The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR!

The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast! (Zephaniah 1:14 ESV) Our biblical understanding of the "End-times" has a direct impact on our everyday living. Today, we hear how the "Day of the LORD" is coming soon. The imminent nature of this day is what encourages us to live with eager expectation of our Lord's return and in active service to our neighbor to the glory of God.

Can it be? Thanksgiving is just a week and a half away. Soon we will start to thaw the turkeys! The Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are in the fellowship hall. Advent starts on November 29th and its time for the Hanging of the Greens. How the "time flies!" As each day passes so quickly, one can hardly remember one day from another. To mark these days with sober contemplation, we continue our focus on the Bible's view of the "Great day of the LORD!"

Zephaniah was a 7th century prophet sent to warn the people of Judah and Jerusalem of the coming destruction that would come upon the nation of Israel on account of their sin. Zephaniah is not "light" reading. "A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness" Zephaniah 1:14 ESV By the end of the first chapter we may be ready to close the book. But his poetic style repeats again and again the imminent nature the day of the LORD. "Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near" and "The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast! Zephaniah 1:7, 14 ESV Like Amos, Zephaniah is clear that God's judgement is coming upon His people and all nations, soon!

But what happens when things seem delayed? There were probably some fifty-years between Zephaniah's oracle and the destruction of Jerusalem. While it is possible that Josiah's reforms did come about the time of Zephaniah, we know they didn't last long, and things went back to the way it was. You can maybe think of a few situations where a predicted outcome, or an anticipated event was long in coming. Jesus tells His disciples just such a parable in Matthew 25:14-30. A certain master was going on a trip, and he gave different portions of all his possessions to each of his three servants to "manage" while he was away. But the master's "long delay" led one of these three servants to exhibit a slothful attitude, while the other two used their talents to reap a benefit for the master. Let's be honest, there are some things that are just naturally easy for us all to put off until the last possible moment. Either the urgency of other matters, or the lack of our own discipline and time management can really catch us off guard. Sometimes, though, there is the underlying fear of getting it wrong. Doing "nothing" can seem like the "safest" bet. Whatever the reason though, we will in the end need to take responsibility for the outcome and our list of reasons and complaints will not change that outcome at all.

So, what can change the outcome? If the Day is coming and we don't know when, then what can we do? Here the Prophet Zephaniah gives us a hint. With his reference to what the LORD has done at the very beginning! "The LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated His guests." Zephaniah 1: 7 ESV Who will hear the commendation, "Well done good and faithful servant?" The one clothed with God's own "talent." This "talent" was won for us by God's own sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross. In Him, we are made ready for this day of gloom and darkness by being changed into the people of light. We now live as people of light with a sober attitude – recognizing our own weaknesses and sins, our need for a Savior, and a passion for all for whom He died – our neighbor. We are urged by the Hastening Day to make ready ourselves with eager expectation.

As we wait for the Day of the LORD and His appearing with this eager expectation, even now we live by faith and hope. We use the gift that He has given us through His Son, the forgiveness of sins, to serve our neighbor in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father.

Pastor Carl

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 > Upcoming *for other events*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, you may direct inquiries for any announcement to 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.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

In just a couple weeks, ILC will host our annual Thanksgiving Service and Dinner. This is a potluck, so, in order to make it extra special, plan to bring a dish to share.

VOLUNTEERING AT ILC

Helping out as a Sunday Volunteer is easy! Let Pastor Carl or a member of the Church Council know if you'd like to be a part of our Sunday Volunteer team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Advent season comes on the heals of Thanksgiving. Be watching for this beautiful change in the church year as we transition into the time of waiting for our Lord Jesus to come to us!

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

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

Your generosity helps makes the ministry of ILC possible, by God's grace!

KEB HANA 166-890039-91604

READINGS

November 15: 25th Sunday after Pentecost	
OT	Zephaniah 1:7-16
Epistle	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel	Matthew 25:14-30

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in serving as a Sunday Volunteer, or need to make a scheduling adjustment, please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

NOVEMBER 15	10:00 AM
ACOLYTE	Liliana & Andrew
GREETER	Chenhsi
USHERS	Chenhsi & Lydia
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Christian
LIVE STREAM	Ken
KITCHEN HELPERS	Tika & James
OFFERING COUNTERS	Michelle & Eric

