



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

REPENT AND BELIEVE!

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. (Mark 1:15 ESV) With these words, Jesus calls us to follow Him. The Epiphany of Jesus at the lake calling the disciples to come follow Him reaches our ears today. What will cause us to get up and go? Come and discover what moved Him to seek us!

Today we both see and hear Jesus call the first disciples to turn and follow Him. The time had come for His ministry to begin. Like Jonah's preaching in Nineveh, Jesus had come to call sinners to repentance. What is different is He is the One in whom the disciples were called to follow. The other day we had a plumber helping at the church and I commented to him that his English was excellent. I asked him where he had learned to speak English and if he had ever been to church before. He said that he used to go to church in middle school but hasn't gone since. It seems there was a moment when he prayed to God, but he felt that God did not hear his prayer. I am sure for many of us there are lots of reasons why we might come into the church. Maybe there have even been reasons when we wanted to leave. Sometimes we can be disappointed when we find the "kingdom" to be different than we had thought or imagined.

Here it is important to note the timing of Jesus' ministry. The arrest of John is the moment Jesus picks as the very moment to begin the work of calling sinners to repentance and faith. It might seem a bit odd, but this is God's kingdom Jesus was proclaiming, not our own. His kingdom does not come in power, but in the emptiness of the cross and the humility of a manger. Jesus' own incarnation, the Son of God hidden in the Man from Nazareth, is the way of God. Jesus comes the same

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	<i>Bible Class and Sunday School</i>
10:00 AM	<i>Divine Worship Service</i> (in-person and live stream)
7:00 PM	<i>Sunday Night Bible Study</i> (online)

OTHER EVENTS

Go to ilcseoul.org > Upcoming for other events

today, not in a show of power that no one can resist, but in the simple invitation to come and be with Him. He calls one and all to see the grace of God revealed in and through the cross that He bore for us. What makes us get up and follow Him? He is neither a powerful example nor an example of power, but rather the One who would make His good news come alive in us. In Him, our repentance from our sin turns to belief in the forgiveness that is ours in Him. This is new. We are changed. We are no longer the same. Jesus "makes us" into His own instrument to bring others into His Kingdom. For the fishermen who left their nets to follow Him, they would become fishers of men. For the tax collectors who left their tables, they would become the ones to declare in Jesus that our "tax" is paid in full. For the doctors who would see and respond to His grace, they would become the one to show how in His wounds all our illness is healed. This is His Kingdom where God turns our brokenness, our "leaky pipes" into an opportunity for both us and others to see God's grace.

His Kingdom is here! Repent and believe! Come, follow Him and experience how He will change us and use us to bring His Kingdom to many!

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.

END OF YEAR GIVING RECORDS

If you would like a record of your giving for the year for Korea-based tax purposes, please contact the church at seoulilc.church@gmail.com.

BREAKFAST WITH GORDY THANK YOU

Thank you to our Sunday School kids and their families who served up 'Breakfast with Gordy' last week. Our next fellowship meal opportunity will be a chili luncheon next month.

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Morning at 9AM: *End Times*
(continuing from last year)

Sunday Night at 7PM: *Life Together*
(book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Wednesday Night at 7PM: *Come and See*
(Gospel of Mark)

Friday Morning Women's: on break until after Seollal

FLOWERS

If you wish to purchase flowers in memory of someone special or to commemorate a meaningful event, please place KRW35,000 in an offering envelope and mark the name and date.

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

January 21: 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

OT	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
NT	1 Corinthians 7:29-35
Gospel	Mark 1:14-20

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. Thank you!

JANUARY 21

10:00 AM

READER

Michael

ACOLYTE

Anna

GREETERS/USHERS

Lily & Pedro

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Christian

LIVE STREAM

Jordan

KITCHEN HELPER

Nicole & Izzy

OFFERING COUNTERS

Joohun & Olivia