



# Reformation Lutheran Church

“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”

November 2022

*“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created through him and for him.” -Colossians 1:16-*

The apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians in approximately 60 A.D. probably while imprisoned in Rome. Apparently, the church in Colossae had adopted heresies derived from secular paganism and philosophy and merged them with their Christian beliefs. Some of the heresies included false teachings about seeking secret knowledge (see 2:3-4) and insisting upon adhering to certain religious practices and traditions (see 2:16-18, 20- 23). Paul, however, writes to the Colossian church to refute those heresies by proclaiming Christ as the source, center, and sovereign king over all. He declares: “Christ is exactly like God who cannot be seen. He is the firstborn Son, superior to all creation” (1:15, CEV).

In fact, Christ not only ranks above everything created, whether seen or unseen, he actually created everything. And everything he made “was made for him” (1:16, CEV). The Message beautifully paraphrases verse 16 like this: “We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created...everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.”

Paul continues, stating “he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (v. 17). In other words, as creator, Christ existed before all he created, and he personally maintains and sustains all he created. Indeed, he remains closely involved, even intimately connected to his church as “the head of the body, the church” (v. 18). Furthermore, Paul explains, “God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son. And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God” (vv. 19-20, CEV).

Paul’s point: given the greatness of Christ, his supremacy above all, his identity, his involvement in creation, his leadership of the Church, his sacrifice on the cross that brings peace and reconciliation with God, why would they follow lesser authorities/teachings? How wonderful to know that we, like the Colossians, find our purpose in Christ alone. He is our true source, center, and sovereign king. So, we need never follow anything less than him. Truly, in him, we have been “brought to fullness” (see 2:10, NIV) and have everything we need.

Pr.

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Dear RLC family,

Please keep our church in prayer as we discuss the future of our little church and how our worship, service to the community, and to each other, may look moving forward. I would like for Council to meet one afternoon to hear everyone’s thoughts on moving forward. We’ll plan an afternoon soon.

Peace be with you,

Gabi

**Prayer for the Church:** Heavenly Father, we know you have plans for your church – specifically for Reformation Lutheran Church – that are for your glory. The Bible says the church is your house, you dwell in the midst of your people. We ask your wisdom and support as we seek to honor your purposes for us. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to know and share the love of Christ that surpasses all understanding. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Fellowship:** Advent season is approaching quickly! We'll have our delicious soup and bread meals at 6:00 p.m., prior to our 7:00 p.m. worship service, each Wednesday beginning November 30th.

**Property:** Our November clean-up day will be Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are welcome!

**Education:** Initially, a ZOOM Bible Study was planned to begin on Wednesday evenings to learn about different religions. However, that is still on hold. Keep watch for upcoming dates and information.

**Worship and Music:** We have a lot of big Sundays coming up. This Sunday is Reformation Sunday, next Sunday is All Saints Sunday, then we have Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas...all special Sundays you won't want to miss. Come and bring a friend or neighbor.

We will be doing a special remembrance on All Saints Sunday. If you have someone, who has passed, and you would like to have remembered, please send me their name – [pacific6@bellsouth.net](mailto:pacific6@bellsouth.net).

**Mission and Ministry:** We have a current Thrivent Grant Card project in the works. We're planning to help stock the shelves with food at FOCUS. Once the cards arrive, we'll get busy with the shopping!

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**November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Cheryle Wadsworth**

<b>NOVEMBER CALENDAR</b>
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**Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6<sup>th</sup> – Turn clock back 1 hour**

**Sunday – November 13<sup>th</sup> – Council**

**Saturday – November 19<sup>th</sup> – Tentative Date to put up Chrismon Tree**

**Saturday – November 26<sup>th</sup> – Clean-Up Day 9:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday – November 30<sup>th</sup> – Advent Dinner at 6 PM; Service at 7 PM**

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	<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>Nov. 20</b>	<b>Nov. 27</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Junior	Tammy	Carolyn	Junior
<b>Usher</b>	Carolyn	Junior	Carolyn	Junior
<b>Lector</b>	Lynne	Tammy	Karen	Junior
<b>Sermon</b>	Gabi	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor
<b>Thrive</b>	Gabi	Pastor	Gabi	Pastor
<b>Oaks</b>		Pastor		Chuck

## **WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH “Elisabeth Fedde, Founder of Norwegian- American Lutheran Deaconess Movement”**

As a young woman in Norway, Elisabeth Fedde felt a strong desire for a life of service, but when a friend suggested that she consider deaconess work, she replied, "Do you mean those women we see on the streets wearing peculiar dress? No thank you. I shall not join them." Later, when she learned more about the diaconal mission- to serve God by serving others-she decided to apply. In 1873, she entered the Deaconess House in Kristiania (Oslo) and began two years of training in nursing, Christian ethics, and social welfare. There she began twenty-seven years of active service as a deaconess, service that brought her to America to serve the Norwegian immigrants.

