creek Reservoir, circling back to our cars. The hike is of moderate difficulty with about 800 feet of elevation gain over 5.5 miles.



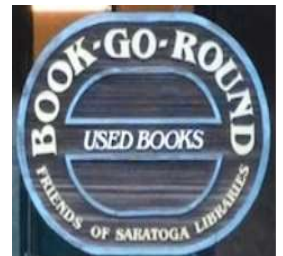
Getting There: From the church, turn left, heading northeast on Saratoga Ave. toward Herriman Ave. In ¼ mile, turn left. Proceed 1 mile, then turn right on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd. In ¼ mile, turn left on Verda Vista Lane. In ¼ mile, keep right at Sarahills Dr. and continue 1 mile to Pierce Rd. Turn left. 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 at Zinfandel Trailhead. Or Google here: 37°16'46.5"N 122°04'23.8"W

Plan to arrive by 7:45 AM. We'll gather our group and plan our hike. We'll hit the road at 8:00 and plan to return to our cars by 10:30.

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

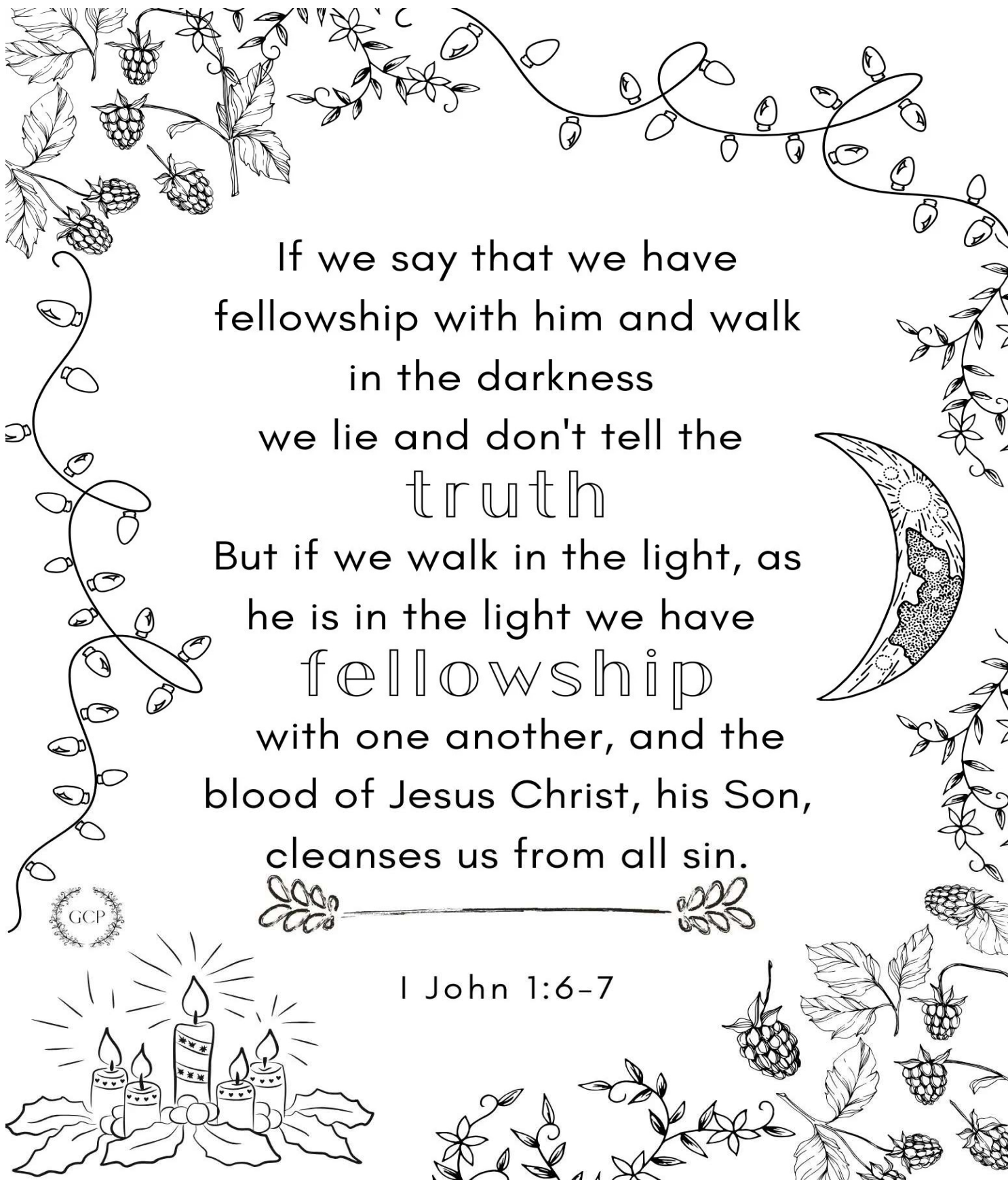


Children's Books Ministry



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!**

BLOOD

P	M	K	P	U	R	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	T	O	E	W	P	C	V
F	Y	I	M	T	B	P	T	S	P	B	H	I	C	I	K	N	C	P	T	C	A
X	R	E	S	C	Q	Q	L	U	K	Q	T	F	R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	P
M	L	M	G	T	O	D	C	T	S	O	A	T	C	H	I	E	U	D	V	N	U
