



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

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Issue #706

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

ON THE ROMAN ROAD: GROANS FOR US!

“Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness” (Romans 8:26a ESV). Here at International Lutheran Church we have been *On the Roman Road* this summer. We are reading through this very powerful letter to the church that operated at the very seat of power and influence during the life of our Savior. But today’s passage is focused on our weakness and reminds us again that things may not always be what they seem.

Weakness was certainly not the image that Rome used to subdue the world. Like all world powers before and after, weakness was and is something to be hidden away lest your enemy use it to their advantage. Yet Paul did not see weakness in this way at all. Instead, he looked on the weakness and suffering in our lives as further testimony of how God works in our very lives, especially in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. By going back to creation and our Fall into sin, Paul demonstrates that our groans and the groans of creation itself are a result of the hope we have in us. Yes, we groan together with all of creation until such time as we both are freed from bondage and decay. In this hope, the Spirit groans for us, with words that we cannot even understand to help us in our weakness.

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., 7/22 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

While we may at times get a little weary of life’s trials and tribulations, and the road can feel long and arduous, we hear again today that we are not alone. Help has already come. In the midst of our weakness, in the midst of our groaning, the Spirit, too, groans for us and helps us on the way. As we join in worship today and gather to hear His Word, either online or through one of our *Socially Responsible Services*, we are encouraged to share this good news wherever He sends us!

Pastor Carl

ILC CLEAN UP DAYS ARE BACK!

Yes, it is hot! But wouldn't it be fun to get together in a socially distant and appropriate way, while at the same time helping the church?

Starting next Sunday, July 26, please join the efforts to beautify the church exterior. If you attend one of the *Socially Responsible Services* in the morning, bring a change of clothes and jump into the fun after worship. If you don't plan to attend a service, come by at any time between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to lend a hand to some of the landscaping labors of the church property. We will not be able to serve food or drinks, so please bring your own.

LIVE AND ONLINE SERVICES

Please register if you plan to attend ILC's *Socially Responsible Services*. Please watch *The Messenger*, the ILC Facebook page, and the ILC website for future updates and changes.

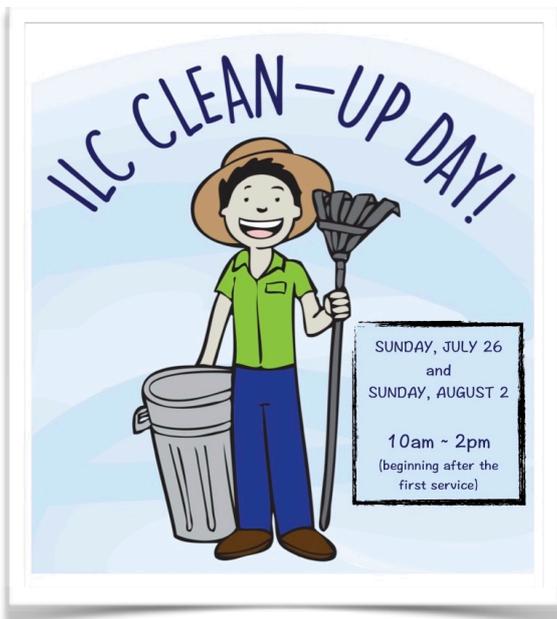
SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Pastor Carl's summer sermon series is based on our readings of Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome. If you have the time, you might find it helpful to read the NT lessons in advance of the Sunday service. May God bless our growth in the message communicated through Romans.

COMING AND GOING

A special blessing to those within our community who have already left or who will be leaving soon. May God go with you as you move on to new places of work, study, and life.

Do you know anyone coming to Seoul? If someone from your work, school or family is coming, let us know and we would be happy to reach out to them. We pray for the individuals and families who will be relocating to South Korea and look forward to finding ways to serve them.



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.
CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01

READINGS

July 19: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 44:6-8
NT	Romans 8:18-27
Gospel	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Deuteronomy 7:6-9
NT	Romans 8:28-39
Gospel	Matthew 13:44-52

FLOWERS

DONATE FLOWERS TO A LOVED ONE

If you would like to purchase flowers for beside the altar in order to honor or gift to someone, the cost is ₩35,000 for a potted arrangement that can be taken away after the last church service. Place the donation in an offering envelope and write your name and 'for flowers for (date)' on the envelope. Place in the offering plate.



7/19: recovery from cancer and good health for Wan-hee Kim (from Martin and Sun)

