



# The Messenger

## International Lutheran Church

[www.ilcseoul.org](http://www.ilcseoul.org)

September 8, 2024

Issue #922

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

### BE OPEN!

**And looking up to heaven, he [Jesus] sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly."**

**(Mark 7:34-34 ESV)** With this simple word, Jesus opens the ears of the man who could not hear and unties his tongue so that he can speak plainly. Today at International Lutheran Church, we listen to our Savior's voice in Mark 7 as we consider what we will say about Him who "does all things right."

Part of the character of the gospels is that they record both the words and the deeds of Jesus. We started this chapter listening to an argument over "clean" hands and shifted to a question about the observance of religious food laws that had been handed down from one generation to the next since the time of Moses. By undoing the fetters of the law on our lives, Jesus has continued what He had started in the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 - namely, pointing to the greatest miracle of all that He is the living bread. His life, not our own attempts, is what saves us and makes us holy, clean, and pure.

This challenging teaching about God's grace in Jesus is underscored by two miracles - the healing of the daughter of the Syrophenician woman (Mark 7:24-30) and the healing of the man who was both deaf and mute (Mark 7:31-37). In both cases, Jesus speaks a word, a simple word, and they are restored. The daughter, though not of Jewish descent, is freed of her bondage to demonic forces and the man is given to hear and speak plainly. Both miracles fulfill the words of Isaiah 35 when the prophet foresaw the day when the blind would see, the deaf would hear, and the mute would speak. While it may have been interpreted metaphorically as "the time when creation would be restored," here in Mark it becomes literally acted upon the lives of those whose lives were in a wilderness of their own. Even as these ailments were often seen as the curse of God upon the person and evidence of their separated state from God, here they are freed and made well and good by the simple actions of Jesus. While many may wonder in the presence of calamity, "Where is God?" here He is! In the flesh, touching and spitting and sighing!

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM *Bible Class and Sunday School*

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

7:00 PM *Bible Study*  
(live stream)

### OTHER EVENTS

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

Mark's gospel, while shorter than the others, often gives us extra details that seem maybe a little inconsequential, and often without much explanation. The healing of the daughter is a bit tough as we might come away thinking Jesus to be demonstrating the worst of cultural insensitivity. But as we hear this sign in Jesus' exchange with the deaf man, perhaps we can see just how much must be endured by the *Potter* turned *Clay*. As the woman looked beyond the cultural distance and barriers that we all endure, Jesus was pointing to the faith that we must all have in embracing Him to secure the hope that goes beyond human understanding. The man who could not hear is spoken to as if he can, and so he does! Both show us God's good will and grace made personal and tangible. In fact, Jesus would sigh on the cross, and with His last breath drive out Satan by releasing us from the consequences of sin. With His Spirit and Word, he would open not just our ears but all of heaven to you and me in pouring out His Spirit. Neither of these actions were the result of resignation, but clear and simple determination!

The fact that Jesus' command not to tell is ignored, and all in that place heard again and again of these things that Jesus had done points us again to the interpretation that "He [Jesus] has done all things well." In His Word today, the simple word we read and hear and share, Jesus, too, is opening heaven for you and me. He is unstopping our ears and loosing our tongues so that all would know Him who "does all things well."

*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.

### SIGN-UP SUNDAY - PART II

We will once again have tables set up with sign-up sheets for a variety of tasks to help serve your ILC community. Be an usher! kitchen helper! live streamer! and more!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY

Our Sunday School program will begin today. If you haven't registered your child/ren, please do so through the link on the previous Kakao group chat, or by writing to the church office. All children are welcome!

### ILC INFO SESSION

Immediately following the service today, Pastor Carl will lead the latest ILC Info Session. Come learn more about ILC and the Lutheran church as a whole. No registration required. Open to all.

### CLEAN-UP DAY

Next week, after the service, we will organize a Clean-Up Day. The focus will be cleaning up the front portion of the church (parking lot, entrance, etc.). Thank you in advance for your help if you are able to stay.

## 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

September 8: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 35:4-7
NT	James 2:1-10; 14-18
Gospel	Mark 7:24-37

## 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!

SEPTEMBER 8	10:00 AM
ACOLYTE	Anna
GREETERS/USHERS	Pedro & Ethan
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Nathan
LIVE STREAM	Patricia
KITCHEN HELPER	Eric & Insun
OFFERING COUNTERS	Michelle & Olivia



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

# SIGN UP Sunday

GET INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT ILC!

*kitchen help • LIVE STREAM • choir*



What is "Lutheran" anyway?

What does ILC believe and teach?

Did these questions ever cross your mind?

If so, come join our next

### 'ILC Info Session'

**What:** Informal time to learn about ILC

**When:** Sunday, September 8

(right after the worship service)

**Who:** Anyone new or just interested in learning more