O	I	Z	M	P	B	P	O	C	A	D	R	W	N	R	L	O	A	R	O	N	E
R	E	A	L	M	P	R	C	O	L	T	W	A	N	A	S	H	T	I	C	W	G
Z	V	S	A	S	R	N	T	C	V	Y	C	A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	U
U	H	L	M	G	A	D	Y	V	A	C	S	P	I	L	L	E	D	P	W	B	G
N	P	R	O	P	I	T	I	A	T	I	O	N	N	Y	A	Z	V	I	L	Z	S
P	L	Q	S	E	T	X	U	P	I	B	Q	O	R	N	A	M	Y	O	S	S	M
S	O	U	N	L	E	J	P	Q	O	M	I	R	Z	L	U	B	O	L	C	R	Q
E	M	U	A	T	T	P	P	S	N	T	E	M	D	L	I	D	G	I	I	Y	K
C	K	S	R	E	F	X	A	L	A	N	O	L	S	I	J	S	M	J	E	T	N
R	Y	E	T	E	T	T	Y	C	R	E	M	I	Y	T	A	E	P	N	C	R	O
Z	J	A	R	H	D	F	I	K	R	C	T	G	J	C	N	A	O	M	A	A	I
N	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	B	R	W	C	D	A	P	H	M	T
A	R	W	G	U	I	L	T	P	C	N	M	I	P	J	F	J	E	Y	A	N	P
S	O	U	C	T	P	S	S	J	R	N	F	O	L	A	C	T	S	H	E	E	M
Z	S	O	S	S	S	E	N	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	C	S	N	M	S	O	E
E	S	U	A	N	O	F	L	P	C	Q	E	V	N	O	O	H	N	M	M	I	D
S	J	N	L	T	B	O	W	E	Q	L	U	S	I	P	I	H	C	A	L	V	E
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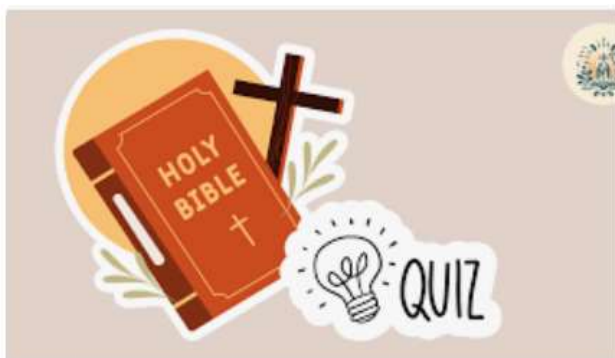
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ATONEMENT	HYSSOP	POURED	SALVATION
BLOOD	INNOCENT	PRIEST	SANCTIFICATION
COVENANT	JUSTIFICATION	PROPITIATION	SHED
CROSS	LAMB	PURIFICATION	SPILLED
CRUCIFIXION	MARTYRS	RANSOM	VEIL
CUP	MERCY	REDEMPTION	WRATH

