



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

ON THE ROMAN ROAD: TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!" (Romans 11:33 ESV). Paul ends his theology of God in praise to God. As we gather this week in "the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God," we find that the praise of God is just the beginning of our lives as living sacrifices to our God through service to our neighbor.

The end of Romans 11 and beginning of Romans 12 forms a critical juncture between talking about God - His acts and His ways - into a confession and praise of God. This juncture is Paul's invitation, his appeal to us who are now "in Christ" to worship the God of grace and mercy whose ways are beyond our tracing and judgements outside of our comprehension. This is not dead orthodoxy but rather a living active faith that sees the opportunities all around us to enrich the lives of others as we have been enriched. Our lives become living testimonies of His grace and mercy worked out in all kinds of different ways: in giving, in serving, in teaching, in leading, in exhorting, in contributing, and as many ways as there are members of His Body.

This life of living and active faith is given to us "in Christ." In and through our baptism *into* His death and resurrection (Romans 6), we are made alive with the grace "given to us." This grace is not self-aggrandizing, but sober-minded. We see our selves not in comparison to one another, but in connection with one another. Each part is gifted and made to work together to carry out His purpose and His design. Like the members of a human body or even its cells - the nucleus, the DNA, the ribosomes, the endoplasmic reticulum, the golgi apparatus, the vacuoles, the lysosomes

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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., 8/26	Bible Study (to be available online livestream)
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and other organelles - we are brought together to work together as His Body in the world.

During this unique age of our heightened sense of microscopic connectedness, we are transformed by God's Word with even greater clarity on our need to be connected to one another. In Christ, God has gifted us, graced us in sending His One and Only Son to make us into His Body. By giving His Body on the tree as an acceptable sacrifice to God, He has made us alive. Through His resurrection from the dead we are transformed and brought together in Him - no longer distant individuals but a body united together in Him. God grant us His Spirit to praise Him through our service to our neighbor in all its many and various forms throughout this week.

Pastor Carl

ONLINE SERVICES ONLY

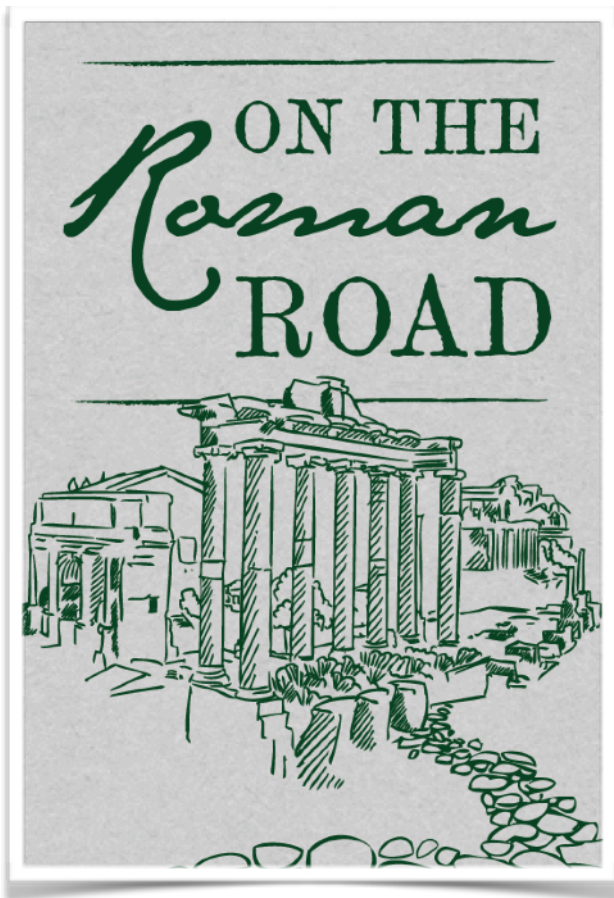
Due to recent government restrictions, we will not be able to gather for worship at the sanctuary at this time. Therefore, ILC's *Socially Responsible Services* at the church are suspended until further notice. Please join the worship service online. Access to the service will be found on the ILC website (www.ilcseoul.org), Facebook, and through a YouTube link that will be sent out on Sunday morning. No matter where you live, we encourage all to follow government and community guidelines for the greater good.

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

When restrictions ease, 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) if you are interested.



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 23: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

August 30: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Jeremiah 15:15-21
NT	Romans 12:9-21
Gospel	Matthew 16:21-28

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.



8/23: from Martin and Sun
in memory of Sun's friend, Mee Jeong, in heaven