



# The Messenger

## International Lutheran Church

*A home, a family, a place to worship*

www.ilcseoul.org | December 16 | Issue # 623

## From the Vacancy Pastor:

### Another Remembrance: Saint Lucy

The season of Advent is filled with special days and remembrances. Last week, on December 6, we remembered Saint Nicholas. This week, on December 13, we remember Saint Lucy or Saint Lucia (Latin = *Sancta Lucia*).

Born in Syracuse (on the island of Sicily), Lucia's life is traditionally dated A.D. 283-304. She, like Saint Nicholas, lived during the time of the Christian persecution by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. However, unlike Nicholas, she became a Christian martyr.

The noun *lux* in Latin means "light." The genitive (possessive) form is *lucis* ("of light"), from which the name "Lucy" is derived. Her name lends itself to some of the traditions surrounding her fate. Her father died when she was a young child, and the mother arranged her marriage to a wealthy pagan. Lucy wanted the dowry money given to the poor, to which the mother eventually agreed (after being miraculously healed from a bleeding disorder). However, the pagan man to whom she was engaged reported her to the governor of Syracuse, who in turn required her to make a sacrifice to the Roman Emperor Diocletian. When she refused, Lucy was tortured severely and eventually executed. Several later traditions report that her eyes were gouged out and that her sight was miraculously restored (hence, the connection with *lux* or "light").

A saint is commemorated (remembered) not on the birthday but on the supposed day of death. And so, Lucy's feast of remembrance is on December 13 (right in the midst of Advent). Before the adjustment of the modern calendar, the date of December 13 was the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. Thus,

once again we see the connection with *lux*, and her feast day became a festival of light.

There are various cultural traditions associated with Santa Lucia. One of the most interesting is the practice of the Scandinavian countries, where December 13 falls during the long dark winter. There, in each village a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In the homes of Norway and Sweden, early on the morning of December 13, girls dressed as Lucy place a wreath of candles on their heads and carry saffron rolls and hot chocolate or hot coffee to their parents as songs are sung in a procession. Boys are not left out of this merry-making, as they dress as Star Boys and wear cone-shaped headgear.

The remembrance of Saint Lucy on December 13 serves to remind us of both light and the gifts that are brought to us by Christ our Lord. He is the "Light" that has come to our world of darkness. Just as He reached out to Lucy in her hours of deepest despair, so He reaches out to us today. There is nowhere that God will not continue to shine His light into the darkness of this world and into the darkness of our individual lives.

So it is that Saint Lucy reminds us that God is our hope. As we continue to wait for, and to anticipate, the celebration of Christmas, we await the remembrance of that time when God sent the True Light into the world, when light and life become human flesh in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. Keep on waiting, and keep on hoping!

### Sunday schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) & AI Anon

### Upcoming events

Wednesday, 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study  
Friday, 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Camarata Children's Choir rehearsal  
Sunday, Dec 23, 30, and Jan 6 No children's Sunday School  
Monday, Dec 24, 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Tuesday, Dec 25, 10 a.m. Christmas Day Divine Service  
Monday, Dec 31, 7 p.m. New Year's Eve Divine Service

# Announcements

## Online Offering Information

Citibank 260-00497-243-01

International Lutheran Church

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to this important Stewardship aspect of our ministry. If you will be away from Seoul, please continue to support ILC with your tithes and offerings. The easiest way to do that is by using Online offerings.

### Christmas Worship Schedule @ ILC

**Christmas Eve Service : December 24**  
Candlelight Service at 7 PM



**Christmas Day Service : December 25**  
Worship at 10 AM



**New Year's Eve Service : December 31**  
Worship at 7 PM





## Share the Word!

As you meet people who are new to the Seoul community, please invite them to join you for worship at ILC, introduce them to others while they are here, and provide them any additional information they would like.

## 2018 Contributions

ILC issues contribution receipts for members on an annual basis. If you need your 2018 offering receipt for Korea's Tax Office, please email the office at: [Seoulilc.office@gmail.com](mailto:Seoulilc.office@gmail.com). Make sure to include your legal name, address, cell phone number and resident registration number or alien registration card number. Receipts will be issued via email starting on January 15.

## Worship Assistants

A sign-up sheet is available by the bulletin board to offer you the chance to volunteer to be a worship assistant at 10 AM worship service. In the areas of greeting/ushering; acolyte; reading the lessons; communion assistants; offering counting; remotely controlling powerpoint slides..etc

December 16	
<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Greeters &amp; Ushers</b>	Suk Yeon Jang Michelle Yoon
<b>Acolyte</b>	Lily Wasmund
<b>Reader</b>	Pedro Dominguez
<b>Power Point</b>	Richard Sherrer
<b>Communion Assts.</b>	Matt Wasmund Dee Dee Wasmund
<b>Kitchen</b>	Kandyce Perez Ricky Perez
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Richard Sherrer Joo Hun Park
<b>Flowers</b>	
December 23	
<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Greeters &amp; Ushers</b>	Karina Noll Linnea Noll
<b>Acolyte</b>	Olivia Wasmund
<b>Reader</b>	Bang Whan Song
<b>Power Point</b>	Richard Sherrer
<b>Communion Assts.</b>	George Noll Kimmarie Noll
<b>Kitchen</b>	Kandyce Perez Ricky Perez
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Richard Sherrer Joo Hun Park
<b>Flowers</b>	Martin & Sun for Young Kyoo's mother.

## ILC Worship Attendance

**Dec. 9      10:00   113**

**Dec. 16    Third S. in Advent**  
**OT -        Zeph. 3:14-20**  
**NT -        Phil. 4:4-7**  
**Gospel -    Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)**

**Dec. 23    Fourth S. in Advent**  
**OT -        Micah 5:2-5a**  
**NT -        Heb. 10:5-10**  
**Gospel -    Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)**