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

THE MESSENGER

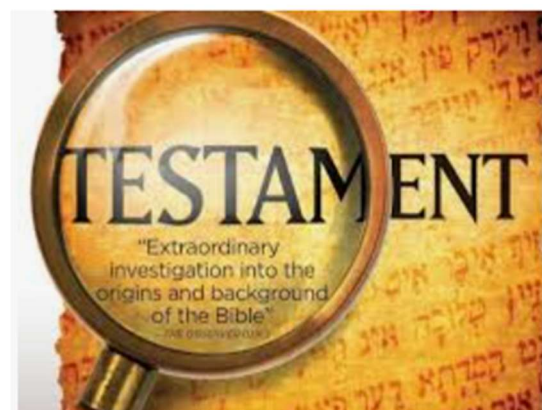
Bible Trivia Questions: Bible Character



1. Who looked back at Gomorrah and turned into a pillar of salt?
2. Who was sold into slavery by several of his brothers?
3. What was King David's first occupation?
4. When David was a shepherd, what animal did he protect his sheep from?
5. Who used a sling and a smooth stone to kill a giant?
6. Who betrayed Jesus to the religious mob on the night of His arrest?
7. How much was Judas paid to identify Jesus on the night of the arrest?
8. What happened to Judas Iscariot after the mob took Jesus away?
9. What island was John exiled on when he wrote the Book of Revelation?
10. This man denied knowing Jesus three times on the night of His arrest.

August Answers

1. Samson
2. Noah
3. Eight people
4. Jonah
5. Daniel
6. Elijah
7. Elisha
8. Ten Commandments
9. Two sets
10. Poof, the calf appeared



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.

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 worshiping 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.

Family Supportive Housing: will be **Sep. 20**. We need: Two cooks, three servers, and 6 dozen cupcakes. Linda Jacks is the one to contact with any questions at lindaloubob5@yahoo.com.

Rotating Safe Car Park

This marks our 6th year of participation in Saratoga's *Rotating Safe Car Park* (RSCP) program. As such, we are opening our parking lot to between 10-20 guests for overnight parking/sleeping.

Many thanks to Rick Jernberg, Junko Honda, Collin Campbell, and their team, for leading the charge, and to the many volunteers who will be serving to make this act of hospitality a success.

Sign up to volunteer here: [Safe Car Park](#)

Congratulations to and Gratitude for: **Margit Chapman**, recently elected to the Board of Directors of Saratoga Chamber of Commerce for 2026 – 2028. 🙌

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

Essential Keyboard Shortcuts

- **Ctrl + Shift + T:** Reopen your last accidentally closed browser tab instantly.
- **Win + Shift + S:** Open the built-in screen snipping tool on Windows to capture any portion of your screen.
- **Win + D:** Minimize all open windows immediately to show your desktop, and press it again to restore them.
- **Win + V:** Open your clipboard history to paste previous items you copied earlier.
- **Win + L:** Lock your computer instantly when you step away from your desk

Browser & Web Tricks

- **Site-Specific Search:** Type a domain name (like `youtube.com`) in your Chrome address bar, press **Tab**, and type your search to query only that website
- **Domain Autofill:** Press **Ctrl + Enter** while typing a web address in the bar to automatically add `.com`
- **Paste as Plain Text:** Use **Ctrl + Shift + V** in many modern apps and browsers to paste copied text without weird background fonts or styling



Vaccinations...

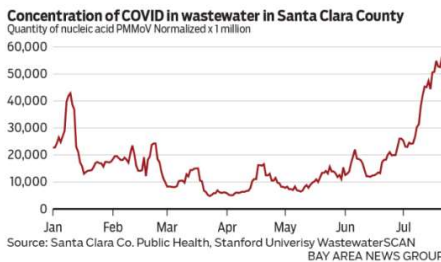
GOT YOUR SHOT? The latest updates on vaccine eligibility and how to schedule an appointment are available on the County's website at sccfreevax.org. In addition, residents without internet access or who need additional assistance can make appointments for the County Health

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

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.

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 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_09.pdf

"THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Saratoga

14103 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

