



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

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Issue #707

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

ON THE ROMAN ROAD: NO MORE SEPARATION!

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39 ESV). We are not the first generation to face the challenges of being separated from loved ones or family due to things beyond our immediate control. We are certainly neither the last. This is why these words from Romans continue to encourage and strengthen us both now and in the future as we see that God has removed all the barriers that would ever separate us from Himself.

We are on the *Roman Road* and have reached Paul's climactic ending to all the obstacles that get in the way of our faith in God. Everything imaginable is addressed in these verses as Paul shows us the depths of God's love for us. Today we are concerned with our social distance and maintaining a separation for the sake of good health. Yet, all this shows us how interconnected we are and how we need to be connected on a regular basis to one another. Being isolated from one another, while maybe beneficial for reducing our exposure to germs, may not help us maintain a healthy attitude.

This is why Paul's words are so relevant for us today. As he closes the argument concerning our life in Christ and the challenges we face because we are connected to Jesus, we see that there are two important truths to keep us on the right track. First, God is working all things for our good. His plan for us is not bad but for our good, even the difficult things we face. Suffering, hardship, challenges, and setbacks are not a sign of God's anger or displeasure, but rather He uses even these things to bring about His plan for good. Second, we need to know that nothing can separate us from God's love, or from God Himself. Paul's list is still relevant today as we face all these things still now. We

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., 7/29 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

may describe them in different ways, but he has included everything possible - past, present, or future, even life or death.

But how is it that Paul can be so certain? This is the critical part of the Gospel. For us to be inseparable from God, this action must be carried out by God Himself. This He has done in sending our Savior who on the cross was separated from His Heavenly Father so that we would be reunited. By Christ's death, God definitively separated us from all that would separate us from Him. In the Gospel lesson the three parables that end Matthew 13 remind us how we are precious to God in that He would not only find us, but also sell His ALL that we would be His own. So it is, then, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:11 ESV).

As we live in these unique days, our faith helps us and is a strength to others as we share the hope we have in Jesus of being inseparable from His love! 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 this 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. (If it rains, we will postpone until next week.)

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.

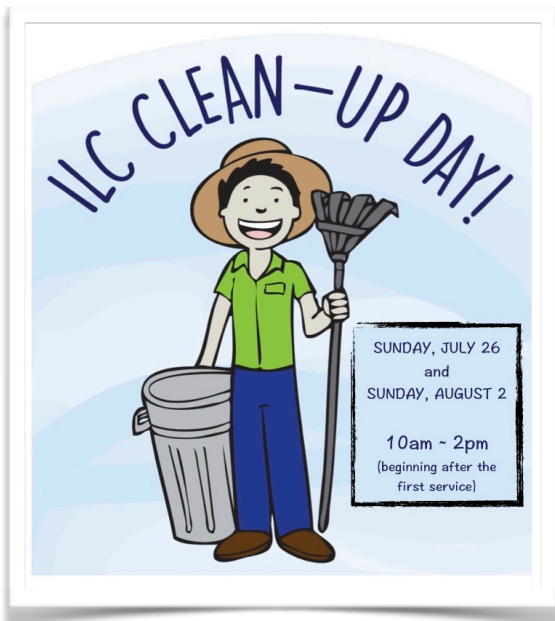
SUMMER SERMON SERIES

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 26: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

August 2: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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|--------|-------------------|
| OT | Isaiah 55:1-5 |
| NT | Romans 9:1-5;6-13 |
| Gospel | Matthew 14:13-21 |

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.



7/26: for James and God's miracle of no more cancer (from Martin and Sun)

