



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

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Issue #701

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

ON THE ROMAN ROAD: TIMING IS EVERYTHING!

"For while we were still weak" (Romans 5:6 ESV). This weekend at International Lutheran Church we confess our faith in God who gave His life for sinners at just the right moment. Today we start a new sermon series entitled *On the Roman Road*. We will be reading portions of the New Testament book of Romans and exploring the depths of God's love as well as our calling as citizens of His Kingdom of Grace. This weekend we will be examining the timing of God's salvation.

The Epistle to the Romans is probably the best known of all the New Testament epistles (letters) to the churches. Romans is the first letter in the list of New Testament documents after the book of Acts and well known for its clear articulation of the gospel - "the power of God for salvation" (1:16). While the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome, it is unlike his other letters in that he had not yet visited Rome, let alone started the church in that place. Instead, with this letter he hoped that he would be able to visit and secure their support for his mission goal to take the gospel all the way to Spain (1:8-15; 15:22-33). For this reason, the letter helps us understand the core of the Christian faith and gospel with its emphasis on Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice on our behalf. The grace of God is clearly and unequivocally pronounced in the section we read today with the words, "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (5:8).

There are many moments when we might sacrifice or risk our lives for one another. I am sure many of you are thinking of the people in your life that were there at just the right time to be with you in the moment of your weakness or need. Maybe it was a family member or a close friend. It might have even been a stranger whose calling in society is to protect and serve such as a doctor, nurse, teacher, policewoman or man, public servant, or many others. Even if their reason for helping was because it was their profession, many of these individuals take up these professions because they genuinely care and want to make a difference in the lives of others in a life of service to others. Paul likely had this in mind too. He lived at a unique time of extraordinary social peace and public service. It was truly a golden age.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9, 10, 11 *Socially Responsible Services* (three separate sessions; 40 minutes each; pre-register)

ANYTIME *Worship Service*
(to be available online prerecorded)

7:00 p.m. *Bible Study* (regularly scheduled at 9:00 a.m.; to be available online livestream)

THIS WEEK

Wed., 6/17 *Bible Study*
(to be available online livestream)

So, the thought of doing something for someone in need, even sacrificing one's life for another, would not have been unheard of. Yet, in a society of justice, the idea of sacrificing one's self for an enemy would be unimaginable. Perhaps it is just as unimaginable today. We are often eager to call for justice, as we should, but sometimes we see this fair treatment as something that should be deserved through proper attitude or action. So, the action of God, the timing of God, does reveal something unlike anything we can or should expect in normal everyday life. While we were weak, while we were sinners, while we were enemies; at that moment, Christ died for you, died for me, died for all. The timing of God's salvation says it all - grace, love, undeserved kindness, and a power that sets us free to truly serve our neighbor and each other, even if we don't deserve it.

As we join in worship today either online or through one of our *Socially Responsible Services*, may the God who reconciled Himself to us while we were still alienated from Him draw us together in Him for a life of service to our neighbor.

Pastor Carl

ARE YOU LEAVING?

It is the custom of our ILC community to pray for those individuals and families who are moving away. Are you leaving soon? On Sunday, June 28th, we would like to recognize your attendance, involvement, and support during your sojourn in this country. Please notify the church at seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com to indicate if you will be departing Korea this summer to live in another country.

COVID-19 UPDATE

This Sunday, we continue ILC's *Socially Responsible Services*. **However, we also 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.



GO THEREFORE AND MAKE
disciples OF ALL *nations*
 BAPTIZING THEM IN THE
 NAME OF THE FATHER AND
 OF THE SON AND OF THE
 HOLY SPIRIT.

- MATTHEW 28:19 (ESV)

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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READINGS

June 14: Second Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Exodus 19:2-8
NT	Romans 5:6-15
Gospel	Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21: Third Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Jeremiah 20:7-13
NT	Romans 6:12-23
Gospel	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33