



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR LIVING HOPE – AS LIVING STONES!

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Our Easter hope is *Our Living Hope*. Jesus has rescued us from darkness (sin, death and the power of the devil) and brought us into His marvelous light (Chosen, Royal and Holy people). Peter strengthens the brothers and sisters of Asia Minor and us with the good news of our new and living identity “as living stones” (1 Peter 2:5). All this has come about with the resurrection of Jesus for a purpose: “to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). This weekend at International Lutheran Church we join our voices in giving thanks to God for our mothers and the Christian witness that they have been in our lives. Happy Mother’s Day!

Last week we explored Peter’s theme of Jesus as the living Shepherd and Overseer of our souls that came at the end of 1 Peter chapter 2. Today we return to the beginning of chapter 2 and plumb our new identity and the new calling we have as followers of Jesus, the stone that the builders had rejected. In fact, Peter builds on the salvation themes of the Old Testament as he creates an image for us of our new identity in Jesus “as living stones” (1 Peter 2:5). Just as the pastoral images of green pastures and still waters in the 23rd Psalm give way in the end to the Shepherd-King motif of “dwelling in the House of the Lord forever,” so the Old Testament garden beginnings give way to the urban or perhaps we should say “capital” structures found in the very temple of the Most High. The identity of God’s people as a chosen race, a royal priesthood and holy nation is built on the establishment of the Temple in Jerusalem. This structure is critical to the very blueprints of how God “shows His mercy” and “dwells” in the midst of His people.

The radical announcement that Jesus - the “Stone the builders had rejected” (1 Peter 2:7) - has now become the Capstone or Cornerstone of God’s construction is revolutionary. Jesus - the Temple which is destroyed by sinful man but raised by God in three days - is what makes us now living stones! But what does Peter mean by living stones? Peter gives us a hint and Stephen (Acts 6:51-60) gives us an example. We are now “a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a holy nation... that you may proclaim

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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| 9:00 a.m. | Bible Class
(to be available online livestream) |
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| 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service
(to be available online prerecorded) |

THIS WEEK

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| Wed., 5/13 | Bible Study
(to be available online livestream) |
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the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). We are the stones made alive and incorporated into the descendants of Abraham through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Our lives now share the story of God’s grace and mercy in us. We are the very temple in which His Spirit dwells. Stephen, the first Christian martyr or witness, is filled with this Spirit and proclaimed that amazing vision and truth of our Living Savior standing at the right hand of God even as he was stoned. We may not be stoned for our witness today, but each day is an opportunity for us to live out our witness. Today we remember Mother’s Day, and we give thanks to God for the Christian witness that mothers make each and every day. Sometimes this witness is shown in the very simple ways we care for one another. This is a very beautiful part of being His living stones. Our witness is not in ourselves, but rather His grace to us.

Our world needs to hear our voices. Even as this pandemic waxes and wanes in different parts of the world, we need to remember that we are here for a purpose. We have been made alive and are being built together to make known His mercy in our world today. As our communities begin to open up and yet the fear of transmission lingers, may God give us strength to make known through our lives the excellencies 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, May 10. 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.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SERVICES

Please look for a special announcement regarding ILC's 'socially responsible services' that we plan to begin on Sunday, May 17.

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!

READINGS

May 10: 5th Sunday of Easter

OT	Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60
NT	1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel	John 14:1-14

May 17: 6th Sunday of Easter

OT	Acts 17:16-31
NT	1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel	John 14:15-21

