



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR LIVING HOPE – BENEFITS OF THE RESURRECTION!

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter is not a one-day event, but rather one event that changes every day! Today at International Lutheran Church we begin a new sermon series entitled *Our Living Hope*. We will be reading together the first letter of the Apostle Peter over the next several weeks and unpacking the meaning and significance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ for our everyday lives. Today, Peter, who was “sifted like wheat,” points to the benefits of the Resurrection as he strengthens Christians everywhere who are undergoing various trials and tests.

One of the major issues that this recent pandemic has brought to light is the ability or lack of ability by different medical systems to “test” for the virus. The consensus seems to be that the more tests are available, the easier or quicker the communities can respond. In general, though, we don’t usually like tests, even when we know that they bring a positive result. Perhaps as kids and later as young adults we dreaded ‘test day,’ mid-terms or finals and the pressure we felt to perform. The idea of getting anything but top marks seemed to loom as a hidden expectation. Perhaps as adults in the working world we stress over giving or receiving an annual evaluation. The negative morale created even at the suggestion of ‘areas for improvement’ during a review seem to be counterproductive. Yet, tests and trials are the only way something can be proven to be genuine, true and beneficial. We are learning in these difficult days a positive benefit of testing and its life and death importance for us all.

The Apostle Peter, whose ministry to “strengthen the brethren” after he had been “sifted as wheat” (Luke 22:31-34), begins his letter with a strong and bold embrace of the various tests and trials that our faith goes through as it is proven to be genuine and true. Our ability to believe or our ability to maintain our faith is not the focus of the trial. The focus is the object of our faith; that is, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in His great and abundant mercy

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

THIS WEEK

Wed., 4/22 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

“caused us to be born again...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1Peter 1:3). Peter unpacks for us the benefits of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead in a threefold outline with the simple word “to” or “for.” First on his list is the impact it makes on our current situation as we are brought into a “living hope” (v.3). Jesus’ resurrection creates the faith that holds on to God in His mercy that He has forgiven our sins and restored us to a right relationship with Him. Peter had denied his Savior and yet God forgave him. This “faith,” this “birth,” this “new start” that Peter is given embolden him to confess his Savior even in the face of opposition and threat of punishment. The second benefit is the sure and certain treasure, the “inheritance” (v.4) that is now ours through Jesus’ resurrection. At His death, all that was His became ours as a gift. We are thus stored away in Him and preserved as His priceless treasure, guarded and kept until that last day. The third benefit is then this very “salvation” (v.5) that is to be revealed and at the same time is being produced in our very lives/souls even now. While we don’t see, we still believe. While we are under many trials, we still love as He has loved us.

Each Lord’s Day we celebrate the living hope we have in Him as the benefits of His Resurrection are made manifest in our very lives in and through the trials and tests we face. God strengthen you and remind you today that He is working in you to the glory and praise of His name. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!!

Pastor Carl

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH OPERATIONS CONTINUE

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.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SEND US YOUR GREETING!

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 held its first virtual 'coffee hour.' Thank you to those who were able to join to greet each other and welcome some former ILC pastors who sent their greetings to our community.

VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT THIS FRIDAY

Ever played *Skribbl.io*? Most haven't, but we plan to try! This Friday, April 17th, ILC is planning its first ever Virtual Game Night. A link is available through the electronic version of *The Messenger*.



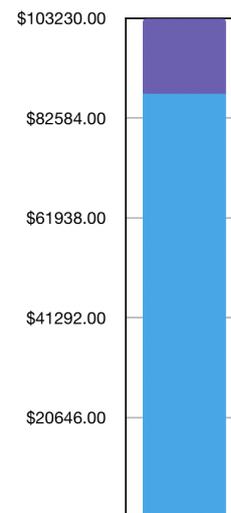
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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)

■ BUDGET GOAL NOT MET
 ■ OFFERINGS TOTAL (thru 2/28)



READINGS

April 19: 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

April 26: 3rd Sunday of Easter

OT	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
NT	1 Peter 1:17-25
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35