



# The Messenger

## International Lutheran Church

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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

### ON THE ROMAN ROAD: GOD'S MERCY IS ON US ALL!

**"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace"** (Romans 11:6 ESV). Paul brings us back to the starting point. Grace is truly God's action to show us and all people His mercy in sending our Savior, Jesus. In Him alone God has had mercy on us all!

In our sermon series, *On the Roman Road*, we have seen how the message of the Gospel is a very personal one to Paul. In this section, Paul reflects on the truth of the Gospel that is neither earned nor deserved, and what this means for us all. Paul points out that the hardest part of believing in the God of grace is that it really doesn't leave room for us to consider our own worthiness. God's election is the action of His mercy. Not one of us has a claim or hold on God. That not all of the Jews have believed the message and Good News of Jesus, Paul writes, is not a stumbling block to faith but instead another sign of God's grace - His election. His salvation was always and only the mercy of God to forgive one and to forgive all. There can be no boasting. There can be no pride in our standing in the Gospel for God has shown mercy to us all.

Mercy is not a concept or action that we can readily relate to. Many of us have been brought up experiencing the adage, *you reap what you sow*. Or, *you get out of something only what you are willing to put into it*. This is certainly a common experience. Many of our international schools, colleges and universities both locally and around the globe are beginning classes again. Some may be online, and others are having in person classes. No matter how the content is delivered the expectation is the same. Work hard and do your best in order to have a good result, a good grade. While there may be a *grace* period for

### 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., 8/19 Bible Study  
(to be available online livestream)

turning in assignments, or the teacher may be *merciful* in their grading, we still earn what we receive based on our performance. So, when it comes to the Gospel, and the mercy we receive from God, we may feel compelled to find some reason, some effort or participation that we must have contributed to attain the generous outcome of our salvation. Grace and mercy just don't seem fair to our way of thinking or our way of living. Yet, in facing the hard reality of his fellow, unbelieving Jews and the miracle of the Gentiles having responded to the Gospel, Paul again takes personal the Good News of the cross. Jesus was rejected that we might all be accepted. The Bread of Life was broken that we would be made whole. God has had mercy on us all!

As we hear again the Good News of God's mercy, may He change our way of thinking and truly prepare each of us for every good and gracious task that He has given us to do this week in showing and living out the mercy of God shown to us in Jesus.

*Pastor Carl*

## LIVE AND ONLINE SERVICES

We are still offering two worship options - online and in the sanctuary. Please pre-register if you plan to attend any one of ILC's *Socially Responsible Services* at the church.

## WELCOME TO NEW GUESTS AND VISITORS

*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.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

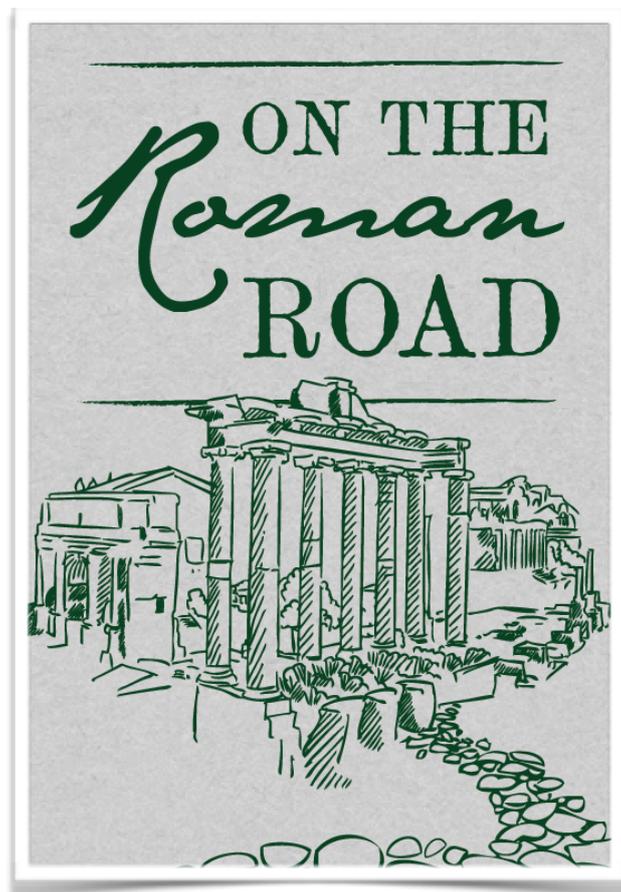
Starting in September, Pastor Carl is planning to begin another class focusing on the Bible-based teachings and confessions of the Lutheran faith. Please contact him ([seoulilc.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:seoulilc.pastor@gmail.com)) if you are interested.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TO BEGIN AGAIN

Look for an announcement regarding Sunday School and adult education opportunities to take place on Sunday mornings, pending upcoming transitions in our *Socially Responsible Service* times.

## HIKING OUTING

How about a hike? Jeremy Knapp and Harry Kim are planning a hike following the last service this Sunday. Anyone is welcome to join. Any questions? Jeremy - 010.8695.4239.



## 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 16: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
NT	Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32
Gospel	Matthew 15:21-28

### August 23: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 51:1-6
NT	Romans 11:33-12:8
Gospel	Matthew 16:13-20

## 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.



**8/16:** from Martin and Sun