On Christmas 1882, following a difficult four-year assignment in Trornse in the far north, Sister Elisabeth received a letter from her brother-in-law, Gabriel Fedde, asking her to come to Brooklyn to begin deaconess work "here among the poor and lost Norwegians." Responding to this plea, Sister Elisabeth arrived in New York in April 1883, knowing no English and without any Norwegian sponsorship. Within nine days she helped establish the Voluntary Relief Society for the Sick and Poor Among Norwegians in New York and Brooklyn with a mission "to help the poor and suffering countrymen and women in their spiritual and bodily need" -the beginning of Norwegian Lutheran Deaconess work in America.

There was plenty of need, not only in homes and overcrowded hospitals, but also on ships in the harbor and out in the streets. The immigrant community suffered from disease, unemployment, alcohol abuse, overcrowded housing, and the struggle to adapt to a strange culture. Sister Elisabeth's diary records the broad scope of her work in those years. She made hundreds of home visits where, in addition to nursing and maternity care, she often cleaned and laundered. She spent hours soliciting and distributing money and essentials, placed patients in hospitals, arranged for burials, visited prisons, found foster care, tried to locate employment, and offered much needed spiritual support. Frequently exhausted and discouraged, she called on her deep faith to give her strength to continue.

Sister Elisabeth found so much need that she soon persuaded leaders of the Relief Society to start a hospital and deaconess home. By March 1885 she and a board of managers had rented a house in Brooklyn with room for a nine-bed hospital and living quarters for herself and other deaconesses, although it was soon clear that a larger hospital was needed.

In 1888 Sister Elisabeth interrupted her work in Brooklyn to help begin deaconess work in Minneapolis. She was contacted by Professor Sven Oftedal and others who hoped to establish a deaconess hospital in Minneapolis. One generous donor offered a house free for two years if she would stay to organize the work and equip the hospital and deaconess home. Granted her a leave by her board, she agreed to accept the challenge. On November 2, 1888, she and two probationers moved into the home and a few days later opened a hospital in four rooms.

In 1889 Sister Elisabeth was called back to Brooklyn. Within months of her departure, the Minneapolis venture fell apart. She returned that summer to find that the hospital board had disbanded and work was at a standstill. At her urging, Professor Georg Sverdrup of Augburg Seminary organized a new board, and in August 1889 the Norwegian Lutheran Deaconess Institute incorporated. By the end of 1889 there were eight sisters. But new trouble lay ahead. In 1891, after a dispute with her board, Sister Elisabeth resigned and returned to Brooklyn to resume her position there. This time the work in Minneapolis continued and thrived. The board bought new property for a larger home and hospital, and by 1899 the Deaconess Institute had eleven deaconess and twenty probationers. At its peak in 1912 there were fifty-two sisters.

In Brooklyn, a thirty-bed Deaconess Hospital was built in 1889. Sister Elisabeth called it "the first charitable institution among our people in America." The need for funding continued to be crucial. In 1894 Sister Elisabeth secured a \$4,000 annual state subsidy for the Brooklyn hospital by appealing to a committee of the state legislature in Albany where she had argued Norwegian Lutheran Deaconess Hospital in that Deaconess Hospital served Brooklyn, 1889 all nationalities and creeds and deserved to receive the same funding as other community hospitals.

Weary and needing rest, Sister Elisabeth resigned from the Brooklyn Deaconess Hospital and returned to Norway in 1896 where she married Ole Slettebe. While there was still work to be done, in only thirteen years her determination and bold leadership had built the Norwegian Lutheran Deaconess community in America and helped to found two major hospitals, one in Brooklyn and the other in Minneapolis.

**“THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE”**