



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

ON THE ROMAN ROAD: THE PROMISE THAT FEEDS US!

"The children of the promise are counted as offspring" (Romans 9:8b ESV). Paul reminds us all that we who are in Christ are connected to Him through the promise that is God's Word. Just as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were born of God's promise, so we are born of the same promise to which gave them life. This truth fills our lives with His Spirit and calls us to make known this message throughout all of God's creation.

Here at International Lutheran Church we have been *On the Roman Road*. Last week we came to the watershed moment of this letter as Paul stated that "nothing can separate us from the love of God which is ours in Christ Jesus" (8:39). Today in chapter 9 Paul faces the extremely hard and difficult reality that not all believe. This reality was extremely disturbing and troubling to him personally. He even states that he wished himself cut off and separated from God so that his own people would receive the fulfillment of all of God's promises found in Christ.

There are things that we see and experience in this life that are particularly disturbing - things and pains that shouldn't be. Paul sees the fact of his fellow kinsmen's rejection of the Messiah as saddening. Jesus looked on the crowds of people following Him into the desolate places as undeniably moving and painful (Matthew 14:14). Yet these places and situations are where we sometimes find ourselves - desolate places and empty places. But here in lies the mystery. Nowhere is removed from the promises of God. His Word is the very hope of the world, the very Bread from Heaven that fills our desolation!

Matthew tells us that Jesus went into the desolate place because of the rejection of John the Baptist, who had been beheaded as a party favor (Matthew 14:1-13). He was filled with anguish at the sight of the great crowds and the many sick who followed Him. He fed them all with the bread and fish.

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., 8/5 *Bible Study*
(to be available online livestream)

He gave His life for them and us. For us, He entered our most desolate place of all - our own separation with God. He suffered on the tree and was cut off for their sake and ours. Unlike Paul or Moses, who wished their separation would bring the inclusion of their kinsmen, only Jesus, the Promise made flesh, could carry that cross and effect that action on our behalf. Our separation is justified. Only His is truly redeeming and life giving. Like water in the desert or a small lunch blessed to feed the thousands, Jesus is the Promise which feeds us and gives us New Life. He alone is Lord of all. He alone is praised forever more. He alone is the great *Amen*.

The desolate places of our lives, our loved ones, our neighbors and co-workers can only be satisfied and filled in Jesus. While we may join Him in His pain for the lost and lonely in our world, we do so knowing, like Paul, His promise is alive in our lives and our world in the desperate and lonely places we find ourselves. 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 - PART 2!

What a great turnout last week! Thank you to all who were able to stick around after church to lend a hand to improve the exterior of our church.

And more work remains...so please consider joining the efforts this week after the *Socially Responsible Services*. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. we will be attending to some 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.

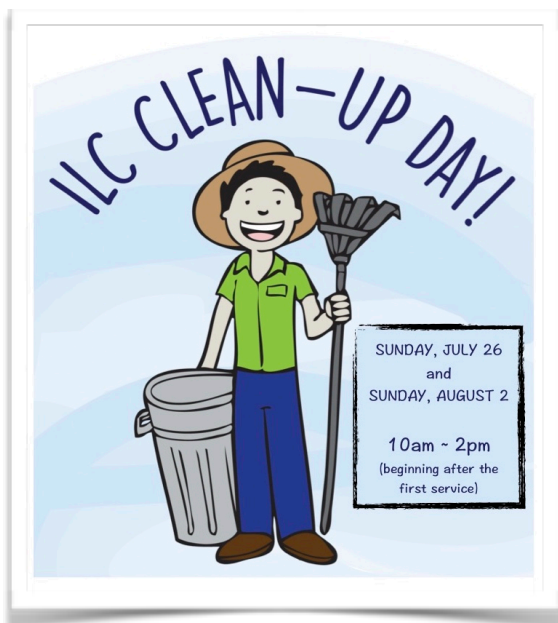
SUMMER SERMON SERIES

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

August 2: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

August 9: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Job 38:4-18
NT	Romans 10:5-17
Gospel	Matthew 14:22-33

FLOWERS

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.



8/2: for Yerin and Yena Jeong - keep it up until university entrance exam!
(from Martin and Sun)

