



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR LIVING HOPE – WE BELONG TO HIM!

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter is not just a one-day event, but rather the single event that changes every day! During this Easter season here at International Lutheran Church we have begun a new sermon series entitled *Our Living Hope* as we read through the Epistle of 1 Peter. Today, Peter reminds us where our true identity and sense of belonging comes from as followers of Jesus Christ our risen Lord. While change and decay are a part of our everyday lives, Peter announces the good news made sure in Jesus' Resurrection that the Word of the Lord endures forever.

None of us like suffering or hardship. We can easily become very stressed by the changes that suffering and hardship bring. This worldwide pandemic that we are all going through is certainly a reminder of this reality. Nothing seems to last very long, and everything can change so quickly. Peter and the other disciples certainly lived through this very reality as we read in the Gospel lesson of the journey on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24. We are reminded how quickly our dreams can become overinflated and burst with disillusionment. Yet, the Risen Jesus walked with those disciples and explained from the scriptures how the Messiah had to first suffer before entering His glory. This truth of the cross and the empty tomb is what sets faith in Jesus apart from all our attempts to find permanence in this world or in ourselves.

For Peter the suffering and Resurrection of Jesus is what sets us apart and makes us "exiles" or "strangers" in the world in which we live. We don't "belong" here anymore. Not because of something we have done, but because of what God has done to us in raising Jesus from the dead, namely that He has ransomed us and rescued us from our futile lives with the precious blood of our Savior. As the catechism puts it, "He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from

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., 4/29 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom..." (Luther's Small Catechism, the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed). Or in the words of a favorite hymn, "I am but a stranger here, Heaven is my home" (LSB 748). This does not mean that we are here just waiting to "go to heaven," but rather that we live, even under the most difficult of situations, with the living hope that our value is in Him who made us and redeemed us. Our lives are here as a living testimony to God's grace and love to all as we grow in our appreciation of His love for us and as we share that love with one another. We work and strive to use the gifts and talents He has given us to bless our neighbor. And while the flower fades and decays, and our lives grow dim, His Word, His spoken message of grace grows brighter and brighter each day.

Yes, each Lord's Day we celebrate the Living Hope we have in Him as His Resurrection reminds us of the value and worth that God has placed on our lives and makes of our lives. God strengthen you and remind you today that He is working in you even through hardship 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

COVID-19 UPDATE

While there have been recent changes to the restrictions being placed on church and other segments of the community in regards to the spread of the Covid-19 virus, there will still be **NO ONSITE SERVICE AT ILC THIS WEEKEND, April 26th**. We will continue to use our current online service format as the principal form of corporate worship. Please watch *The Messenger*, the ILC Facebook page, and the ILC website for future updates and changes.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR GREETING!

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

VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first ever ILC Virtual Game Night last Friday. We played *Skribblio* and *Kahoot*. It was a lot of fun, so be looking for more opportunities to fellowship with your ILC community, even online!

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 seouilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

READINGS

April 26: 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

May 3: 4th Sunday of Easter

OT	Acts 2:42-47
NT	1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel	John 10:1-10