



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

ON THE ROMAN ROAD: GROANS FOR US

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. (Romans 8:26a ESV)

Here at International Lutheran Church we have been "On the Roman Road" this summer. It is the case that summer is usually the time that Chenhsi and I, like a lot of you, take this opportunity to see family and friends. These international trips can at times be a bit exhausting and can tend to wear us out. This kind of weakness is the thing we want to address today. We have been reading through this very powerful letter to the church that operated at the very seat of power and influence during the life of the Apostle Paul. While the focus of today's passage speaks of our weakness, it also reminds us that things may not always be what they seem.

While a summer filled with travels and reunions can be exciting, at the same time though, one can start to miss our normal routines and long to be back in our own bed! Sometimes being on the "road" can become weary. Paul understood the whole Christian life in similar terms. Sometimes the struggles and challenges of everyday life can cause us to long to "be at rest." Yet for Paul, even this "weakness" was a sign of God's strength.

Weakness was certainly not the image that Rome used to subdue the world. Like all world powers before and after, weakness was and is something to be hidden away lest your enemy use it to their advantage. Sometimes we take a similar view. We don't often or seldom share our weaknesses with others. Yet Paul did not see weakness in this way at all. Instead, he looked on the weakness and suffering in our lives as further testimony of how God works in our very lives, especially in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. God's

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM *Sunday Morning Bible Study*
10:00 AM *Divine Worship Service*
(in-person and live stream)

OTHER EVENTS

Go to ilcseoul.org > Upcoming for other events

weakness, displayed in the cross of Christ and His suffering, is at the same time His power to save and give us hope. Jesus groaned in the agony of His death, so that our groans would not go unheard but that we would be redeemed.

By going back to creation and our Fall into sin, Paul demonstrates that our groans and the groans of creation itself are a result of the hope we have in us. Yes, we groan together with all of creation until such time as we both are freed from bondage and decay. In this hope, the Spirit groans for us, with words that we cannot even understand to help us in our weakness.

While we may at times get a little weary of life's trials and tribulations, and the "road" can feel long and arduous, we hear again today that we are not alone. Help has already come. In the midst of our weakness, in the midst of our groaning, the Spirit too groans for us and helps us on the way. As we join in worship today and gather to hear His Word, we are encouraged to share this good news wherever He sends us!

Pastor Carl

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.

TRAVEL MERCIES

May the Lord bless all who are moving away from Korea or just taking a trip over the summer, both locally and abroad.

BIBLE STUDIES ON BREAK

Sunday Night Bible Study, Wednesday Night Bible Study, and the Friday Morning Women's Bible Study are all on break until early fall.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

If your name is on the Sunday Volunteer list but you will not be at ILC on that Sunday, please don't worry! Together, we will find someone to step up and help fill the role. Thank you for your help!

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

July 19: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 44:6-8
Epistle	Romans 8:18-27
Gospel	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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!

JULY 19	10:00 AM
ACOLYTE	Carmen & Hasung
GREETER	Christian
USHERS	Esther & Michelle
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric
LIVE STREAM	Christian
KITCHEN HELPERS	Yoonsil & Juwon
OFFERING COUNTERS	Michelle & Eric

