



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR LIVING HOPE – ALWAYS PREPARED!

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! *Our Living Hope* is something that attracts the attention of those around us. Jesus is alive in our lives and this fact changes the very way in which we live and the relationships we have with others. Today, Peter reminds us of this when he says, “in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15-16). This weekend at International Lutheran Church we are strengthened in our gentle Christian witness that we make each day as we live in a hope that has prepared us for this very hour!

Here at International Lutheran Church, we have been reading through the Apostle Peter’s first letter to the church in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). We have seen that *Our Living Hope* is a central theme to this letter based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Today we see how this living hope actually prepares us for daily living as well as attracts to it an audience of those who see our lives lived in a sure confidence of God’s presence and activity. Peter says that some may begin to even ponder questions like: Why do Christians have hope? What is the basis of this hope? How does this hope change the way we live each day? Paul experienced this as he spoke on Mars Hill to the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers of his day (as is recorded in Acts 17:16-31, which we read today).

Chapter 3 of 1 Peter begins with what is often seen as ‘apostolic instructions for daily life.’ Our living hope guides us in how we live in gentleness together in a family as husbands and wives, as well as how that extends into our relationship with others outside the home. Peter is aware of how life is not always easy and that suffering, even for doing what is right, can be a real experience that we may face. This suffering is not meant to cause us to doubt our faith, but rather is connected directly to our faith. “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit” (v.18). Here is the foundation of our hope. This is not wishful thinking but the rock-solid fact of Jesus’ death and resurrection for us. Each and every experience that we have is an opportunity for us to draw upon this living hope and “honor

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., 5/20 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

Christ in our hearts” (v.15). While it is true that some suffering can bring about a positive result (such as a rigorous exercise, a medical procedure, even sheltering in place), the kind of result that Peter is talking about - namely life from death, honor from humiliation, righteousness from unrighteousness, etc. - is only possible in Christ. His death in the flesh brings about an eternal result for you and me. As Jesus says in John 14: “Because I live, so also shall you live.”

Peter goes on to remind us of this as he explains how in baptism we are connected to this good news of “the righteous for the unrighteous” (v.18). Just as Noah and the seven other people - his family - were rescued from the flood as they rested in the ark, so “baptism now saves you” (v.21). This is not a mere superficial “removal of dirt” (v.21), but rather the flood of forgiveness of all of our sins and the clearing of our conscience. Our salvation and victory in Christ do not come from any superior behavior but rather bring a change of heart, a gentle spirit and a sure confidence that God is with us and working in the events that we face today. We are not orphans! Jesus is risen from the dead! Our sins are gone! In the gentleness of a Lord who bears our sin in His body on the tree, God won us and saves us so that we would be prepared to speak into the lives of others with this same gentleness and respect.

God has prepared us for this very moment to share with any and all who ask for the reason we have hope even in these difficult days. He has even prepared these moments when our hope in Him can be a gentle reminder and invitation to all of His love for them. God grant us His Holy Spirit, His gentle Spirit as we rest in this hope today and every day!

Pastor Carl

ILC OFFERINGS RECORD FOR LOCAL TAXES

If you need a donations statement for local taxes, please let us know by sending an email to:

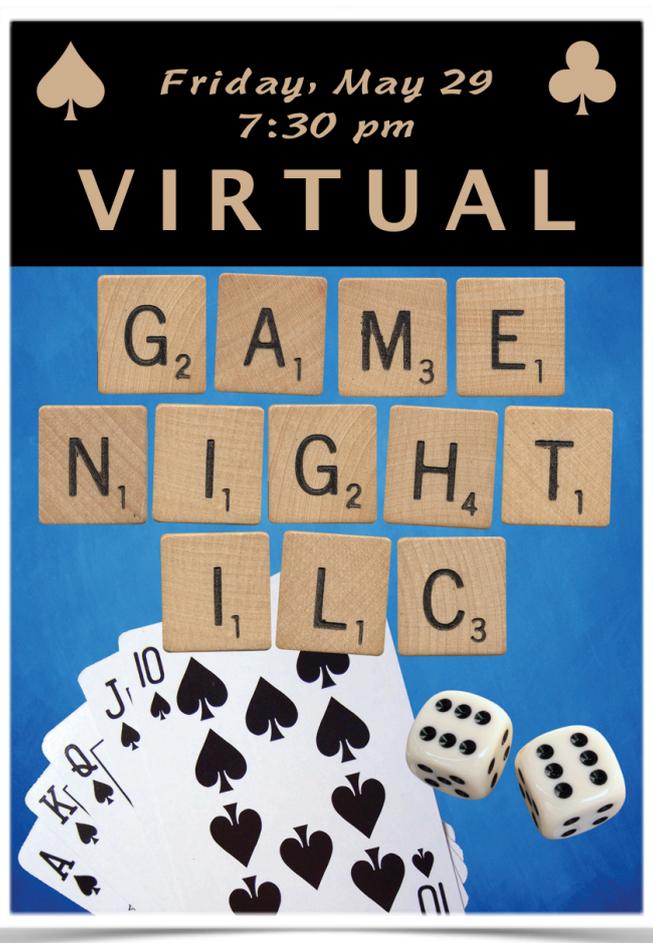
seoulilc.church@gmail.com (yes, this is a new email!).

COVID-19 UPDATE

There will still be NO ONSITE SERVICE AT ILC THIS WEEKEND, May 17. 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 stay updated regarding ILC's *Socially Responsible Services* that we plan to begin on Sunday, May 24. Watch for updates here and through our social media.



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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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 17: 6th Sunday of Easter

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

May 24: 7th Sunday of Easter

OT	Acts 1:12-26
NT	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11
Gospel	John 17:1-11