



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

October 18, 2020

Issue #719

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

We are now in a new sermon series focusing on the Reformation.

THE SOLAS OF GOD'S SALVATION

"I am the Lord, and there is no other. Besides me there is no God!" (Isaiah 45:5a ESV). During the month of October we want to explore some of the Reformation themes that appear in the readings during this season. Today, we reflect on the concepts of *Grace Alone*, *Faith Alone* and *Scripture Alone* as we see in these words from the prophet Isaiah that it is God alone whom we fear, love and trust!

This passage from Isaiah 45 speaks of the LORD's messiah. His anointed one will deliver His exiled people Israel from the hand of their enemies. What is surprising is that it is Cyrus that Isaiah is speaking about. This gentile ruler, the king of the Medes and Persians, will be used by God to deliver God's own people. Though he does not know the LORD, the God of Jacob, he will act as the LORD's instrument. The world-famous bronze gates and iron doors built by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will be opened before this anointed one. All this will happen so that God's people, His own children would know that He alone is God. Even more, this miracle will also serve as a revelation from East to West so that all would know that there is no other God but the LORD.

Perhaps this all may seem a bit culturally insensitive. We might be tempted to relegate it to dated cultural domination or ancient discrimination. As we marvel at the beauty of the famous Ishtar Gate on display in a museum in Berlin, we may wonder at this proclamation, and how it could possibly speak to us today. The history of cultural insensitivities viewed now some three thousand years later might cause us to see ourselves as

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., 10/21 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

more civilized. Perhaps we may even look back at the Reformation and see it only as a cultural point in history to look back to with either pride or guilt. But this kind of thinking will only leave us still trapped and entangled in the same situation that has and continues to trap us.

Isaiah's words not only pointed to the freedom for the exile, but to the *gate-busting* work of the LORD's Messiah, Jesus! This Anointed One would be the "right-hand" of the LORD. Through His death on a Roman cross and resurrection from a Palestinian tomb, Jesus would break down the "gates of bronze" and "doors of iron," our sin and death. In His appearing He not only untangled our words but even our lives as He has made from every nation one body - His Church. As we view not only the geopolitical events in the Bible with fresh eyes, we also look at our everyday lives from a new perspective and new hope in Jesus - the One and Only.

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICES

Our *Socially Responsible Services* will begin again this Sunday, October 18. Please see the electronic version of *The Messenger* for the link to register. Access to the prerecorded services will continue to be found on the ILC website (www.ilcseoul.org), Facebook, and through a YouTube link that will be sent out on Sunday morning.

CLEAN UP DAY

On Sunday, November 1, we will organize our next ILC Clean Up Day. Watch for details.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue with our Virtual Sunday School schedule this week. The link is found in the electronic version of *The Messenger*.

If you have children and are interested in joining our program (or if you would be willing to help), please email ILC Volunteer at seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Virtual Bible Studies take place throughout the week:
Sunday nights at 7:00 - *The Biblical Foundation of the Lutheran Understanding of Vocation*

Wednesday nights at 7:00 - NEW SERIES - Reformation themes of *Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Scripture Alone* in relation to our faith in Jesus ALONE

Friday mornings at 10:00 - Women's Bible Study (*Reading Through the New Testament*)

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

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

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.

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READINGS

October 18: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Isaiah 45:1-7
NT	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Gospel	Matthew 22:15-22

October 25: Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

OT	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
NT	1 Thessalonians 2:1-13
Gospel	Matthew 22:34-46

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. Please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com with any questions or requests.



10/18: from Changhee Kim
in memory of her son, Jason

*Reformation Celebration
is coming!*



ILC CLEAN-UP DAY!



SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 1

(details to
follow)