



# The Messenger

## International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org | May 3, 2026 | Issue #1008

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

### OUR LIVING HOPE - AS LIVING STONES

**You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5 ESV)**

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! God gives us a new identity in and through the Stone He has chosen that we would be His living stones - a spiritual house "to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light." Today at International Lutheran Church we appreciate again the nature of our Christian witness as His living stones!

Last week we explored Peter's theme of Jesus as our Risen Shepherd and Overseer of our souls that came at the end of 1 Peter 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. Just as the pastoral images of green pastures and still waters in the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 gives way to a more urban setting, or perhaps we should say "capital structures" found at the center of the City of God - the very Temple of the Most High. The identity of God's people as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a 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" - 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 in Acts 6:51-60 gives us an example. We are

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM *Sunday Morning Bible Study and Sunday School*  
10:00 AM *Divine Worship Service*  
(in-person and live stream)

### OTHER EVENTS

Go to [ilcseoul.org](http://ilcseoul.org) > Upcoming for other events

now "a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a holy nation... that you may proclaim 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 Ascended Lord and Savior standing at the right hand of God even as he was stoned. Even as his life slipped from him, he prayed for those standing there that God would not hold them to account but forgive and renew them. Jesus did answer that prayer in and through one young man named Saul, named after the famous Benjamite and first king of Israel. Later he was often called by his Roman name - Paul.

In Jesus, you and I are also a result of Stephen's prayer as we have been made alive and are being built together to make known His mercy in our world today. Today we are witnesses of this in the life of Jinny and JT as she is baptized into Christ and together they make the good confession of their faith in their Redeemer, Jesus through their Confirmation. Each day is also an opportunity for us to be a living witness of His mercy in our lives. Sometimes this witness is evident in what we say, but much of the time it is shown in the very simple ways we care for one another. This is the beautiful part of being His living stones. Our witness is of His grace to us. 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*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, you may direct inquiries for any announcement to [seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com). Links to online or live stream events will be included in either the electronic version of *The Messenger* or will be sent out on Sunday morning.

### EASTER SEASON

Today we continue in the Time of Easter in the church year. White is the color for this season because "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). Christ's triumph from the grave is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

### GROWING IN YOUR FAITH LIFE

Apart from weekly Divine Service, multiple Bible studies take place throughout the week at ILC. Additionally, Pastor Carl is happy to work with you and your family for personal or group instruction and preparation for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.

### BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Today, we celebrate with Jinny and JT as she is baptized and both confess their faith in Confirmation. They have prepared some special treats for the congregation's fellowship and enjoyment. Thank you, Jinny and JT!

### MEN'S GROUP FELLOWSHIP

On Saturday, May 2, the ILC Men's Group will meet online. All men are welcome to join in from 7-9PM. The link will be included in the electronic version of *The Messenger*.

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### ONLINE GIVING

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

**Your generosity helps makes the ministry of ILC possible, by God's grace!**

**KEB HANA 166-890039-91604**

## READINGS

### May 3: Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in serving as a Sunday Volunteer, or need to make a scheduling adjustment, please write to [seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com). Thank you!

MAY 3	10:00 AM
ACOLYTE	Carmen & Hasung
GREETER	Shema
USHERS	James & Tika
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric
LIVE STREAM	Christian
KITCHEN HELPERS	Chenhsi & Lydia
OFFERING COUNTERS	Joohun & Olivia