



# The Messenger

## International Lutheran Church

[www.ilcseoul.org](http://www.ilcseoul.org) | July 16, 2023 | Issue #862

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

### ON THE ROMAN ROAD: RECEIVING THE WORD

**But you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15b ESV)**

The Word of God does not return void and lifeless, but instead springs up and grows in ways that we would never have imagined. We see this in the words of childlike trust that the Spirit plants in us. Here the Word springs forth a new life in the Spirit as we are planted in Christ and as we receive the Spirit that connects us to our loving Heavenly Father who receives us both now and in eternity!

For the past four summers we have been growing a community garden here at International Lutheran Church - the ILC "Hallelujah Garden." Unfortunately, we aren't always able to get to taste the results of all the labor that goes into it - especially as this year we are about 8,000 miles away! As you might imagine, though, a lot of work goes into a summer garden. Besides preparing the soil, there is the planting, watering and weeding that needs to be tended to daily. Without care, the weeds and vines tend to take over and the plants wither in the sun. I can only imagine the job that will be ours when we return!

The letter to the Romans is an inspired and inspiring letter written to encourage and "plant" faith into the lives of those who receive its message. Paul sought to plant in the hearts of his hearers the Good News of our Savior's life, death and resurrection so that all would be planted into Jesus. Just as Isaiah describes how the Spirit brings us to faith (Isaiah 55), this faith does not remain still and lifeless but takes root and grows as it calls out to God with childlike faith and hope. Paul uses many metaphors

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 AM *Divine Worship Service*  
(in-person and live stream)

### OTHER EVENTS

Go to [ilcseoul.org](http://ilcseoul.org) > Upcoming for other events

to describe this planting and reception action by God to make us His own. Here in chapter 8 he describes this receiving with the image of being adopted and made to be God's children in and through Jesus. This adoption is such that we are now heirs and co-heirs with Christ! We are received and adopted even as the Word calls us to receive with faith what God has done for us. Our new life and new identity in Christ is the fruit of the Spirit of God. Through the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, we are made alive and now grow in and through Him. In the Spirit our hearts call out to our God, "Abba, Father!"

As we join in worship today and gather to receive His Word planted in our hearts, together we call out in response to the love of our Father knowing that He has received us for Christ's sake as His own children.

*Pastor Carl*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, you may direct inquiries for any announcement to [seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com). Links to online or live stream events will be included in either the electronic version of *The Messenger* or will be sent out on Sunday morning.

### THANK YOU TO OUR VACANCY PASTORS

We wish to especially thank our vacancy pastors who will be serving our congregation this summer while Pastor Carl and family travel to the U.S. to share about the ministry here in Seoul and thank the many supporters who make it possible for them to serve here. We welcome back Pastor Tom to lead us in worship through the middle of July.

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

The new Worship Volunteer list is on the bulletin board and linked to the electronic version of *The Messenger*. If you would like to be added to future lists, please write to the email address listed above.

### BIBLE STUDY BREAK

All Bible studies are on break for the summer. We will pick up all studies again in the early fall.

### FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers in order to honor or gift to someone, the cost is ₩35,000 for a potted arrangement. You may write your name on the Flower Chart by the big red doors. Place your donation in an offering envelope and mark it 'flowers' on the memo line.

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### ONLINE GIVING

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

If you are unable to attend in-person church, 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.

**CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01**

## READINGS

### July 16: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 55:10-13
NT	Romans 8:12-17
Gospel	Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in serving as a worship assistant, or need to make a scheduling adjustment, please write to [seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com). Thank you!

### JULY 16

10:00 AM

READER	Peter
ACOLYTE	Juwon
GREETERS/USHERS	Dee Dee & Matt
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Doug
LIVE STREAM	Olivia
KITCHEN HELPER	Olivia & Matt
OFFERING COUNTERS	Lily & Joohun

