



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

| April 12, 2020

| Issue #692

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR JOURNEY IN JESUS – THE GREAT SURPRISE!

Our Risen Savior meets Mary Magdalene in the garden with the simple mention of her name to lift her from her grief-laden vision. But with the words “Go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God,’” Jesus pulls her from the ‘tomb’ of confusion and gives to her a new word to share. We, too, hear these words of joy and are pulled into the miracle of Jesus’ Resurrection to begin a new journey in Him.

Like me, you may be feeling a little overwhelmed with the isolation that our self-imposed imprisonment is bringing into our daily lives. We can see the real benefits of our social distancing as not only slowing the spread of the virus, but also allowing us more time to spend with our family members. But what about those who have no family? What about those who are unable to connect with the relationships that have often filled their lives with purpose? What about when our daily habits begin to grate upon one another? We may be feeling that our lives may never be the same again.

Jesus’ words to Mary Magdalene this morning is a comfort both to her but also to us. First, the simple mention of her name, “Mary,” brings her to her knees and the ultimate surprise. He is not a dead, lifeless body but a life-giving Lord! As we read in John 20, this is already her second trip to the garden. The first was earlier in the dark and ended with the shock of a tomb that was empty and the belief that someone had taken His body away. Her first ‘report’ was not exactly good news. She had misinterpreted the empty tomb to mean that the evil of Good Friday had been compounded and that the opportunity to grieve and care for the dead had been stripped away as well. Distraught with grief and weeping, Mary’s eyes cannot even see her Lord and Teacher. The Savior’s personal call awakens her to the good news that He is alive. But He does not stop there. Instead, she has

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
(to be available online livestream)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
(to be available online prerecorded)

11:00 a.m. ILC Easter Online Fellowship
(to be available online livestream)

THIS WEEK

Wed., 4/15 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

a new purpose, a new journey, and a trip to His brothers with the news that He is ascending to His Father’s side!

I have been amazed at the beauty of the Korean cherry blossoms. Their stark white flower upon the black bark is really a beautiful surprise to behold this Easter. Our Savior’s victory over our sin and death is a beautiful surprise. Jesus’ Resurrection is a personal call upon our lives to awaken from our tombs of grief and loss. In Holy Baptism He names us alive in Him with a purpose to share this message with a world gripped with fear and loss. We are a living testimony to His Resurrection as we *Journey in Jesus* and live out the Great Surprise in both word and deed. Our fellowship around His Table, His Body and Blood, speaks to our new identity in Him as His brothers and sisters. As we wait to gather around that table once again, we know He uses this time to prepare our hearts to receive Him. I pray that Jesus would open your eyes and mine to the Great Surprise that awaits us in our journey in Him.

God bless you this Easter as you celebrate the new life we have in Him. He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Carl

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

HELP ILC SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Though we are not meeting in person, church operations still continue and to that end we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

If you are unable or do not wish to give electronically, you may hold your offerings until we resume our normal worship schedule.

Thank you for your role in keeping ILC's ministry ongoing.
CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE GAME NIGHT - COMING SOON

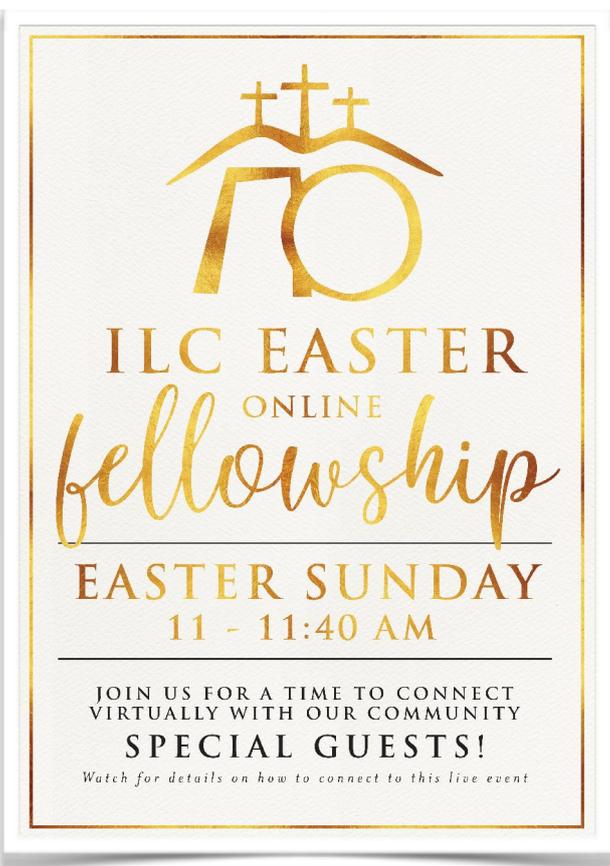
Ever played *Skribbl.io*? Most haven't, but we plan to try! On Friday, April 17th, ILC is planning its first ever virtual Game Night. More details to follow.

SAY HELLO TO YOUR FRIENDS!

Are you interested in recording a short video greeting to the congregation? Please let us know at seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com.

ILC EASTER ONLINE FELLOWSHIP TIME

On Easter Sunday, ILC will host a virtual 'coffee hour' from 11-11:40 a.m. where we can connect online for an Easter greeting and some 'social distancing' fellowship. The link is available through the electronic version of *The Messenger*.



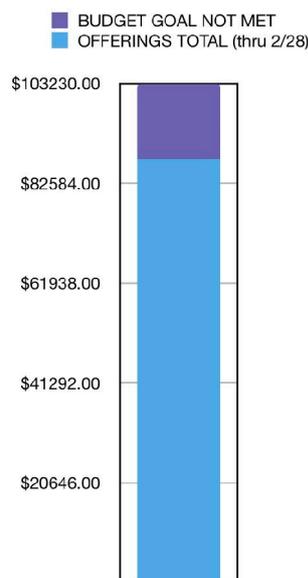
The poster features a golden logo at the top consisting of three crosses above a stylized '10' that forms a house shape. Below the logo, the text reads: 'ILC EASTER ONLINE fellowship' in a mix of serif and script fonts. Underneath, it says 'EASTER SUNDAY 11 - 11:40 AM'. At the bottom, it invites people to join for a time to connect virtually and mentions 'SPECIAL GUESTS!' with a note to watch for details on how to connect to the live event.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Since our services have temporarily migrated to a virtual format, we will not be listing worship assistants here. However, if you are interested in serving as a worship volunteer for when we resume our normal schedule, please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

BUDGET MATTERS AT ILC

YTD (through 02/28/20) OFFERINGS
 \$87,614.20 (₩101,972,584)
YTD (4/1/19-3/30/20) BUDGET
 \$103,230 (₩120,147,532)



READINGS

Apr 12: Easter Sunday

OT	Exodus 14:10 - 15:1
NT	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel	John 20:1-18

April 19: 2nd Sunday of Easter

OT	Acts 5:29-42
NT	1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel	John 20:19-31